

Information for prospective graduate students

The [Translational Lab](#) will be reviewing applications this cycle!

Prospective students can apply through [Clinical Science](#) or [Cognitive and Computational Sciences](#) in the [Emory Psychology Department](#) to enroll as a graduate student beginning in Fall 2026. Please note your interest in the lab, which is directed by [Professor Pete Hitchcock](#), in your application. If it is your first choice, rank Professor Hitchcock first when you rank faculty mentors. To prioritize fit, review will focus on the applications that do so. Fee waiver information is [here](#) and our lab manual is [here](#).

What is the focus of the lab?

We conduct careful experiments, informed by and then analyzed using theory-driven computational models, to understand depression, anxiety, and transdiagnostic processes and to develop and personalize interventions. Please see the lab website (translational-lab.com) for more information.

Applicants with the most competitive applications tend to have:

- Programming skills (e.g., R, Python, Javascript) clearly described in their application
- A passion for research and a willingness to grow and learn challenging new skills
- A compelling explanation of why *this lab* is the perfect place to do their PhD
- Prior research experience(s) culminating in one or more products (e.g., poster, publication, senior thesis) *and* lucid explanations of key experiences: what motivated the research questions and what the results and takeaways were

Please note that the lab is not a good fit for applicants interested in full-time clinical practice careers.

What is your mentorship approach and style?

I am highly committed to mentorship—both helping mentees grow during their time working with me and reach their career goals after. I strive to be as transparent as possible and I hold routine check-ins—not only about research projects but also goals, professional development, and making mentorship as effective as possible.

In terms of mentorship style, I emphasize learning by doing. I ask my mentees to jump into technical work before they are completely comfortable so that they can learn from experience. My aim is for mentees to develop, so that they have the hands-on support that is needed while building core skills early on, but gain independence and ownership over time. At all stages, I typically meet with full-time mentees about once per week during the academic year. I hold formal check-ins about goals and professional development annually.

What will the lab look like over the next several years?

The lab launched in Fall 2023 and is growing fairly quickly. My goal from the start has been to build a strong and rigorous, and warm and supportive, research environment. The lab infrastructure is designed to facilitate acquiring technical skills and applying them to take on key questions in clinical science.

What are some of the skills that mentees can acquire while training in the lab?

- Applying computational modeling and other rigorous methods to clinical phenomena
- Designing innovative and carefully controlled experiments
- Programming cleanly, clearly, and defensively
- Developing interventions
- Writing grants
- Developing professionally both to be successful in moving to the next career stage *and* as part of building a satisfying, sustainable, and successful career at every stage

Can I apply if I am an international student and will require a student visa?

Absolutely! The Psychology Department often has students on international visas and I am delighted to review applications from international students.