

# Alyssa Hayes

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## EDUCATION

### University of Central Florida

*Bachelor of Science in Psychology (Neuroscience Track)*

Orlando, FL

May 2024

**Honors:** Summa Cum Laude, Honors in Psychology

- GPA: 3.95
- Earned Bright Futures Florida Academic Scholars Scholarship
- Relevant coursework: Developmental Psychology (DEP 2004), Motivation and Emotion (EXP 3304), Cognitive Psychology (EXP 3604), Physiological Psychology (PSB 3002), Neuropsychology (PSB 4240), Statistical Methods in Psychology (PSY 3204C), Research Methods in Psychology (PSY 3213C), Sensation and Perception (EXP 3204)

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### University of Florida

*Lab Manager/Study Coordinator – Social Cognitive and Affective Development Lab (Dr. Natalie Ebner)*

Gainesville, FL

May 2024 - Present

- **Lab Management:** Developed and implemented lab protocols to improve study efficiency and rigor; managed day-to-day operations and supervised undergraduate researchers
- **Research Regulatory Activities:** Assisted with IRB submissions, NIH reports, and other regulatory documentation to ensure compliance with research standards
- **Study Coordination:** Collaborated with interdisciplinary teams to execute studies on schedule; attended meetings to share findings and collaborate
- **Recruitment, Screening, and Data Collection:** Conducted phone-based cognitive screenings for study eligibility; managed scheduling and retention; collected data using electrodermal activity and pulse plethysmography; recorded experimental data, results, and troubleshooting steps

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

### University of Central Florida – College of Nursing

*Undergraduate Research Assistant – EMBRACE Lab (Dr. Ladda Thiamwong)*

Orlando FL

Sep 2023 – April 2024

- **Participant Recruitment and Screening:** Recruited and screened older adults; assessed dementia risk using Rowland Universal Dementia Scale and Memory Impairment Screen
- **Data Collection:** Administered cognitive games, collected grip strength, balance, cognitive, and body composition data
- **Data Management:** Entered and verified data in REDCap

### University of Central Florida – Office of Undergraduate Research

*Undergraduate Research Fellow – with Adult Development and Decision Lab (Dr. Nichole Lighthall)*

Orlando, FL

May 2023 – July 2023

- **Data Collection:** Ran experiments on facial trustworthiness, locus of control, and perceived stress; analyzed survey data collected on Qualtrics
- **Research Communication:** Presented research at the University of Central Florida Summer Research Showcase and Student Scholar Symposium; attended workshops on data analysis, poster structure, and research publication

### University of Central Florida – Department of Psychology

*Undergraduate Research Assistant – Adult Development and Decision Lab (Dr. Nichole Lighthall)*

Orlando, FL

Aug 2022- May 2024

- **Honors Thesis Research** Conducted an honors thesis on trust learning and social media privacy; presented findings at annual Southeastern Psychological Association Meeting 2024 and University of Central Florida showcases
- **Data Analysis:** Analyzed and visualized data using SPSS
- **Study Coordination:** Led scheduling for in-person sessions via the university SONA system
- **Technical Skills:** Designed a Twitter/X website for data collection; created and managed tasks using Qualtrics and PsychoPy
- **General Involvement:** Attended lab meetings regularly; gave presentations biyearly

## PUBLICATIONS

Hung, C.C., **Hayes, A.**, & Ebner, N.C. *Gut Microbiota, Sleep, and Oxytocin in Aging*. Manuscript in preparation.

Hung, C.C., Wright, K.A., **Hayes, A.**, Verdecia-Zabala, S., & Ebner, N.C. *Effects of oxytocin on stress, sleep, and inflammation*. Manuscript in preparation.

Ebner, N.C., Pehlivanoglu, D., Shoenfelt, A., Huentelman, M., Hakim, Z., **Hayes, A.**, & Spreng, R.N. Manuscript in preparation on the effect of previous exploitation on vulnerability and susceptibility in older adults.

## PRESENTATIONS

**Hayes, A.**, Lin, T., Alluri, M., Faulkner, R., Lighthall, N. & Ebner, N. C. (2025, May). Novel real-time fMRI neurofeedback training to enhance trust-related decision making in aging. *Florida Consortium on the Neurobiology of Cognition*, Orlando FL.

**Hayes, A. R.** Schotz, J., Lighthall, N. & Sawyer, P. (2024, March). Exploring the Relationship Between Trust Learning and Social Media Privacy. *Student Scholar Symposium*, Orlando FL.

**Hayes, A.** Schotz, J., Lighthall, N. & Sawyer, P. (2024, March) Impact of Stress and Perception of Risk in online Crimes. *Southeastern Psychological Association Annual Meeting*, Orlando FL.

**Hayes, A.**, Schotz, J., Lighthall, N., & Sawyer, P. (2023, July) Exploring the Relationship Between Trust-Learning and Social Media Privacy. *Summer Research Poster Showcase*, Orlando FL.

Sawyer, P., Schotz, J., Lighthall, N., & **Hayes, A.** (2023, July) Trust and Self-Disclosure on Social Media. *Summer Research Poster Showcase*, Orlando FL.

## HONORS AND AWARDS

**2023 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship - \$2,000**

Summa Cum Laude

Honors in Psychology

President's List (Fall 2021, Spring 2023, Spring 2024)

Dean's List (Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Fall 2023)

## HONORS THESIS

Exploring the Relationship Between Trust Learning and Social Media Privacy

Mentor: Dr. Nichole Lighthall

Orlando, FL

March 8, 2024

## ACADEMIC INVOLVEMENT

**University of Central Florida Student Government – Judicial Branch**

Orlando, FL

*Associate Justice/Vice Chair of Judicial Experience Committee*

June 2022 – July 2023

- **Leadership and Governance:** Attended general body and committee meetings; participated in appeals and hearings; analyzed evidence and heard testimony in Parking, Fiscal, and Grade appeals
- **Committee Contributions:** Took detailed notes for Judicial Experience Committee; led social bonding activities

**Cognitive Sciences Club – University of Central Florida**

Orlando, FL

*Secretary*

Aug 2022 – May 2023

- **Club Engagement:** Attended weekly general body; planned socials
- **Educational Contributions:** Gave presentations on research methods, PowerPoint design, and AI tools
- **Administrative Support:** Scheduled guest speakers; maintained detailed meeting notes

## Teaching Assistant – University of Central Florida

Jan 2023 – May 2023

### *Motivation and Emotion*

- **Grading:** Graded weekly discussion posts, midterm and final examinations.
- **Communication:** Communicated daily with students, and weekly with instructor and graduate teaching assistant

### **WORKSHOPS/TRAINING**

fMRI Image Acquisition and Analyses Course with SPM and ICA with Dr. Vince Calhoun, Dr. Kent Kiehl, and Dr. Tor Wager

Jan 2026

A Lifespan Perspective on Human Cognitive Aging with Dr. Ulman Lindenberger

May 2025

Automated Cognitive Assessments with EEG and AI Workshop with Dr. Keith Yoder

Feb 2025

### **RELEVANT SKILLS**

#### **Neuroimaging**

- fMRI (basic)

#### **Technology**

- Python (basic)
- Psychopy (intermediate)
- REDCap (advanced)
- Qualtrics (intermediate)
- SPSS (intermediate)
- R (intermediate)
- BioPac (basic)
- OpenNFT (basic)
- drinDumper (basic)

#### **Certifications**

- MoCA