



Undergraduate Research Training Program (PAIS): Graduate Students as Mentors

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Abstract

PAIS is a joint project of the Social Science and Psychology Departments. Currently, school psychology graduate students have been integrated into the program to offer research mentoring opportunities to undergraduate students. Using a triad supervision model, graduate students are supervised by their dissertation chair, and graduate students mentor undergraduate students. This model offers graduate students experience in supervising and mentoring other students in research while receiving supervision by a faculty member.

Objectives

- Provide research experiences to students in the Social Science and Psychology Departments.
- Strengthen general skills in quantitative and qualitative research.
- Assist students in the process of applying to research programs and graduate schools, participate in conferences, and disseminate research findings.

Process

- Conceptualization of the problem
- Analysis of scientific literature
- Select the most appropriate methodological approach
- Instrument development
- Data collection process
- Analysis of data
- Dissemination of results

Mentoring

PAIS began in 2011 with Dr. Douglas Santos-Sánchez as director and Dr. Janet Bonilla-Mujica as program coordinator. The mentoring process in PAIS has been carried out by professors of various departments with the participation of over 300 students. Mentoring at PAIS entails increasing participation of graduate and undergraduate students in research, as well as disseminating research results through symposiums, conferences, publications in professional journals, etc. PAIS is an innovative teaching and research experience that increases the professional skills and competencies of both its participants and mentors. Mentoring also helps in the process of applying to graduate programs and experiences that facilitate insertion into work settings. As part of the mentoring process, different workshops are offered, such as:

- Systematic review
- Search strategies in databases
- Reference managers: Mendeley and Zotero
- Writing in APA Style 7th
- How to publish in professional journals

Achievements

- Development of graduate student dissertations.
- Participation of more than 300 undergraduate students in research projects since 2011.
- Creation of over 30 research projects for undergraduate students.
- Research experience.
- Admission to various summer research programs and graduate programs.
- Participation in congresses, symposiums, and local and international conferences.
- Publication of findings in bulletins and professional journals.
- Building relationships between students, professors, and peers that nurture the academic and professional development of the program.

PAIS research 2022-2023



Needs assessment of Deaf children in Puerto Rico



School Climate for LGBTQ+ Students in Puerto Rico



Indicators of learned helplessness in a sample of adolescents in Puerto Rico



Study of needs and resources in the school environment of the population of children with Down syndrome in Puerto Rico

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