

TAIYLOR R. RAYFORDTaylor2@illinois.edu

513-328-1334

SUMMARY

An ambitious, driven, and empathetic doctoral student with various experiences in diverse program development and advising and mentoring diverse college students. Seeking a job position in student affairs or student support services that provide the opportunity to apply current research with practice.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Educational Psychology <i>Developmental Sciences</i> University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	Expected December 2025
M.S. Educational Psychology University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Graduate College Mentoring Certificate	Expected May 2023 April 2022
B.S. Psychology The Ohio State University	May 2020

WORK EXPERIENCE

Summer Research Opportunity Program Summer Co-Coordinator **May 2024 to Present**
The Graduate College, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- Mentor 76 undergraduate students in the fields of STEM, social sciences, and humanities
- Develop and facilitate weekly professional development seminars
- Manage a team of 9 graduate student research team leaders

Academic Coach **November 2021 to Present**
Disability Resources & Educational Services, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- Meet with undergraduate and graduate students weekly to help assess, plan, and reach academic goals
- Teach students about time management, problem-solving, and self-assessment
- Refer students to appropriate campus sources as needed
- Monitor student progress

Community and Onboarding Manager **July 2018 to May 2020**
Dining Services, The Ohio State University

- Developed and coordinated active and passive programming and workshops to promote career development, community engagement, and a diverse and inclusive workspace of over 100 student-employees and diverse backgrounds
- Evaluated the effectiveness of programs and student-employee satisfaction through surveys and interviews
- Assessed and implemented feedback to improve programs and employee satisfaction
- Responsible for orientating and training all new student-employees
- Managed and supervised all student-employees during shift (average 20 students per shift)

RELEVANT PROJECTS

Graduate Student Project Evaluator **August 2023-Present**
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Lead Evaluator: Dr. Cherie M. Avent

- Developed a developmental evaluation plan for a trauma-informed education program.
- Written and presented end-of-year evaluation report to stakeholders.

Graduate Research Assistant

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Principal Investigator: Dr. Molly H. Goldstein

- Led the research team in assessing the benefits of near-peer mentoring for undergraduate students at an engineering camp for middle school students using culturally relevant pedagogy via storytelling
- Responsible for collecting and analyzing all qualitative data
- Led the manuscript development, which was presented at a national engineering education conference
- Presented findings to financial and other stakeholders
- Results were used to improve the mentors' experience for the subsequent camps

Graduate Collaborator

June 2020 to Present

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Principal Investigator: Dra. Nidia Ruedas-Gracia

- Investigates longitudinal changes of university belonging for diverse college students
- Develops quantitative surveys using Qualtrics
- Train undergraduate research members on survey and interview implementation
- Manages and assists in data cleaning using excel and Rstudio
- Maintains relationships and communication with the research team located at another academic institution

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant – Introduction to Educational Psychology

August 2022 to December 2022

August 2023 to December 2023

Department of Educational Psychology, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

- Led a weekly discussion class of over 20 students
- Codeveloped curriculum and instruction of the course
- Held weekly office hours and reviews to facilitate learning and academic development
- Rated Excellent by students in the end-of-semester evaluation

Invited Speaking Engagements

Guest Speaker. *EPSY 575 Mixed Method Inquiry*

October 2022

ACADEMIC SERVICE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2022-Present **College of Education Graduate Student Conference Planning Committee.** I help with the communication, coordination, and implementation of the college's annual graduate student conference.

2022-present **Black Graduate Student Association.** (*Positions held: secretary and membership chair*). I am responsible for inter and intra-organization communication. I also help with program development and coordination to sustain and increase membership numbers and engagement.

2022-Present **Supervisor for Undergraduate Honors Research.** I supervise and mentor an honors undergraduate student in research for a total of 60 hours per semester.

2022 **Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.** *Education Signature Program Committee.* I helped plan, organize, and facilitate educational programs based on the organization's guidelines.

2021-2022 **URAP Graduate Research Mentor.** I work one-on-one with an undergraduate student to teach and train them in research within the social sciences.

RELEVANT ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Rayford, T., Ruedas-Gracia, N., Goldstein, M., Schimpf, C., Herbert, L., Escamilla, L., & Zavala, J. (2022). *Educational Enrichment: The Benefits of Near-Peer Mentoring for Undergraduate Engineering Students.* 129th ASEE Annual Conference & Exposition. Presented at the American Society for Engineering Education Annual Conference, Minneapolis, MN.

Rayford, T. (2022, May). Understanding Sense of Belonging Among Black Students. In Christianson, K. (Chair) *Flipping the Script: Using Racialized Experiences at Predominantly White Institutions to Interrogate Classic Models of Psychological Theories* [Symposium]. Association for Psychological Science Annual Convention, Chicago, IL.

Rayford, T. (2022, May). *A Phenomenological Approach to Understanding Black Graduate Students' Sense of Belonging to Their Program. Higher-education Studies Involving Specific-campus Populations and Groups* [Panel Presentation]. International Conference of Qualitative Inquiry, Champaign, IL.

RELEVANT SKILLS

- Collaboration; program development; project management; critical thinking and problem solving; networking; mentoring and supervising students; intercultural awareness and communication
- Data collection: quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods
- Data Analysis software: Rstudio, Dedoose, Excel