

**JOB TITLE**

Lab Assistant

**LOCATION**

Worcester

**DEPARTMENT NAME**

Social Science & Policy Studies

**DIVISION NAME**

Worcester Polytechnic Institute - WPI

**JOB DESCRIPTION SUMMARY**

The Social Neuroscience of Affective Processes (SNAP) Lab at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (PI: Richard Lopez, PhD) invites applicants for a full-time Lab Assistant position (with benefits) to begin in late Summer / early Fall 2022 (exact start date negotiable). Expected commitment is 2 years. Applications received by August 1, 2022 will receive equal consideration.

In the SNAP Lab, we utilize tools in modern neuroscience (e.g., functional magnetic resonance imaging; fMRI) and advanced longitudinal modeling of human behavior to better understand how human beings align their thoughts, emotions, and behaviors with whatever goals they may be pursuing—with an eye toward improving health and wellbeing in various populations of interest. Current and forthcoming research projects in the lab tackle questions such as: how can we identify problematic aspects of social media use in young adults and break links between problematic use and poor mental health? How does real world exposure to appetitive cues (e.g., living near fast food restaurants, convenience stores, and bodegas) impact neural food cue reactivity and subsequent regulation of eating behaviors? And: which kinds of interventions can be developed to alter a person's sense of self-worth so it is less affected by the praise and esteem of others (especially in online/virtual contexts), and which brain regions and networks help support these changes?

WPI is passionate about creating an inclusive workplace that promotes and values diversity. We are looking for candidates who can support our commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion.

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

The successful candidate will perform routine tests and procedures in the SNAP lab and assist with various aspects pertaining to the management of the SNAP Lab, including but not limited to the following:

- Gathering samples of data from human participants
- Inputting data samples into secure databases (i.e., data entry and analysis)
- Performs basic maintenance of laboratory equipment (e.g., checking and maintaining software, running backups of all data, etc.)
- Ordering/restocking of laboratory supplies as needed

Minimum qualifications and competencies:

- High school diploma

- 0 to 2 years of experience
- Possesses beginning working knowledge of subject matter.
- Oral and written communication skills.
- Detail oriented.
- Technical skills (see below)
- Typically reports to a supervisor or manager.
- Performs work under direct supervision.
- Handles basic issues and problems and refers more complex issues to higher-level staff.

Preferred qualifications and competencies:

- Applicants with a bachelor's degree in psychology, neuroscience, or related social science field
- Excellent communication, organizational, and interpersonal skills
- Be motivated, detail-oriented, and able to work independently
- Prior research experience in a psychology or neuroscience lab
- Prior experience working with human participants
- Proficiency and experience using statistical software (e.g., SPSS, R, jamovi, JASP), and knowledge of programming and scripting in a particular language (e.g., R, Matlab, python, java) is a plus.

Interested applicants should submit the following materials: a cover letter detailing previous training and accomplishments as well as current research interests and goals, current resume, and contact information for two references.

Inquiries can be submitted to Professor Richard Lopez, incoming Assistant Professor in Neuroscience, Department of Social Science & Policy Studies (email: [wpi.snap.lab@gmail.com](mailto:wpi.snap.lab@gmail.com)).

WPI requires employees to be fully-vaccinated (including a booster shot) for COVID-19. For additional information on WPI's response to COVID-19, refer to <https://www.wpi.edu/we-are-wpi>

Apply Here:

[https://wpi.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/WPI\\_External\\_Career\\_Site/job/Worcester/Lab-Assistant\\_R0001922](https://wpi.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/WPI_External_Career_Site/job/Worcester/Lab-Assistant_R0001922)