"Previous research from this Faculty Member has Focused on the Ability of Collegiate Athletic Coaches to Win at a Number of Different Institutions"

Jeremy M. Elliot
University of Alabama in Huntsville

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Faculty or Research Mentor

Dr. Jeremy M. Elliott – Assistant Professor
Department of Kinesiology, College of Education
Wilson Hall 329G
Huntsville, AL 35899
Office: 256-824-5204
e-mail: Jeremy.elliott@uah.edu
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Project Description

Previous research from this faculty member has focused on the ability of collegiate athletic coaches to win at a number of different institutions. This was done through a qualitative process which allowed the faculty member to interview a number of coaches and then compare their answers to look for common elements in their approach. Specifically, similar knowledge, behaviors, and experiences were identified by closely examining their answers. The proposed study for the summer plans to utilize a similar approach focusing on coaches who have had a long history of success at one school. Participants will be asked to sit for an interview which will be recorded. Data analysis will start with the transcription of the interview and then highlighting seemingly important statements. Analysis continues as more participants go through their interview and data from each coach is compared. Eventually, emerging themes will be identified gaining insight into the knowledge, behavior, and experiences of these coaches.

Students will be have hands-on experience drafting research-related documentation, collecting data, and analyzing the results. The experience of interacting with research participants will be invaluable regardless of their chosen field beyond UAH. Additionally, students will learn the importance of building rapport with research participants which could also translate to stronger relationship building in any position upon graduation from UAH.

Student Duties, Contributions, and Outcomes

Student Duties

The student will be expected to work closely with the faculty mentor to perform the following duties in the Department of Kinesiology office in Wilson Hall:

- Preparation of study documents, subject recruitment, and interview coordination
- Collecting data through the interview process with research participants
- Transcription of the results from data collection
- Analysis of results related to the study

Tangible Contributions
It is my hope that the student have the opportunity to publish their findings in a student journal, such as Perpetua, as well as present their findings through a presentation at a state or local conference. Additional work done on any related projects may also allow for publications in other reputable journals or included authorship in presentations at other conferences.

Specific Outcomes

The primary benefits to the students are:

- Hands-on learning of qualitative research methods
- Opportunity to grasp the research process, from hypothesis generation to data collection, ultimately ending with a dissemination of findings

Faculty Requirements

No course work prerequisites are needed, but the individual should be in rising juniors or above.

The faculty mentor will provide the daily supervision to the student. In addition, the student is expected to update the mentor with a weekly progress report and during bi-weekly meetings. The following items are specific expectations related to faculty supervision and interaction:

- Weekly progress report
  o Written together with the student to monitor progress of the program
  o Discuss ongoing efforts related to the study and other research-related tasks, highlight any current issues, and establish plans for the following week
  o Evaluation: the faculty mentor will provide feedback for each report. The faculty mentor will assess and provide feedback on the writing, scientific progress, and quality of work.
- Bi-weekly progress update meetings with the student
  o Discuss current data, analysis of results, and actions to correct any issues that arise
  o Frequency of the meetings will be increased as needed throughout the summer
  o Evaluation: the faculty mentor will provide detailed instruction for the ongoing work and offer suggestions for improvement

Prior Awards

I have no previous experience in applying for an RCEU student.