

Brittany Bailey

Social and Behavioral Sciences (On Campus)



I would first like to thank my parents for their continuous encouragement of all of my activities, both educational and otherwise.

Academically speaking, I am appreciative of the support I have received, from my academic advisor in public health, Dr. Elizabeth Wood, my internship preceptor, Kelli Agrawal, and all of the faculty in public health who made this program so applicable and exciting. I am also grateful to my PhD advisors, Dr. Shelley Heaton and Dr. Melanie Nelson, who were unwaveringly supportive of my endeavor to pursue this joint degree. In reflecting on my academic experiences thus far, I feel fortunate to have benefitted from the mentorship of so many accomplished women.

Brittany began her studies at UF in the Child/Pediatric track of the Clinical & Health Psychology PhD Program in the fall of 2014. Her research and clinical interests in child psychology center around early childhood parent-training interventions for children with behavioral and developmental disorders. As a first-generation college student from rural, southern West Virginia, Brittany has particular interest in barriers to engagement in early childhood intervention, particularly in underserved populations and parents experiencing high levels of stress. The MPH program's emphasis on broader, community-based interventions targeting at-risk individuals was well-suited to her concerns that the children who would most benefit from psychological treatment may never set foot in a clinic.

While completing her joint degree programs, Brittany also pursued other opportunities at the intersection of child psychology and public health. She is a certified therapist in Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT), an evidence-based intervention to improve parent-child relationships and reduce childhood behavioral problems. She is also certified through Safe Kids World Wide as a Child Passenger Safety Technician. She has presented at a number of psychological research conferences, and in the Fall of 2019, she was awarded the Steven R. Boggs Memorial Award for Excellence in Child Psychology Research for her dissertation project in psychology, which examines parental ADHD symptoms and stress as barriers to engagement in PCIT.

How has your University of Florida MPH helped you achieve your goals?

The skills I have gained through the UF MPH program complement the skills I have gained as a doctoral student in UF's Clinical and Health Psychology Program. With these dual experiences, I feel confident in my ability to succeed in a future career promoting positive development in underserved children and families.

What are your plans after graduation?

In September, I will begin my clinical internship, the final year of my doctoral studies, at the University of Michigan's Mary A. Rackham Institute.