Independent Study in the Aphasia Research Project
Undergraduate Students

Research in the Aphasia Research Project involves the study of the nature and treatment of acquired language impairments in adults. There are a number of ways that undergraduate students can be involved which provide learning opportunities, but that also assist with the research projects. The best experiences occur when students learn new information and develop skills, but also when they advance the research project by their contributions.

Independent study in the Aphasia Research project is intended to complement (rather than replace) coursework that provides an introduction to acquired language impairments in adults (see relevant courses below). There are both academic and prerequisite training requirements that must be met prior to enrollment in the Independent Study, as indicated below.

Minimum requirements:
• GPA of 3.0 or higher
• Must have some relevant preparatory coursework
  o If SLHS major, should have completed at least one of the following courses with an A or B
    ▪ SPH 207 Survey of Human Communication and Its Disorders
    ▪ SPH 262 Neurobiology of Communication
    ▪ SPH 477 Adult Communication Disorders
  o If major in a related area, should have some relevant background regarding language, communication disorders, or mind-brain behavior.

Prerequisite Training
Because we work with patients (typically those with stroke and aphasia) and because our research requires assurance of the protection of human subjects, all independent study students must successfully complete the following training modules:
• HIPAA training
  o HIPAA is the acronym for the federal law (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) that helps protect consumers’ rights regarding their healthcare information. In our clinical and research settings in SLHS, HIPAA training aims to assure the confidentiality of information that might be observed or learned from clinical or research records.
  o Obtain the training materials from the front desk in room 214 of SLHS.
  o Complete the self-paced training and quiz, and provide evidence of successful completion prior to participating in the lab.
• Human Subjects Training
  o The University of Arizona requires that any individual involved in research with Human Subjects must successfully complete a designated Human Subjects Protection Training program. As
described on the website http://www.irb.arizona.edu/training, the U of A uses the CITI training program, which stands for Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative. You will need to go to the CITI website and register and complete the training modules for Social/Behavioral Research www.citiprogram.org.

- CITI training requires approximately 6-8 hours to complete, so it is most likely that you will complete it over several sessions. You can complete one or modules at a time and then return to the site to continue.
- You must provide a copy of your training certification prior to beginning any work with patients, patient data or videotapes. Note that the copy must be placed on file in the lab.
- Note that your certification is good for 2 years, so if you trained previously for another laboratory experience, you may simply bring a copy of your certificate.

Recommended Number of Credits

In most circumstances, enrollment for at least 2 units of credit is most appropriate. This translates to 6 hours of direct involvement per week. The hours should be scheduled by the beginning of the semester, and should remain consistent.

Course enrollment will be for SP H 399 or SP H 499, and the section number is 011.

To apply for independent study

If you meet the minimum requirements and are willing to complete the prerequisite requirements (HIPAA training and CITI training) before the start of the independent study semester, please send a letter of interest and an electronic version of your resume to pelagie@u.arizona.edu. You can also deliver a hard copy to room 214 of SLHS and request that it be placed in my mailbox.