

A photograph of three people in a meeting. A woman with glasses and a black top is looking at a laptop. Two other people are looking at the laptop. The background is a bright room with large windows.

THE SHEFTALL LAB IS HIRING!

JOIN US AS AN UNDERGRADUATE
**RESEARCH ASSISTANT FOR
PROJECT REACH!**



WHAT IS PROJECT REACH?

Project REACH is a randomized controlled clinical trial evaluating two interventions for major risk factors for suicidal thoughts and behavior



WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT?

We request RAs will make at least a two-semester commitment. We also ask for a 10-15 hour per week commitment.



WHAT WILL I BE DOING?

You will help with identifying and screening potential participants, conduct research appointments, assists with data cleaning, and more!



DO I GET PAID?

At this time we are only offering for-credit positions, which can be obtained through the PSY 395 course



Apply here!



Please contact
Sheftall_Lab@URMC.Rochester.edu
OR visit our website:
<http://sheftalllab.urmc.edu/>

Join us as an Undergraduate Research Assistant!

We are accepting applications to volunteer in our research lab!

[**APPLY NOW**](#)

Please read the information below!

FAQs

How do I apply?

You can apply by selecting the “Apply Now” button above and filling out our application.

What will I be doing in the lab?

You will be gaining hands on experience as a research assistant for Project REACH. You will help with identifying and screening potential participants, conduct research appointments, assist with data cleaning, and more! You will be a valued member of the Sheftall Lab and collaborate with the whole research team.

What is Project REACH?

Project REACH is a randomized control trial evaluating two interventions for adolescent suicidal thoughts and behaviors - transcutaneous vagus nerve stimulation (tVNS) to target emotion dysregulation, and a peer-support smartphone app to combat social isolation.

What is the time commitment?

We request RAs will make at least a two-semester commitment with our lab team. We also ask for a 10-15 hour per week commitment.

Do I get paid or received course credit?

This is a **FOR-CREDIT position**, we are not offering a paid position at this time. You can receive credit through an independent study, or independent honors study course.

Do you have any more questions?

Please contact Sheftall_Lab@URMC.Rochester.edu with any additional questions.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Research Assistant – The Sheftall Lab

Principal Investigator: Arielle Sheftall

Name of the position: Research Assistant

Department or office in which the student will be employed: Psychiatry

Location where the student will perform his/her duties: Sheftall Lab (315 Science Parkway, Suite C, Rochester, NY, 14620)

The length of the student's employment (academic year and/or summer), hours per week, and work schedule:

- Position begins January 2026, conclusion of the position is negotiable but a two-semester commitment is expected
- Student will be expected to work 10-15 hours a week
- Job hours are variable, depending on research participant availability, but will all be contained within the 9am – 8pm interval, Monday through Friday. No work hours on Saturday or Sunday.

Job Analysis Form

1. Role:

- Applicants will recruit participants and run study protocols, as well as contribute to other research activities, on a federally funded study assessing treatments for suicidal behavior in a sample of 13-17-year-olds with mood symptoms.

2. Duties:

- Study material preparation.
- In-person or remote recruitment, screening, scheduling, and consenting of research subjects, as well as contributing to retention activities.
- Applicant will administer study protocols, including, but not limited to:
 - behavioral questionnaires, interviews, and physiological data collection (ECG and ICG), and assigning/activating participant intervention devices with the help of other lab personnel.
- Applicant will perform routine research activities including data entry/cleaning/coding/analysis, coding of discussion videos, tracking of participant intervention adherence, etc.

3. Relationships:

- This position will report directly to the principal investigator, Dr. Arielle Sheftall, Ph.D., Human Subject Research Coordinator II, Allan Shikh, and Human Subject Research Coordinator I, Christina Zhang

4. Contacts:

- The position requires consistent contact (roughly 10-15 hours per week) with research participants and staff.

5. Emphasis:

- The most important aspect of this position is the entering, cleaning, and coding of research data and the screening and recruitment of research participants for the research study. Applicants will receive regular (roughly one-hour, monthly) direct/remote supervision with the principal investigator.

6. Qualifications:

- Competitive applicants will have prior research experience working with clinical populations.
- Experience working with database management software such as REDCap, SPSS, Excel, BuildClinical is preferred but not required as applicants will receive training.
- CITI research training is preferred but not required as this can be obtained through the position.

For-Credit

1. Course Description: Include the objectives of the course and the nature of the readings or project work involved:

- Applicants will recruit participants and run study protocols, as well as contribute to other research activities, on a federally funded study assessing treatments for suicidal behavior in a sample of 13-17-year-olds with mood symptoms.

2. Lab Techniques: Please describe any laboratory techniques or skills that will be acquired and any equipment that will be used:

- Applicants will use BuildClinical and REDCap to recruit participants; BIOPAC and Qualtrics to conduct clinical interviews, self-report surveys, and collect electro/impedance cardiography data; and SPSS to enter and clean study data.

3. Course Evaluation: Include the basis by which the work completed will be evaluated by the instructor (e.g.: required readings, frequency of meetings, progress reports, journals, lab performance, presentations, etc.):

- Applicants will be evaluated based on lab performance, including their punctuality and reliability, and the quality by which they complete their assigned duties.
- At the end of the semester, volunteers will have to type a 1-to-2-page reflection paper on their experience in the lab, with the study, and how their experience has shaped their future directions.

4. Biohazards: *Are there any biohazards that have been identified as possible related to this independent study? Student is responsible for completing all lab safety training necessary for this course:*

- Students will not be exposed to any biohazards as part of participating in this research lab.