

**Department of Psychology  
MCMICKEN COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES**

**SUMMER RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR UNDERGRADUATE WOMEN**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 3, 2008**

*The Department of Psychology is pleased to offer the following research project for the summer of 2008. Interested students are urged to contact the faculty member(s) directing the project that most interests them. By contacting the faculty member, you can discover more about the project, learn what your responsibilities will be and, if possible, develop a timetable for the twelve-week research period.*

**Project Title: PRESCHOOLERS KNOWLEDGE ABOUT HOSPITAL CARE**

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**Project Description**

The purpose of this summer research project is to improve understanding of preschoolers' knowledge of hospital care using a semi-structured play interview using small figures and hospital play materials. Laura Nabors, Ph.D., an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology, is conducting a study to assess young children's knowledge about hospital care. The format of this study will already be developed, and the student would have opportunities to conduct interviews and participate in phases of the research process that occur after a project has been approved by an Institutional Review Board. This type of study is important because preschool-age children often are afraid of and do not understand what occurs during hospitalization, which can make treatment and recovery more difficult than necessary. When health professionals understand children's knowledge, they are better placed to intervene to improve that knowledge, and thereby reduce young children's hospital fears. Results of this pilot study will demonstrate that very young children understand the causes of illness, and understand what occurs when a child is hospitalized. The WISE student will have opportunities to recruit and interview children, and to enter and analyze data. The student will develop a presentation, and have opportunities to write a paper related to this project. The contact person for this project is Professor Laura Nabors.