

## **Waldman Lab – Information for Prospective Students**

Graduate student applicants should have substantive interests in conducting research on the classification and underlying causes of personality and psychopathology across the lifespan.

Specifically, a strong interest in disentangling and characterizing genetic and environmental influences on personality and psychopathology is key, as we use behavior genetic and molecular genetic methods extensively in my lab. Our research thus integrates psychology, statistics, and biology. We are also actively seeking to extend our studies and research findings in these domains to underrepresented groups, such as individuals from non-European backgrounds, so an interest in and commitment to diversity is important. We use a variety of sophisticated statistical analytic methods on very large datasets, so a strong statistical background and keen interest in further developing one's quantitative reasoning and skills is paramount. Graduate students in my lab are expected to contribute to ongoing research projects in the lab, as well as to develop their own research program under my mentorship.

**In summary, applicants with the following characteristics will receive the strongest consideration:**

1. A strong statistical background, as evidenced by having taken several statistics courses
2. A strong coding background, with working knowledge of using R for generating statistical graphics and conducting various kinds of statistical analyses. Knowing Python also is helpful.
3. Having worked previously in a researcher's lab for at least a year. Completing an Honor's thesis and being a coauthor on publications and conference presentations also is highly desirable.  
Some post-undergraduate research experience is typical.
4. Some familiarity with behavior genetic (e.g., twin and adoption study) and molecular genetic (e.g., Genome Wide Association Studies) methods and findings
5. Substantial familiarity with personality and psychopathology research