

# MELISSA D. WILSON, MA

University of California, Riverside | Department of Psychology  
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## EDUCATION

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- Ph.D., Social/Personality Psychology** *Expected: 2023*  
*University of California, Riverside*  
Health & Well-Being Specialization
- M.A., Social/Personality Psychology** 2020  
*University of California, Riverside*  
Thesis Title: *Volatility in Expectations While Awaiting Important News*
- B.A. Psychology** 2016  
*Vanguard University, Costa Mesa, CA*  
Summa Cum Laude

## AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

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- Distinguished Teaching Award; UC, Riverside** 2022  
The DTA is a highly competitive and distinctive award that recognizes excellence in teaching by a graduate student. It is awarded to only two graduate students across UCR per year, one in STEM and one in CHASS, based upon careful review of teaching evaluations and nomination letters submitted by faculty, students and peers.
- Best Mentor Award; Graduate Student Peer Mentor Program, UC, Riverside** 2022  
Selected by program coordinators, first-year graduate student mentees, and faculty as the sole CHASS awardee for excellent mentoring service. Mentored three students (each from different CHASS departments) with diverse backgrounds and various mentorship needs in this year-long program designed to boost success and retention.
- Psi Chi Steering Committee Travel Grant; Psi Chi National Honor Society** 2019 – 2021  
Funds awarded to graduate student committee members for attending conference, representing Psi Chi, and participating in various events.
- Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award; UC, Riverside** 2020  
Recognized by the Psychology department for teaching excellence.
- Chancellor's Distinguished Fellowship Award; UC, Riverside** 2018  
Awarded by the university in recognition of academic accomplishments.

**Psychology Savant Award;** Vanguard University 2016

In recognition of outstanding academic performance, demonstrated by scoring in the top quartile of graduating seniors on a difficult, objective, comprehensive Psychology Major Field Test.

**Shirley Albertson Owens Academic Achievement Award;** Vanguard University 2016

Awarded for distinguished academic achievement in the psychology department.

## PUBLICATIONS

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*\*co-authorship with undergraduate student*

**Wilson, M.,** & Rankin, K., Ludi, D., & Sweeny, K. (2022). Emotional, cognitive, and physical well-being during the wait for breast biopsy results. *Psychology & Health*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/08870446.2022.2117811>

Knapp, S., **Wilson, M.,** Sweeny, K. (2021). The role of two emotion regulation tendencies across two waiting periods. *Motivation and Emotion*, 1-10. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11031-021-09869-3>

\*Acheampong, R., \*Bergman, K., **Wilson, M.,** Sweeny, K. (2020). Fear of Cancer Recurrence Among Black and White Mothers. *University of California, Riverside: Undergraduate Research Journal*, 14, 17-22.

### *Under Review*

**Wilson, M.,** & Sweeny, K. (under review). Volatility in expectations while awaiting important news.

### *Manuscripts in Preparation*

**Wilson, M.,** \*Dik, D., & Sweeny, K. (in preparation). *Expectations related to COVID-19 predict well-being in nuanced ways.*

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### **Part-Time Faculty**

*Moreno Valley Community College*

- Psychological Research Methods (*online-asynchronous*) Spring & Fall 2022
- General Psychology Summer 2022

**Instructor***University of California, Riverside*

- Social Psychology Summer 2021
- Health Psychology Spring 2021

**Teaching Assistant***University of California, Riverside*

- Industrial Organizational Psychology Summer 2022
- Health Psychology Summer & Fall 2020, Summer 2022
- Psychological Research Methods Winter & Fall 2021, Spring 2022
- Personality Psychology Spring 2020 & Winter 2022
- Social Psychology Fall 2019
- Health and Behavior Change Summer 2019
- Introduction to Psychology Spring 2019

**SERVICE EXPERIENCE**

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**Ad-hoc Reviewer***PLOS One Journal*

2021 – Present

**Graduate Student Peer Mentor***Psychology Department, UC, Riverside*

Peer mentor to incoming, first-year graduate students in psychology.

2019 – Present

**Panelist***Annual Teaching Assistant Workshop, UC, Riverside*

Selected to serve as a panelist to share experiences as a teaching assistant for the benefit and training of first-year graduate students in psychology.

May 2022

**Graduate Student Peer Mentor***Graduate Student Mentorship Program, GradSuccess, UC Riverside*GSMP facilitates and transforms the graduate student experience at UCR, with the goal of lowering graduate student attrition (especially among vulnerable populations) by helping first-year graduate students across departments transition into graduate study. [Featured here](#) for International Mentor Appreciation Month.

2021 – 2022

**Society for Health Psychology Campus Representative***Society for Health Psychology, American Psychological Association*

Campus Representatives act as liaisons between the Society for Health Psychology and their graduate program. Campus representatives are responsible for coordinating and hosting a sponsored event that promotes health psychology.

2020 – 2021

**Psi Chi Graduate Representative Steering Committee Member** 2019 – 2021

*Psi Chi National Honors Society*

Reviewed undergraduate research and travel awards for the annual Western Psychological Association Conference and presented several talks relating to preparation for graduate school.

**Undergraduate Research Abstract Reviewer** 2020 – 2021

*R'PSYC Conference & Undergraduate Research Symposium, UC, Riverside*

Evaluated undergraduate abstracts for various research awards for both the R'PSYC undergraduate research conference and the annual Undergraduate Research Symposium.

**Panelist** May 2020

*R'PSYC Conference, UC, Riverside*

Selected to serve as a panelist on the Resilience and Coping Panel at the annual R'PSYC research conference in the psychology department.

**Student Success Coordinator / Administrative Assistant** 2017

*Nursing Program, Vanguard University, Costa Mesa, CA*

Academic advisor to students working towards a Master's of Science in Nursing degree and administrative assistant to the Dean of Graduate Programs & Nursing Program Director.

**UNDERGRADUATE MENTORING**

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***Graduate School Application and Preparation***

**Graduate Mentor** 2020 – 2021

*Women's Resource Center, UC, Riverside*

10-week program which fosters mentoring relationships, provides undergraduate students with information to prepare for graduate school, and builds community.

***Research Mentorship***

**Seerat Kang** Spring 2021

Project focused on South Asian experiences with healthcare and relation to health outcomes, particularly incidence of cardiovascular disease. Presentation given at the annual R'PSYC conference at UC, Riverside.

**Katelynn Bergman** 2018 – 2021

Mentoring focuses on project development, literature reviews, and manuscript writing as well as graduate applications to Ph.D. programs in psychological research. Paper published in UCR undergraduate journal and presentations given at various conferences (SPSP, WPA, UCR

Undergraduate Research Conference, R'PSYC). Projects focused on fear of cancer recurrence in breast cancer survivors.

**Rechael Acheampong**

2019 – 2020

Paper published in UCR undergraduate journal and presentations given at UCR Undergraduate Research Conference and R'PSYC. Projects focused on disparities in fear of cancer recurrence among Black and White mothers.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**Graduate Student Researcher – University of California, Riverside**

2018 – Present

*Life Events Lab; PI: Kate Sweeny, Ph.D.*

**Research Assistant – University of California, Irvine**

2016 – 2018

*Emotion Research Lab; PI: Susan Charles, Ph.D.*  
*Loftus Lab; PI: Elizabeth Loftus, Ph.D.*

**Student Researcher – Vanguard University**

2015 – 2016

*PI: Noreen Dulin, Ph.D.*

## PRESENTATIONS

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*\*co-authorship with undergraduate student*

### *Talks*

**Wilson, M.,** (2022, April). *Racial healthcare disparities from a health psychology perspective.*  
Invited talk at the Moreno Valley College Psychology Club, Moreno Valley, CA.

**Wilson, M.,** Sweeny, K. (2022, March). *COVID-19 related expectations and well-being in China and the U.S.* Talk presented at the UC, Riverside brown bag series, Riverside, CA.

\*Kang, S., **Wilson, M.,** Sweeny, K. (2021, May). *Cancer screening incidence among South Asian Americans.* Highlighted presentation with Q&A at the Annual Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference (R'PSYC), Riverside, CA.

**Wilson, M.,** & Sweeny, K. (2021, May). *Expectations related to COVID-19 predict well-being in nuanced ways.* Talk presented for the University of California, Riverside Health and Well-Being Proseminar (and available at [psychology.ucr.edu](https://psychology.ucr.edu)), Riverside, CA.

**Wilson, M.,** Sweeny, K. (2021, April). *Pessimistic expectations predict distress during the wait for biopsy results.* Talk presented at the Annual Conference of the Western Psychological Association.

**Wilson, M.,** Rankin, K., Sweeny, K. (2021, February). *Waiting for results: Expectations matter more than risk factors*. Data blitz talk at the Social Personality Health Network's Preconference for the Annual Conference of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology.

**Wilson, M.,** Sweeny, K. (2021, January). *The wait for breast diagnosis*. Talk presented at the UC, Riverside brown bag series, Riverside, CA.

**Wilson, M.,** Sweeny, K. (2020, October). *Volatility in expectations while awaiting important news*. Talk presented at the Annual Conference of the Western Psychological Association.

**Wilson, M.** (2020, October). *Life as a graduate student*. Talk presented at the Annual Conference of the Western Psychological Association.

\*Bergman, K., \*Acheampong, R., **Wilson, M.,** Sweeny, K. (2020, May). *Profile of breast cancer survivors with high fear of cancer recurrence*. Highlighted presentation at the Annual Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference (R'PSYC), Riverside, CA.

\*Acheampong, R., \*Bergman, K., **Wilson, M.,** Sweeny, K. (2020, May). *Fear of cancer recurrence among Black and White mothers*. Talk presented at the UC, Riverside Undergraduate Research Symposium, Riverside, CA.

**Wilson, M.** (2020, April). *Volatility in expectations while awaiting important news*. Talk presented at the UC, Riverside brown bag series, Riverside, CA.

**Wilson, M.** (2019, November). *Keynote address*. Talk presented at the Annual Psi Chi Induction Ceremony, Vanguard University, Costa Mesa, CA.

**Wilson, M.,** Sweeny, K. (2019, April). *Metrics for assessing within-person variability: Part 2*. Talk presented at the UC, Riverside Modeling and Methodological Analysis (MAMA) brown bag series, Riverside, CA.

Alvarez, S., Martin, L., Newlin, P., Smith, H., **Wilson, M.,** (2016, April). *God and the self: Correlates of faith in a sample of Christian university students*. Talk presented at Vanguard University's Annual Spring Colloquium, Costa Mesa, CA.

## **Posters**

**Wilson, M., &** Sweeny, K. (2022, February). *Volatility in expectations while awaiting presidential election results*. Poster presentation at the Annual Conference of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology.

Rankin, K., **Wilson, M.**, Sweeny, K. (2021, February). *Shifts in well-being while waiting for health news*. Poster presentation at the Social Personality Health Network's Preconference for the Annual Conference of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology.

\*Bergman, K., **Wilson, M.**, Sweeny, K. (2021, February). *Differences in fear of cancer recurrence amongst black and white mothers*. Poster presentation at the Annual Conference of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology.

**Wilson, M.**, Sweeny, K. (2021, February). *Expectations related to COVID-19 predict well-being in nuanced ways*. Poster presentation at the Annual Conference of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology.

\*Bergman, K., **Wilson, M.**, Sweeny, K. (2020, October). *Fear of cancer recurrence and perceived partner responsiveness among breast cancer survivors*. Poster presentation at the Annual Conference of the Western Psychological Association.

**Wilson, M.**, Sweeny, K. (2020, February). *Impact of volatile expectations on physical and psychological health while awaiting news*. Poster presentation at the Social Personality Health Network's Preconference for the Annual Conference of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, New Orleans, LA.

**Wilson, M.**, Sweeny, K. (2020, February). *Volatility in expectations while awaiting important news*. Poster presentation at the Annual Conference of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, New Orleans, LA.

**Wilson, M.**, Knapp, S., Sweeny, K. (2019, February). *Emotion Regulation during an uncertain waiting period*. Poster presentation at the Emotion Preconference for the Annual Conference of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Portland, OR. Poster Award Nominee.

Lee, J., Chen, Y., **Wilson, M.**, Schwartz, S., Rodriguez, C. (2016, May). *Inconclusive correspondence between self-report and behavior*. Poster presentation at the Annual Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) Symposium, Irvine, CA.

Malerbe, P., Martin, L., Saito, S., **Wilson, M.**, Dulin, N. (2016, April). *Health perception and related behaviors in college students*. Poster presentation at the Annual Psi Chi Whittier Undergraduate Research Conference, Whittier, CA.

## **CERTIFICATES, TRAININGS, AND SKILLS**

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**University Teaching Certificate Program** 2022

Competitive, two-quarter instructional training and certification program offered by Graduate Division at the University of California, Riverside. This program assists instructors in developing effective and inclusive teaching strategies and a teaching philosophy.

**Mentorship Training** 2021

Training organized by the Graduate Student Mentorship Program at University of California, Riverside. This training included workshops on navigating difficult conversation, mentorship agreements and setting expectations, and campus resources.

**Sexual Assault Counselor Training** 2016

Completed a 48-hour CA state certified training which provides individuals with the education and skills required to act as a sexual assault counselor.

**Spanish Language Proficiency**

Proficient in reading, writing, and speaking; California State Seal of Biliteracy

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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Social Personality Health Network (SPHN)  
 Society for Health Psychology (SfHP)  
 Western Psychological Association (WPA)  
 Society for Social and Personality Psychology (SPSP)  
 Society for the Teaching of Psychology (STP)  
 Association for Psychological Science (APS)  
 Psi Chi, International Honor Society in Psychology