

Maeve Allen
Graduate Student
Department of Psychology
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
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EDUCATION

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE 2024-present
College of Arts and Sciences
Ph.D., Social Psychology
California State University, Long Beach, Long Beach, CA 2020-2024
College of Liberal Arts
Bachelor of Arts, Psychology
Minors: Child Development and Family Studies, Gerontology
Cumulative GPA: 4.0

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Navigating Disclosure of Unwanted Sexual Experiences for Women Attracted to Multiple Genders (aka Navigating Disclosure Study) Lincoln, NE

Principal Investigator: Maeve Allen August 2024-present
Co-investigator: Kathryn Holland, Ph.D.

This project aims to better understand how plurisexual identity plays a role in plurisexual women college student sexual assault survivors' decisions to disclose or not disclose experiences of sexual assault to both formal and informal support systems, with the aim of informing support practices to improve survivor outcomes.

Duties include:

- Developed study methodology and semi-structured interview protocols
- Submitted IRB application and ensured ethical compliance throughout study design

The Efficacy of Sexual Assault Mandatory Reporting Policies Lincoln, NE
Graduate Research Assistant August 2024-present

Principal Investigator: Kathryn Holland, Ph.D.

This project aims to understand how university mandatory reporting policies for sexual assault are translated into practice and determine the efficacy of these policies in addressing sexual assault and supporting survivors on campus.

Duties include:

- Deidentified sensitive data and prepared interview transcripts for analysis
- Led a qualitative coding team in thematic analysis of faculty interview data
- Analyzed Title IX policy documents from multiple institutions

Teen Connection Project Lincoln, NE
Undergraduate Research Assistant May 2024-August 2024

Principal Investigator: Katie Edwards, Ph.D.

This project aims to develop and complete feasibility and pilot testing of a group-delivered eHealth mentoring and skill-building program for trans and other gender minority youth.

Duties include:

- Manage surveys completed by mentors and youth
- Observe and assess group and one-on-one sessions with mentors and youth to assess fidelity to program standards.

Peaceful Means

Undergraduate Research Assistant

Lincoln, NE

July 2023-present

Principal Investigator: Katie Edwards, Ph.D.

This project involves adapting the Impower program to reduce sexual violence and provide prevention programming to K-12 youth on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

Duties include:

- Led team in writing of community report about implementation considerations for programming in the Indigenous community
- Conducted thematic analysis on focus group transcripts to study implementation considerations for future programming in the Indigenous community
- Cowrote manuscript on perceptions of sexual violence on a reservation on the Great Plains
- Assisted a team of researchers in running programming, including organizing consent forms in spreadsheets and data-sharing software

Evaluation of Online Intervention for Sexual Minority Youth

Undergraduate Research Assistant

Lincoln, NE

June 2023-present

Principal Investigators: Katie Edwards, Ph.D., Heather Littleton, Ph.D.

This NIH-funded project seeks to develop and evaluate an online program, Promoting Resilient Youth with Strong Hearts and Minds (PRYSHM), for LGBTQ+ teens with the aim of bolstering pride in LGBTQ+ identities and preventing sexual violence and alcohol abuse.

Duties include:

- Conducted content analysis on the implementation considerations of PRYSHM
- Assisted a team of researchers in conducting a thematic analysis of participants' exit interviews, including deidentifying data and analyzing data using NVivo
- Conducted thematic analysis and presented findings on the role of program facilitators on the personal development of queer youth
- Assisted in writing process paper for publication

Sexual Assault Advocacy Study

Undergraduate Research Assistant

Long Beach, CA

January 2022-present

Principal Investigator: Courtney Ahrens, Ph.D.

This project examines the nature and extent of advocacy services, including Title IX Offices, Confidential Victim Advocates, Sexual Assault Centers, prevention programming, and other support services at 4-year universities in the United States.

Duties include:

- Led team of three to efficiently code all 2400 4-year colleges for OCR complaints and demographic information.
- Trained team in coding in NVivo and managed all NVivo data files
- Led research meetings
- Developed survey questions based on an extensive literature review
- Coded websites of all 2400 4-year colleges and universities in the United States for information about sexual assault reporting, prevention, and supportive services for survivors

- Read, presented, and discussed articles related to sexual assault on college campuses and learned about the graduate school application process during journal club meetings
- Conducted literature reviews, completed data analysis, designed poster presentations relevant to Dr. Ahrens' research

Hope in Intimate Partner Violence Survivors

Long Beach, CA

Undergraduate Research Assistant

June 2022-present

Principal Investigator: Courtney Ahrens

This project seeks to examine the construct of Hope as a meaningful factor relating to depression, anxiety, and other negative affective disorders in domestic violence shelter residents and staff.

Research Assistant

Duties

- Led a team of five to design poster presentations and literature reviews for local and national professional conferences
- Conduct mediated and moderated linear regression data analysis for a quantitative study on the use of Hope as a rehabilitative tool for treating intimate partner violence survivors using SPSS
- Conduct a literature review on Hope, intimate partner violence, depression, and quality of life as it pertains to Hope as a moderator
- Develop manuscript for publication
- Design poster presentations for local and national professional conferences, like the Institute on Violence, Abuse, and Trauma Summit, Western Psychological Association, and the Student Research Competition at CSULB

HONORS AND AWARDS

Graduate Student Travel Award

May 2025

The Office of Graduate Studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln awards graduate students for all conference-related expenses, up to \$1500, to advance Nebraska graduate students' scholarly and creative work beyond Nebraska state lines.

Graduate Student Travel Award for the 2025 SPSSI Annual Conference

April 2025

The Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI) Graduate Student Committee awards ten graduate students for travel to the upcoming SPSSI conference for all conference-related expenses, up to \$500.

President's Commission on the Status of Women

Advancement of Women Award

May 2024

The President's Commission on the Status of Women recognizes the importance of acknowledging individual university members of their contributions to the advancement of women. The award recognizes the recipient's campus service, community service, and scholarly and creative achievements.

Outstanding Student Citation

(for Undergraduate Students-Gerontology Minor)

March 2024

This award honors undergraduate students that have achieved a 3.0 GPA or higher and active participation in on-campus/off-campus organizations.

Lucio Morales Award

December 2023

This award is given to 1 out of 3500 students in the Department of Psychology at CSULB for their impressive work as a researcher during their time at CSULB.

University of Nebraska Summer Research Program—

Community-Engaged Training for Advancing Health Equity May 2023-August 2023

This NSF-funded program is a highly competitive, funded program that provides research opportunities with research faculty at the University of Nebraska as well as professional development opportunities, such as a research symposium, networking opportunities, and graduate school seminars. The Community-Engaged Training for Advancing Health Equity subprogram offers teaching on community-based participatory action research and mentoring opportunities with mentors and faculty across multiple disciplines, including psychology and sociology.

WPA Regional Research Award April 2023

During WPA, there is a special poster session for Psi Chi members. Winners of the 12 available Regional Research Awards were selected from students who presented posters during this special session. *Contextual Factors Influencing Whether Survivors of IPV Contact the Police* represented one of the session's top 5% abstracts.

Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity (BUILD) June 2022-May 2024

BUILD is a highly competitive, NIH-funded program that provides monthly stipends, tuition assistance, and travel funds for professional and student conferences. They also offer professional development opportunities, like graduate school application assistance, Citi RCR training, networking opportunities, and career planning.

Psi Chi International Honor Society May 2022-present

Psi Chi International Honor Society honors high-achieving psychology students with a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA.

OURS Connects Research Program January 2022-June 2022

The Office of Undergraduate Research Services Connects Research Program that aids in obtaining research assistantships, professional development, and the Ph.D. application process.

National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS) Membership 2020-present

The National Society of Collegiate Scholars honors high-achieving students by providing scholarships, leadership experiences, and networking opportunities.

President's Honor List

Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2023, Spring 2024

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Presentations

1. **Allen, M. A.**, Holland, K. J., & Howard Valdivia, R. L. (2025, June 27). *Consensual unwanted sex and body image among Queer women* [Paper presentation]. SPSSI 2025 Conference, Portland, OR.
2. Gardella, J., Farquhar-Leicester, A., **Allen, M.**, Camp, E., Higgins, M., Edwards, K., Littleton, H., Wheeler, L., Hespe, P., Spitz, C., Girard, J., Kim, S., & Hopfauf, S. (2025, April 8). *Process-evaluation for assessing implementation of an online program for sexual and gender minority youth to prevent alcohol use and teen dating violence* In Edwards, K. (Chair), *Supplemental findings of an online program found to prevent teen*

- dating violence and alcohol use among sexual and gender minority youth* [Thematic panel]. ResilienceCon 2025, Nashville, TN.
3. Miller, G., **Allen, M. A.**, Waterman, E., & Edwards, K. M. (2024, November 13). *"I'm proud of me": Perspectives of pride in Indigenous children and their caregivers* [Paper presentation]. 79th Annual Meeting of American Society of Criminology, San Francisco, CA.
 4. **Allen, M. A.**, Lim, S., Aranda-Hughes, V., Edwards, K. M., & Wilson, T. (2024, November 13). *"We're going to start healing": Perceptions of sexual violence on a rural Indian reservation in the Northern Great Plains*. In Aranda-Hughes, V. (Chair), *Empowerment approaches to preventing sexual violence in Indigenous communities* [Thematic panel]. 79th Annual Meeting of American Society of Criminology, San Francisco, CA.
 5. Edwards, K. M., Littleton, H., Gardella, J., Wheeler, L. A., Farquhar-Leicester, A., Xu, W., Spitz, C., Hespe, P., Ashworth, S., Camp, E., Girard, J., Chavez, A., Kim, S., **Allen, M.**, Sharma, M., Higgins, M., Hopfauf, S., & Neighbors, C. (2024, August 15-17). *Pilot randomized controlled trial of an online program for sexual and gender minority youth to prevent alcohol use and teen dating violence* [Paper presentation]. National LGBTQ Health Conference, Atlanta, GA.
 6. Edwards, K. M., Littleton, H., Gardella, J., Wheeler, L. A., Farquhar-Leicester, A., Xu, W., Spitz, C., Hespe, P., Ashworth, S., Camp, E. E., Girard, J., Chavez, A., Kim, S., **Allen, M.**, Sharma, M., Higgins, M., Hopfauf, S., & Neighbors, C. (2024, August 15-17). *An Online Program for Sexual and Gender Minority Youth Reduces Alcohol Use and Teen Dating Violence: A Randomized Controlled Trial*. [Paper presentation]. National LGBTQ Health Conference, Atlanta, GA.
 7. **Allen, M. A.**, Than, D., & Ahrens, C. (2023, November 3). *How Hope Can Influence the Quality of Life of Intimate Partner Violence Survivors* [Poster presentation]. International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies 39th Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA.
 8. **Allen, M. A.**, Spitz, C., Hespe, P., Camp, E., Chavez, A., Farquhar-Leicester, A., Gardella, J., & Edwards, K. (2023, August 3). *The Influence of Program Facilitators on the Personal Development of Youth* [Poster presentation]. Nebraska Summer Research Symposium, Lincoln, NE.
 9. **Allen, M. A.**, Florido, E. M., Nasri, A., Navas, S., & Ahrens, C. (2023, April 28). *Hope as a Moderator for the Relationship Between Multiple Traumas and Depression* [Poster presentation]. The Western Psychological Association 2023 Annual Convention, Riverside, CA.
 10. **Allen, M. A.**, & Ahrens, C. (2023, April 20). *How Hope Explains the Relationship Between Polyvictimization and Depression* [Oral presentation]. Week of RSCA, Long Beach, CA.
 11. Than, D., **Allen, M. A.**, & Ahrens, C. (2023, April 19). *Contextual Factors Influencing Whether Survivors of IPV Contact the Police* [Poster presentation]. The Western Psychological Association 2023 Annual Convention, Riverside, CA & Psych Day Student Research Competition, Long Beach, CA.
 12. **Allen, M. A.**, Than, D., & Ahrens, C. (2023, April 19). *The Hope for Better Quality of Life Among Survivors: Hope as a Moderator of the Relationship Between Trauma and Quality of Life* [Poster presentation]. Psych Day Student Research Competition, Long Beach, CA.

13. **Allen, M. A.**, Gomez, R., & Ahrens, C. (2023, March 10). *How Low Hope Impacts the Depressive Symptoms of Trauma Survivors* [Oral presentation]. Student Research Competition, Long Beach, CA.
14. Florido, E. M., Nguyen, A., Maclaren, J., **Allen, M. A.**, & Ahrens, C. (2022, August 29). *Hope Grows: Hope for the Future Among Domestic Violence Shelter Residents and Staff* [Poster presentation]. Institute on Violence, Abuse, and Trauma Summit, San Diego, CA.
15. **Allen, M. A.**, & Ahrens, C. (2022, July 28). *The Importance of Hope Among Intimate Partner Violence Survivors* [Poster presentation]. BUILD Summer Symposium, Long Beach, CA.

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

1. Edwards, K. M., Littleton, H., Gardella, J., Wheeler, L., Farquhar-Leicester, A., Xu, W., Spitz, C., Hespe, P., Chavez, A., Kim, S., Choi, D., **Allen, M.**, Camp, E., Ashworth, S., Sharma, M., Girard, J., Higgins, M., Hopfauf, S., & Neighbors, C. (2025). An online program for sexual and gender minority youth reduces alcohol use and teen dating violence: A randomized controlled trial. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*, 86(2), 287-296. <https://doi.org/10.15288/jsad.24-00007>
2. Lim, S., Allen, M., Aranda-Hughes, V., Edwards, K. M., & Wilson, T. (2024). "We're going to start healing": Perceptions of sexual violence on a rural Indian reservation in the northern Great Plains. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, Advanced online publication.
3. Edwards, K. M., **Allen, M. A.**, Wheeler, L., Spitz, C., Hespe, P., Littleton, H., & Gardella, J. The role of minority stressors in teen dating violence victimization and perpetration among sexual and gender minority youth. [Manuscript under review].
4. Miller, G. M., **Allen, M. A.**, Waterman, E., & Edwards, K. M. (in preparation). "I'm proud of me": Perspectives of pride in Indigenous caregivers and their children.
5. **Allen, M.**, Edwards, K., Gardella, J., Farquhar-Leicester, A., Hespe, P., Spitz, C., Miller, G., & Littleton, H. (in preparation). "Being queer is beautiful": LGBTQ+ youths' perceptions of sources of strengths associated with their queer identities.
6. Gardella, J., Farquhar-Leicester, A., Camp, E. E., **Allen, M.**, Edwards, K. M., Littleton, H., Higgins, M., Hespe, P., Spitz, C., Ashworth, S., Girard, J., Kim, S., Wheeler, L. A., Hopfauf, S., & Neighbors, C. (in preparation). Implementation Outcomes of a Pilot Online Program for Sexual and Gender Minority Youth to Prevent Alcohol Use and Teen Dating Violence.
7. **Allen, M. A.**, & Ahrens, C. (in preparation). How hope affects the quality of life and depressive symptoms of polyvictimization survivors.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Guest Lecturer, "IPV Among Underserved Populations"

June 20, 2025

PSYC 430: Psychology of Family Violence, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Instructor: Kara Stevens

- Recorded an asynchronous, 30-minute guest lecture on intimate partner violence, focusing on:
 - Minority Stress Theory and Intersectionality
 - The prevalence of intimate partner violence victimization and perpetration, help-seeking behaviors, and potential risk and protective factors proposed by the

literature among racial/ethnic minorities, people with low socio-economic status, sexual minorities, gender minorities, and people with disabilities.

Guest Lecturer, “Teen Dating Violence”

June 12, 2025

PSYC 430: Psychology of Family Violence, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Instructor: Kara Stevens

- Recorded an asynchronous, 30-minute guest lecture on the types, risk factors, protective factors, and outcomes of teen dating violence victimization and perpetration.

Guest Lecturer, “STI Stigma”

February 17, 2025

WMNS 202: Women, Gender, and Health, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Instructor: Kathryn Holland, Ph.D.

- Delivered a 75-minute guest lecture on different kinds of STI stigma among minority groups and safe sex procedures
- Facilitated group discussions on systemic STI stigma in medical institutions and other systems and barriers to STI treatment

Guest Lecturer, “Social Influence & Conformity”

March 4, 2025

PSYC 288: The Psychology of Social Behavior, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Instructor: Casey Tisdale, MA, MLS

- Delivered a 75-minute guest lecture on the history and tenets of social influence and conformity research in the field of social psychology

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Undergraduate Research Assistant Mentor

August 2024-present

Sexual Assault and Sexual Health Lab, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

- Provided guidance on thematic analysis in The Efficacy of Mandatory Reporting Policies study.
- Advised Ras on professional development, including identifying assistantship opportunities.
- Supported mentees in building confidence and clarity around academic planning and research engagement.
- Recommended academic coursework and resources aligned with students’ research and career goals.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Intern

January 2024-May 2024

Center for Successful Aging, Long Beach, CA

- Conducting a literature review on learning competencies and existing curricula on cross-cultural aging care for health profession students in different disciplines relevant to aging.
- Attending Innovation Committee meetings on how to meet the needs of older adults in Los Angeles County
- Utilizing multiple databases (e.g., PubMed, Medline, NCBI) to document the established competencies for aging for disciplines in the helping profession (i.e., nursing, social work, health science/public health, physical therapy, nutrition, speech language pathology, and gerontology).

- Writing a community report on gerontological competency requirements for healthcare education program accreditation

Volunteer Coordinator

August 2023-December 2023

Not Alone at the Beach, Long Beach, CA

- Coordinated with university offices to schedule events and ensure protocol is being followed (i.e., risk management)
- Communicated with the volunteer team to coordinate informational tabling, flyer distribution, and classroom presentations
- Brainstormed effective engagement techniques with volunteer team and interns
- Facilitated communication between the executive team, interns, and volunteers

Ambassador/Intern

August 2022-June 2023

Not Alone at the Beach, Long Beach, CA

- Scheduled informational tabling events with the Campus Events Office
- Coordinated informational presentations in classrooms and student organizations
- Managed and train new interns in social media and outreach procedures
- Research legal definitions and statutes related to sexual assault and intimate partner violence
- Conducted community outreach efforts on campus to inform the public of resources at Not Alone at the Beach
- Cultivated social media presence to highlight educational opportunities and community and organization events for students and faculty

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Student Representative

June 2022-August 2022, August 2023-December 2023

Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity, Long Beach, CA

- Reported the concerns and needs of the students to BUILD staff and Principal Investigators
- Communicated regularly with BUILD students to address their concerns
- Conducted weekly meetings with other student representatives
- Planned student activities, like the annual bonfire
- Prepared materials and locations for each event

Secretary

July 2021-June 2022

Active Minds at CSULB, Long Beach, CA

- Created presentations highlighting different topics related to mental health, like depression, self-care, and trauma
- Attended weekly general meetings to present presentations
- Attended weekly board meetings to discuss the function of the club
- Networked with affiliated clubs

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- *Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI)*—Graduate Student Member (2025-present)

REFERENCES

Kathryn Holland, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Department of Psychology and Department of Women's and Gender Studies

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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