

Doctoral Student Assistantship Position Fall 2026



Dr. Kristina Neely, Director of the Brain and Behavior Laboratory in the School of Kinesiology at Auburn University, is seeking highly motivated doctoral students for Fall 2026. The lab investigates how cognition, mental health, and emotion influence movement in adults. The lab examines how mental health conditions, such as ADHD, anxiety, and depression, affect movement. Graduate students collaborate closely with Dr. Neely in a creative, supportive environment. Ideal candidates are curious, motivated, and passionate about neuromotor control.



Dr. Kristina Neely is an Associate Professor at Auburn University specializing in the neuroscience of movement in adults. Her research examines how mental health, cognition, and mind-body exercise influence motor control, with a focus on behavioral approaches. Her lab is currently exploring the neurocognitive effects of mind-body practices (e.g., yoga) on movement mental health, and emotional regulation. Dr. Neely is dedicated to mentoring doctoral students in innovative research at the intersection of kinesiology and behavioral neuroscience.

Assistantship and Application Information

Graduate assistantships at Auburn University provide a monthly stipend, a tuition waiver (covering in-state tuition and the out-of-state portion for non-residents), and enrollment in the university's graduate student health insurance plan. Responsibilities include contributing to ongoing research projects in the Brain and Behavior Lab and teaching physical education courses and/or courses in the undergraduate curriculum. Interested students should contact Dr. Neely before applying. Include a brief note on prior human-subjects research experience, your intended research interests, a resume, and an unofficial transcript. For best consideration, reach out by January 12, 2026.

About the University

Auburn University is a Land Grant institution with R1 research productivity that is rooted in more than 160 years of tradition, occupies 1,841 acres, and is the academic home to more than 30,000 students. The School of Kinesiology is housed in the College of Education, and the School of Kinesiology doctoral program is ranked in the top fifteen by the National Academy of Kinesiology Ranking of Doctoral Programs (2023). Our mission is to acquire new knowledge about exercise, training, and physical activity and deliver that knowledge in an invigorating learning environment for our undergraduate and graduate students. Our goal is to uncover basic mechanisms and to improve the health of society through research, outreach, and teaching.

Auburn, AL, is a vibrant and thriving college town and community recognized as one of the top small towns in the South. Known as the "Loveliest Village on the Plains," Auburn offers a high quality of life including a vibrant cultural scene. The Auburn-Opelika Metropolitan area has a population of about 163,000. Auburn's size offers numerous advantages to its residents and Auburn is a quintessential college town with excellent recreational, educational, and cultural opportunities.



AUBURN UNIVERSITY

College of Education
School of Kinesiology