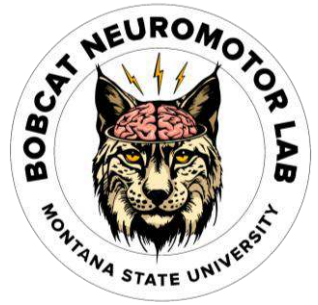# PhD Position in Motor Learning, Neuroscience, and Sensorimotor Integration

Montana State University | Fall 2026

Dr. Tyler Whittier, Assistant Professor of Motor Learning and Performance at Montana State University, is seeking a highly motivated doctoral student to join the Bobcat Neuromotor Laboratory (BNML) within MSU's Neuromuscular Biomechanics Lab beginning Fall 2026. This position is associated with a Department of Defense–funded research project investigating the effects of ACL injury on sensorimotor integration, with a strong emphasis on neurophysiological mechanisms of motor control and learning. The PhD student will play a central role in processing and analyzing EEG data directly tied to the funded project's aims, while also helping to lead EEG and movement neuroscience research projects conducted locally at MSU.

Research Environment

The BNML studies the sensorimotor foundations of skilled motor performance, with a focus on how proprioceptive and somatosensory systems support learning, adaptation, and rehabilitation across athletic, military, and clinical populations. The lab employs a range of experimental tools, including EEG, fNIRS, EMG, biomechanics, and augmented/virtual reality, to understand how the brain and body work together to produce effective movement.

All lab members (PhD, MS, and BS students) work closely with Dr. Whittier in a collaborative, supportive, and growth-focused environment. Ideal candidates are curious, technically capable, and motivated to solve complex problems while contributing positively to a team-based lab culture.

Desired Qualifications

- BS or MS degree in neuroscience, biomedical engineering, kinesiology, or a related field
- Strong coding and data analysis experience (Matlab required)
- Experience with EEG or other neurophysiological data processing strongly preferred
- Self-starter with strong problem-solving, critical thinking, and collaboration skills
- Interest in teaching and mentoring students

Applicants with a master's degree are preferred, though highly motivated BS-level students with strong technical skillsets will be considered.

Assistantship and Funding Information

The doctoral student will be supported through either a Graduate Research Assistantship or a Graduate Teaching Assistantship, both of which include a stipend and tuition support. Teaching responsibilities for GTAs typically involve laboratory sections in undergrad motor control, or biomechanics courses.

About Montana State University and Bozeman

Montana State University is a land-grant, R1 research institution located in Bozeman, MT. Bozeman offers exceptional access to outdoor recreation, including hiking, hunting, skiing, fishing, and climbing, along with a vibrant university and community atmosphere. This position is well suited for individuals excited to pursue high-level research while enjoying an active lifestyle in Montana.

Application Information

Interested students are encouraged to contact Dr. Whittier prior to applying to the Exercise and Nutrition Sciences PhD Program. Please email Dr. Whittier with:

- A CV or résumé
- A brief statement describing research interests and relevant experience (including coding and EEG experience)
- Contact information for 3 references
- Unofficial transcripts

For best consideration, please reach out by January 31st, 2026

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