

Doctoral Student Assistantship Position Available | Fall 2026 |University of North Texas, Denton

Position Overview

Dr. Johnson, co-director of the Pediatric Movement and Physical Activity Laboratory in the Department of Kinesiology, Health Promotion and Recreation (KHPR) at the University of North Texas is seeking a highly motivated doctoral student for a fully funded doctoral assistantship beginning Fall 2026. The lab conducts cutting-edge research on motor skill competency, physical activity, and other health-related outcomes across childhood with an emphasis on promoting lifelong health behaviors. The position provides comprehensive training opportunities for a doctoral student passionate about advancing pediatric health and development. The student will receive hands-on research training, comprehensive mentorship, opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration, and scholarly dissemination.

Faculty Mentor



Dr. Johnson's research is dedicated to advancing early childhood health. His research program focuses on developing and implementing child and family-level behavioral interventions to improve health behaviors among preschoolers at risk for poor health trajectories. His work has two primary aims: improving obesity-related health outcomes in children and optimizing intervention design, implementation, and efficacy. Primary child outcomes in his interventions are motor competence, physical activity, and weight status. His work also focuses on parental factors related to the development of childhood obesogenic behaviors and developing strategies to help parents support childhood health behaviors.

Learn more about Dr. Johnson: [UNT Faculty Profile](#)

Application & Assistantship Information

The prospective student will enroll in the Ph.D. in Human Performance and Movement Science (HPMS), Applications are currently open and will be accepted until **July 1, 2026**. Please refer to the [program website](#) for application requirements and more program details. Competitive assistantships include tuition, monthly stipend, health insurance, and travel funds. PhD Assistantships are renewable for up to four years based on adequate student academic progress and meeting position expectations. Please scan the QR code for more program details.



Applicant Qualifications

Applicant are required to hold a Master's degree in kinesiology or other movement/health-related field and GPA that meets program standards. Desirable qualifications and experiences include prior research experience in motor development, physical activity, or related areas such as data collection and analysis. Professional presentations and previous teaching experience is also valued. Applicants should be highly motivated, independent, and demonstrate strong time management and analytical skills, as well as the ability to thrive in a collaborative environment. Prospective applicants should email Dr. Johnson [Jerraco.johnson@unt.edu] to set up a Zoom or in-person meeting prior to applying.