

Jessica VanderWerf

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EDUCATION

May 2027 Expected PhD in Aging Studies, University of South Florida

May 2023 Masters of Science in Gerontology, St. Cloud State University (SCSU)

May 2021 Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, SCSU

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2024 **Graduate Research Assistant**, University of South Florida Department of Mental Health Law and Policy -[redacted]

In Progress.

Primary Advisor Lampe, N.

2024 **Student Leader**, University of South Florida Department of Aging Studies - Age Friendly Dissemination Project

Development and design of an "age-friendly newsletter" for public distribution.

Primary Advisor Black, K.

2023 **Lead Researcher** University of South Florida Department of Aging Studies - Emergency Medical Support and Aging Research.

Assessing benefits programs beyond reducing falls.

Primary Advisor Peterson, L.

2023 **Student Researcher** SCSU Gerontology Program - Age-Friendly University Research Team

Creating surveys to assess the age friendliness of community and university.

Primary Advisor Greenberg, P.

2023 **Student Researcher** SCSU Gerontology Program - Preceptor Research Team

Conducting surveys, coding qualitative data, and presenting research at conferences.

Primary Advisor Karasik, R.

2022 **Research Intern** SCSU Gerontology Program - Older Adults in Television and Movies

Writing and performing research with professors conducting a paper.

Primary Advisor Greenberg, P.

2021 **Student Summer Research Assistant** National Organization on Rare Disorders - N/A
Coding qualitative data for a national survey on “rare disorder” healthcare access.

Primary Advisor Hemmesch, A.

2021 **Student Director** SCSU Survey Center College of Liberal Arts - Community Needs
Research

Administering telephone surveys to gather information on issues affecting the greater
Minnesota area.

Overseeing student callers, directing data collection and answering callers’ questions.

Primary Advisor Hemmesch, A.

2020 **Student Researcher** SCSU Department of Psychology - Research project on correlation
between ageism and social media use.

Analyzed correlations

Hafner, C. Karasik, R. Greenberg, P. **VanderWerf, J.** Donorfio, L. (2023, November 7-10)
Traditional and Nontraditional Internships: A Gerontology Student Perspective
[Symposium]. Gerontological Society of America (GSA) 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting Tampa,
FL..

Karasik, R., Greenberg, P., Kroeber, M., **VanderWerf, J**

Psychology,
Sociology,
Forensic
Science,

Florida Council on Aging

April 2016 - October 2016 **Activities Assistant**-Dial Retirement Living

Provided direct patient care, helped residents with exercise and going on walks, planned and ran events

June 2015 - Present **Volunteer-From the Heart**

Sending between 20 and 30 letters (monthly) to elderly people all over the country to help combat senior isolation and loneliness.

August 2018 - December 2018 **Volunteer-Service Learning Experience**

Visited, recorded, and wrote a biography of a local senior citizen.

June 2011 - June 2015 **Volunteer-Friends Across the Ages**

Program pairs you with older adult(s) in local nursing homes that no longer have family involvement. Friends Across the Ages would coordinate parties, one hour to three hour visits a week, games and other events for older adults and volunteers.