

Marisa Franco

AY 2015-16 All-S.T.A.R. Fellow

College of Behavioral and Social
Sciences Department of Psychology
Fourth year doctoral student, TA



As a teaching assistant for the psychology of evil, I designed curriculum, taught classes, and mentored underperforming students, leading me to receive the distinguished teaching assistant award. The lessons I designed remained central to the course curriculum. Through my teaching assistantship in young scholars in psychology, I initiated mentorship with promising minority students. I have been a teaching assistant for introduction to helping skills multiple times and students rated my effectiveness a 4.9 out of 5. I taught my own course in helping skills and students rated my effectiveness a 3.6 out of 4.

Through my research, I have learned experimental design, qualitative methods, measure development, and software for stimulus presentation and blood pressure. I did a community intervention project in Haiti, where I supervised a team of ten social work students and taught them a class on research methods. I supervise many undergraduate students, all of whom have gained authorship on a conference presentation. I have presented at nine conferences and received two grants. I have one accepted publication, one being revised and resubmitted, and four submitted.

Regarding service, I currently serve on the Graduate School Diversity Committee, and act as mental health consultant for a non-profit organization focused on increasing educational access in rural Haiti. Previously, I served as the eastern graduate representative for the student chapter of Association of Black Psychologists, and I co-founded a chapter, created a scholarship and oversaw the development of three chapters, nationally.