

Samantha A. Kesselring

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EDUCATION:

University of Nebraska-Lincoln | Lincoln, NE | Ant. May 2025

- **Doctor of Philosophy in Psychological Studies in Education (Specialization in School Psychology)**
- Advisor: Susan M. Swearer, Ph.D.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) Lincoln, NE | May 2021

- **Master of Arts in Educational Psychology**
- Advisor: Susan M. Swearer, Ph.D., LP

University at Buffalo (UB) | Buffalo, NY | May 2017

- **Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Social Sciences Interdisciplinary**
 - Honors: *summa cum laude*
 - Areas of Concentration: Health and Human Services, Early Childhood Studies
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PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS:

Provisional Licensed Mental Health Practitioner | Nebraska Dept. of Health and Human Services | 2021

- License Number: 12603
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CLINICAL EXPERIENCE:

Student Therapist | UNL Counseling and School Psychology Clinic | August 2021- present

Supervisors: Heather Hruskoci, Ph.D., LP, Karalynn Brown, M.A., PLMHP

- Provide individual psychotherapy to youth for behavioral and emotional concerns (e.g. anxiety, depression)
- Research and deliver evidence-based therapeutic interventions and conduct assessments to inform case conceptualization and treatment planning
- Additional duties include consulting with parents and teachers, report writing, treatment planning, and engaging in individual and peer group supervision

School Psychologist Trainee | Arnold Elementary School (Lincoln Public Schools) | August 2020 – May 2021

Supervisors: Molly R. Kuhl, Ed.S., Matthew J. Gormley, Ph.D.

- Received training from a school psychologist at a diverse, Title I elementary school
- Led and engaged in Student Assistance, Multidisciplinary, Individualized Education Plan Team meetings
- Provided direct intervention via individual counseling, behavior plans, and social skills groups

Relief Youth Specialist | CEDARS Youth Services | June 2020 – August 2021

Supervisor: Jenna McCoy, B.A.

- Supported adolescents through daily responsibilities (e.g. chores, hygiene, homework) in emergency shelter
- Transported youth to appointments (e.g. psychotherapy, dental, eye) and community events
- Facilitated youth in groups (e.g. social skills, fitness and health, homework completion)

Practicum in School Psychology | West Seneca, Hamburg Central School Districts | August 2018 – May 2019

Supervisors: Renee Ganey, M.A./CAS, Randall Zakrzewski, M.A.

- Administered comprehensive psycho-educational assessments using measures of cognitive ability, academic achievement, and behavioral and social-emotional functioning
- Integrated multiple data sources to write comprehensive reports and presented results in Committee on Special Education meetings
- Facilitated counseling sessions with adolescents who exhibit internalizing behaviors

Summer Treatment Program Clinical Counselor | The Summit Center | June 2018 - August 2018

Supervisor: Claire Spangenthal, M.A./AC, NCSP, BCBA

- Implemented a manualized, research-based behavioral modification program for children with ADHD, ODD, and related behavior problems ages 5 to 15 years old
- Coordinated with behavioral specialists to develop individual behavior plans and daily report cards
- Recorded and analyzed daily point system data

Universal Pre-Kindergarten Screening | Williamsville Central School District | August 2017 - December 2017

Supervisors: Rebecca Vujnovic, Ph.D., Linda Dugan, M.A.

- Received formal training in administration and scoring of the Brigance Inventory of Early Development III
- Administered and scored selected subtests of the Brigance Inventory of Early Development III assessment across all sites for all students enrolled in the Williamsville Central School District's UPK program

TRAINEESHIP EXPERIENCE:

Scholar in Concussion/mTBI Specialization | UNL | August 2019 – May 2021

Supervisor: Scott Napolitano, Ph.D., LP

- Studied various aspects of concussions in youth and learn about school-based assessment and interventions
- Participated in bi-monthly seminars and professional development workshops
- Virtually interacted with NASP TBI Interest Group Community members through discussion board posts

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Graduate Teaching Instructor | UB Athlete Academic Affairs | June 2019 – August 2019

Course: Fundamental Academic Skills Training

Supervisor: Melanie Bliz, M.S.

- Mentored and assisted incoming, at-risk student athletes with the transition to college
- Facilitated the development of college-level academic skills through workshops and one-on-one tutoring

Undergraduate Teacher Intern | UB Early Childhood Research Center | January 2017 – May 2017

Supervisor: Corrine Eggleston, Ph.D.

- Delivered a child-centered, play-based curriculum at a NAEYC-accredited preschool center
- Developed and implemented lesson plans to a toddler-aged classroom
- Created a comprehensive educational portfolio for a student

Lead Teaching Assistant | UB School of Nursing | January 2015 - May 2017

Course: Human Growth and Development

Supervisor: Theresa Winkelman, M.S., RN, PNP-BC

- Consulted on curriculum development and implementation
- Supervised and trained ten Junior Teaching Assistants
- Presented on special topics (LGBTQ+ in adolescence and ADHD in school-age children)

RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE:

Student-Athlete Subject Tutor | UNL Student Life Complex for Student-Athletes | August 2019 – Present

Supervisors: Kim Schellpeper, M.A., Pablo Rangel, M.A.

- Conduct weekly one-on-one and small group tutoring sessions to college student-athletes
- Provide supplemental guidance and interpretation for topics covered in undergraduate psychology courses
- Submit weekly academic updates and attend professional development trainings

Academic Advising Assistant | UB Athlete Academic Affairs | January 2019 – May 2019

Supervisor: Lauren Hambidge, M.Ed

- Held weekly academic meetings with student-athletes, including creating objective lists, reviewing class performance, and developing methods of improvement
- Reported weekly to the Women's Basketball Academic Advisor to discuss team academic progress
- Oversaw APS staff and communicated concerns to academic advisors and APS Coordinator

Academic Performance Specialist (APS) | UB Athlete Academic Affairs | January 2018 – August 2019

Supervisor: Melanie Bliz, M.S.

- Mentored at-risk student-athletes in developing college-level academic skills and learning strategies
 - Monitored classwork, homework assignment, and project completion
 - Collaborated with academic advisors and tutors to develop and implement academic success plans
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RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:

Graduate Research Assistant | UNL Public Policy Center | June 2021 – present

Supervisors: Mario Scalora, Ph.D., Susan M. Swearer, Ph.D., LP

- Facilitate communication and collaboration between the Nebraska Bullying Prevention and Intervention Initiative and Public Policy Center
- Examine topics related to bullying and targeted violence using a data-focused approach to inform policy
- Contribute to manuscript preparation

Graduate Research Assistant | UNL Empowerment Initiative Laboratory | August 2019 - Present

Supervisor: Susan Swearer, Ph.D., LP

- Trained to assess students who have been referred for school bullying behaviors and involvement
- Foster positive, accepting communities free from bullying and other negative social behaviors
- Serve as Project Director for Born Braves Experiences (BBE) through the Born This Way Foundation

Graduate Research Assistant | UB Alberti Center for Bullying Abuse Prevention | August 2017 – June 2019

Supervisor: Amanda Nickerson, Ph.D.

- Gathered and entered data for the Child Safety Program Evaluation Project funded by Committee for Children
- Administered individual, small-group, and whole classroom assessments of children's safety knowledge and sexual abuse prevention across eight elementary schools in the Western New York area
- Observed teachers using lesson-specific dichotomous checklists to evaluate fidelity

Graduate Research Assistant (Volunteer) | UB Social Development Lab | June 2017 – June 2019

Supervisor: Jamie Ostrov, Ph.D.

- Interviewed child participants to measure various subtypes of aggressive behavior and social cognitions
- Assisted in training and supervision of undergraduate research assistants in lab procedures and tasks
- Completed simultaneous observations with undergraduate research assistants to evaluate reliability

Graduate Research Assistant | University at Buffalo | April 2018 - June 2018

Supervisor: Bridget Hier, Ph.D.

- Implemented an academic intervention in two elementary schools to assess children's writing skills
- Provided classroom-wide positive behavioral management for children in 1st – 3rd grade

Undergraduate Research Assistant | UB Social Development Lab | January 2016 - May 2017

Supervisor: Jamie Ostrov, Ph.D.

- Performed focal child observations of aggression and prosocial behavior in the preschool setting
 - Completed research assistant reports of social-psychological adjustment
 - Coded and entered collected data in SPSS
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LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE EXPERIENCE:

Resources Coordinator | NASP Graduate Student Committee (GSC) | July 2021 – present

- Create and manage resources associated with the GSC on the NASP website and databases
- Coordinate, advertise for, and host the GSC Webinar Series geared towards special topics for school psychology graduate students
- Update current and create new Graduate Student Fact Sheets

University Chapter President | Student Affiliates in School Psychology (UNL) | May 2021 – present

- Oversees the leadership team and all activities as an Executive Board Member
- Plans monthly general member and executive board meetings

- Complete all required trainings and paperwork set forth by Student Involvement and ASUN to maintain compliance with Recognized Student Organization

University Chapter Vice President | Student Affiliates in School Psychology (UNL) | May 2020 – April 2021

- Oversee leadership team and all activities as an Executive Board Member
- Plan annual program retreat and organizes lodging for prospective students for interview day
- Coordinate and facilitate assignments, get-togethers, and contact for student mentorship program

Youth Wellness in Tough Times | University of Nebraska Collaboration | November 2019

- Collaborated with students in the School Psychology programs at UNL and University of Nebraska-Omaha to formulate a social-emotional curriculum to assist students in coping with Nebraska floods
- Adapted to fit student needs related to the COVID-19 pandemic with curriculum presented at the 2020 Annual Nebraska School Psychologist Association Conference by Dr. Beth Doll (UNL)

Outreach Chair | Diversity and Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee | September 2019 – September 2020

- Served on a multicultural team of students and faculty members committed to increasing minority graduate enrollment in the department
- Build and facilitate relationships between campus and community organizations in order to promote an academic community that supports diversity in multiple areas of departmental life
- Collaborated with leadership board in organizing program events, including workshops, social hours, and general meetings

First Year Representative | Student Affiliates in School Psychology (UNL) | August 2019 – May 2020

- Compiled and distributed weekly announcements to faculty and Educational Specialist (Ed.S) and Ph.D. students in UNL's School Psychology program
- Assisted faculty in organizing program events, including social hours, volunteer events, and interview days
- Promoted awareness of the field of school psychology on campus and within the Lincoln community through various booths and classroom presentations

Intervention Subcommittee Member | Buffalo Anti-Bullying Task Force | January 2019 – August 2019

- Met with a team consisting of representatives from schools, juvenile justice system, community organizations and a university to identify relevant bullying prevention and intervention efforts and district needs, gaps and barriers, and effective and efficient approaches to implementation
- Co-led workgroup within subcommittee focused on research and development of recommendations concerning bullying and vulnerable populations/areas (e.g. LGBTQ+, racial/ethnic minority groups, social media)
- Recorded monthly meeting minutes and distributed the notes to co-chairs and members of subcommittee

Student Leader | National Association of School Psychologists | August 2018 – July 2019

- Streamlined communication with NASP leadership within UB and New York state to promote the profession of school psychology and the association
- Planned engaging events and activities, including professional development workshops and School Psychology Awareness Week

University Chapter President (UB) | Student Affiliates in School Psychology | May 2018 – May 2019

- Connected APA Division 16 and UB's local SASP chapter through communication
- Fostered collaboration between the Ph.D. level and Master's level school psychology students at UB through chapter meetings, brown bag lunches, and social/volunteer events

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS:

White, C., Swearer, S.M., & Kesselring, S.A. (2021, November 18-21). *Does involvement in bullying differ across sexual minority status?* [Poster Presentation] Annual Convention of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, New Orleans, LA. (Virtual).

- Carney (Jones), C.M., Swearer, S.M., Crinion, M. P., & **Kesselring, S.A.** (2021, November 18-21). *I think, therefore I act: Cognitive distortions in youth involved in bullying*. [Poster Presentation] Annual Convention of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, New Orleans, LA. (Virtual).
- Jones, C. M., **Kesselring, S.A.**, Swearer, S.M., & Palacios, R.A. (2020, November 17-22). *Is family support enough?: Exploring the role of perceived support for LGBTQ youth when coping with bullying victimization*. [Poster Presentation] Annual Convention of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, Philadelphia, PA. (Virtual). <https://www.eventscribe.net/2020/ABCT/>.
- Kesselring, S.A.**, Swearer, S.M., Morris, T.I., & Jones, C.M. (2020, August 6-8). *Power imbalance: Internalizing problems in youth involved in bullying*. [Poster Presentation] American Psychological Association convention, Washington, DC., USA (Virtual) <https://convention.apa.org/>.
- Kesselring, S.A.**, Swearer, S.M., Jones, C.M., Swanson, L.R. (2020, August 6-8). *The role of LGBTQ identity status in bullying involvement*. [Poster Presentation] American Psychological Association convention, Washington, DC., USA (Virtual) <https://convention.apa.org/>.
- Swanson, L. R., Swearer, S.M., Jones, C.M., **Kesselring, S.A.**, & Palacios, R. A. (2020, August 6-8). *Promoting positivity: The interaction of optimism and coping on depression*. [Poster Presentation] American Psychological Association convention, Washington, DC., USA (Virtual) <https://convention.apa.org/>.
- Wick, K.M., Ramm, E., Stevenson, T., **Kesselring, S.A.**, Swanson, L., Swearer, S.M., Clark, C. (2020, August 6-8). *Fostering connection: The importance of faculty involvement in student retention*. [Poster Presentation] American Psychological Association convention, Washington, DC, USA (Virtual) <https://www.convention.apa.org/>.
- Kesselring, S.A.** & Nickerson, A.B. (2020, February). *Community-School Partnership Recommendations for Addressing Bullying in Urban Settings*. Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the National Association of School Psychologists, Baltimore, MD.
- Watts, E., Hier, B.O., **Kesselring, S.A.**, Finelli, C., & Krajnik, J. (2019, April). *Teacher Perceptions of Student Writing*. Poster presented at the annual University at Buffalo Graduate School of Education Student Research Symposium, Buffalo, NY.
- Watts, E., Hier, B.O., **Kesselring, S.A.**, Dolan, L., Tymchak, K., Finelli, C., Krajnik, J., DeMarco, A. (2019, February). *Teacher Perceptions of Student Writing*. Poster presented at the Annual Conference of the National Association of School Psychologists, Atlanta, GA.
- Ostrov, J.M., Murray-Close, A., Blakely-McClure, S.J., Perry, K.J., Mutignani, L., Probst, S., **Kesselring, S.A.**, & Breslend, N. (2018, June). *The development of forms and functions of aggression: Preliminary findings from the PEERS project*. Presented at the 7th Research Conference on Relational Aggression, Philadelphia, PA.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS:

- Kesselring, S.A.**, Carney (Jones), C.M., & Torres, C.A. (2021, February). *Bullying in schools: Target bullying involvement program*. Presented to Niobrara Public Schools 6th and 7th graders, Niobrara, NE.
- Kesselring, S.A.**, Swanson, L.R., & Torres, C.A. (2019, December). *Bullying in schools*. Presented at Jackson Elementary School After School Social Emotional Learning Group, Omaha, NE.
- Kesselring, S.A.** & Swanson, L.R. (2019, December). *Bullying: What it is, what is isn't, and why it matters*. Presented to St. Patrick's Catholic School 5th and 6th grade students, Lincoln, NE.
- Gutierrez, G., Crinion, M. P., Swanson, L.R., & **Kesselring, S.A.** (2019, December). *Ending bullying behaviors through meaningful connections*. Presented at St. Patrick's Catholic School Parent Training, Lincoln, NE.

Kesselring, S.A. (2019, December). *Bullying in schools*. Presented to Campbell Elementary School 4th grade students, Lincoln, NE.

Kesselring, S.A & Parks, T.W (2019, June). *Bullying: What it is and what we can do*. Presented at Town of Amherst Youth and Recreation Summer Counselor Training, Amherst, NY.

Kesselring, S.A & Parks, T.W (2018, December). *Bullying: What it is and what we can do*. Presented at Town of Amherst Youth and Recreation Professional Staff Training, Amherst, NY.

PUBLICATIONS:

Nickerson, A., Tulledge, J., Manges, M., **Kesselring, S.**, Parks, T., Livingston, J., & Dudley, M. (2019). Randomized controlled trial of the Child Protection Unit: Grade and gender as moderators of CSA prevention concepts in elementary students. *Child Abuse & Neglect, 96*.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2019.104101>

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE:

Graduate Student Mentor | UNL School Psychology Program | May 2020 – present

- Provide resources and support to first-year students in the UNL School Psychology program
- Coordinate social events to promote positive climate and connectedness across student cohorts

Mentor | TeamMates Mentoring of Lincoln | January 2020 – present

- Advise youth to reach full potential through school-based mentoring one hour per week
- Promote the organization's core values of commitment to youth, safety, integrity and trust, and inclusion

Student Clinician | UNL Counseling and Psychological Services | October 2019

- Administered mental health screenings to individuals as part of National Depression Screening Day
- Scored and reviewed screening results with participants and made appropriate referrals

Volunteer | Early Childhood Research Center Fun Run | June 2017, June 2018, June 2019

- Recruited additional volunteers through the Student Affiliates in School Psychology organization
- Communicated with ECRC faculty and staff to set up, run stations, and break down event

Volunteer | Girls on the Run Buffalo 5K | November 2018, June 2019

- Recruited additional volunteers through the UB Student Affiliates in School Psychology organization
- Directed families and crowd members to the finish line and distributed medals to participants

School Psychology Program Mentor | UB MA/AC School Psychology Program | May 2018 – June 2019

- Provided resources and support to first-year students in the UB School Psychology program
- Coordinated social events to promote positive climate and connectedness across student cohorts

Volunteer | Walk to End Alzheimer's Western New York | September 2018

- Assisted with Team Retention and Outreach subcommittees
- Supervised the Kid Zone's children's activities on Walk Day

Registry Drive Coordinator | Be the Match | September 2017

- Planned and executed bone marrow registry drive
 - Organized with Be the Match and UB School of Pharmacy Dean's Student Ambassadors
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CERTIFICATIONS

- Adult & Pediatric CPR/First Aid/AED Certification | January 2021
 - Level I Certified Tutor | College Reading & Learning Association | 2019
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RECOGNITIONS/AWARDS:

- Othmer Fellowship | UNL Office of Graduate Studies | August 2019, August 2020
- Best Outstanding Poster Presentation | UB GSE Student Research Symposium | April 2019

- High Distinctions in Psychology, Social Sciences Interdisciplinary | UB College of Arts & Sciences | 2017
 - University at Buffalo Dean's List | Spring 2015, Fall 2015, & Spring 2017
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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- American Psychological Association Annual Convention | 2020
 - National Association of School Psychologists Annual Conference | 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021
 - Teachers & Parents as Partners (TAPP) Online Training | 2019
 - Nebraska School Psychologist Associations Annual Conference | 2019
 - UB Graduate School of Education Student Research Symposium | 2018, 2019
 - Erie County Restorative Justice Coalition Restorative Justice Day Annual Conference | 2019
 - UB Alberti Center for Bullying Abuse Prevention Annual Conference | 2018, 2019, 2020
 - FEMA IS-100.SCa Introduction to the Incident Command System for Schools | 2018
 - Safe Schools Against Violence in Education (SAVE) Training | 2018
 - NYS Dignity for All Students Act Training | 2018
 - NYS Mandated Child Abuse Reporter Training | 2016
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PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

- Society for Research on Adolescence | 2020 - present
 - National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity | 2019 - Present
 - Nebraska School Psychologist Association | 2019 – Present
 - American Psychological Association | 2018 – present
 - APA Division 16: School Psychology | 2018-Present
 - Student Affiliates in School Psychology | 2018 – Present
 - University Chapter Representative | UB Chapter | 2018-2019
 - National Association of School Psychologists | 2017-Present
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