We are currently recruiting exceptional students for our M.S. and Ph.D. programs. We are also seeking highly motivated undergraduate volunteers to help with our research projects.

Dr. Rebecca Lee, Associate Professor
Ph.D. Human Services Psychology

Environment and Policy Influences on Obesity in Populations of Color
Dr. Rebecca E. Lee is a community psychologist with a diversely funded research portfolio that includes federal, foundation and corporate monies to promote research with African American and Hispanic or Latino women and children. Dr. Lee specializes in community based intervention research to determine how neighborhood of residence and policy facilitates or hinders physical activity and dietary habits and related outcomes of obesity and cardiometabolic indicators.
Website: http://grants.hhp.coe.uh.edu/undo/  
E-mail: relee@uh.edu

Dr. Brian McFarlin, Assistant Professor
Ph.D. Exercise Physiology and Nutrition

The Physiology of Obesity and Chronic Inflammation
The objectives of Dr. McFarlin’s research are two fold: One, to mechanistically explore inflammatory signaling pathways and Two, to understand how to most effectively use an energy restricted diet and exercise as a countermeasure against chronic inflammation. His research makes use of both human and animal experimental models. Please refer to his website for additional resources and a list of current projects.
Website: http://grants.hhp.coe.uh.edu/brian/index.htm  
E-mail: bmcfarlin@uh.edu

Dr. Norma Olvera, Associate Professor
Ph.D. Developmental Psychology

Child and Adolescent Obesity in Minority Populations
Research Interests include: 1) Assessment of parental, acculturation, psychological, and environmental factors associated with children’s eating practices and physical activity levels in minority and immigrant populations; 2) Design, implementation, and evaluation of family-based, school and community healthy lifestyle interventions designed for minority and immigrant populations.
Website: http://bounce.uh.edu  
E-mail: nolvera@uh.edu

Dr. Paula Rhode, Assistant Professor
Ph.D. Clinical Psychology and Behavioral Medicine

Individual Level Influences on Obesity
Dr. Rhode’s research is grounded in the biopsychosocial model of health and illness, and focuses on the examination of individual level factors that influence the expression of obesity and its related illnesses, such as stress, comorbid psychopathology, and adherence to dietary and physical activity regimens. She is also interested in the development and implementation of empirically based, behavioral prevention, treatment and maintenance interventions.
Website: http://www.hhp.uh.edu  
E-mail: pcrhode@uh.edu

Graduate Student Opportunities in Obesity Studies

The University of Houston’s doctoral program in Kinesiology has recently been ranked 15th in the nation by the American Academy of Kinesiology and Physical Education. In addition to core research training in Kinesiology, the program requires students to specialize in one of three discipline areas. The discipline area of Obesity Studies has recently been established, which offers students the unique opportunity to specialize their doctoral training in the etiology, assessment, treatment and prevention of obesity and its related comorbid medical disorders. If you are interested in this cutting edge graduate program, please feel free to contact one of our faculty, listed to the right.

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