

LAURA L. LIGHTFOOT, M.A.

DOCTORAL STUDENT

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI- ST. LOUIS

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I am a first-year criminology Ph.D. student at UMSL. I recently graduated with my master's in applied sociology at the University of Central Florida. My research interest relates to drug policy, harm reduction, incarceration, and reentry. I also specialize in drug use and treatment, particularly addressing the current overdose crisis. I focus on the importance of applying research to community practice. This is demonstrated by the roles I have held in both research and community positions.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of Missouri- St. Louis
2022- current

Graduate Research Assistant

Graduate Research Assistants provide professional level support related to. research and creative activities that contribute to the mission of the unit, under direct supervision by a faculty member.

Children Athletes & Artists Involved in Recreational Events -
2021- 2022

Grant Writer and Researcher

The Grant writer is responsible for finding grants that are available and gathering the information needed for submission.

Orange County Government
2020-2022

Overdose Research Assistant

Monitor drug use and overdose trends in Orange County, FL. Research Assistant stays up to date on best practices for lowering drug overdose deaths within the county.

University of Central Florida
2020-2022

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Assist faculty in postsecondary institutions by performing teaching or teaching-related duties, such as teaching lower-level courses, developing teaching materials, preparing, and giving examinations, and grading examinations or papers.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Lakewood Behavioral Health
2020-2021

Mental Health Technician

Assists and monitors residents with daily living activities. Consistently demonstrates an alert, sensitive and supportive attitude with residents, families, employees, and management

Directions for Living, Behavioral Health
2019-2020

Student Case Management

Case management works with high-risk children that have been identified as a threat to the school system to provide needs and services in home to divert hospitalization

Family Service and Guidance Center
2018-2019

Crisis Attendant Care

·Provide one-to-one direct care to children/adolescents that are experiencing severe emotional disturbance (SED)

Valeo Behavioral Health
2017-2018

Crisis Mental Health Technician

·Provide one-to-one support to mental health clients by assisting them toward maximizing opportunities to become more self-sufficient in personal care needs.

PUBLICATIONS & WORKING DRAFTS

- **Laura Lightfoot** "Deadly Combinations: Factors That Predict Simultaneous Polysubstance Use"
- **Laura Lightfoot,** Evan Lowder, & Thomas Hall. "Cross Faded – The Relationship Between Opioid Use History and Polysubstance Use Risk Perceptions"
- **Laura Lightfoot**, Evan Lowder, & Madelyn Diaz. "The Implementation of Drug-Induced Homicide Laws in Comparison to Overdose Prevention Policies in Each of the States"
- **Laura Lightfoot**. "Responding to the Overdose Crisis: Orange County Residents' Willingness and Ability to Access Narcan & Fentanyl Testing Strips" .

EDUCATION

University of Missouri- St. Louis
2022- current

Doctor of Philosophy
Criminology and Criminal Justice
Cumulative GPA: 3.95

University of Central Florida
2022

Master of Arts
Thesis: Deadly Combination: Factors That Predict Simultaneous Polysubstance Use
Applied Sociology
Cumulative GPA: 3.97

Washburn University
2019

Bachelor of Arts
Major: Psychology, Minor: Sociology
Cumulative GPA: 3.66

Allen County Community College
2017

Associate of Arts
Cumulative GPA: 3.33

LAB MEMBERSHIPS

George Mason University
2022- current

Early Justice Strategies (EJS)
Affiliate Lab Member

University of Central Florida
2021-2022

Substance Use Research Group (SURG)
Lab Member

RESEARCH SPECIALIZATION

- **Drug Overdose Trends**
- **Drug Policy**
- **Harm Reduction**
- **Drug Use**
- **Addiction Treatment**

SOFTWARE PROFICIENCY

- **STATA**
- **SPSS**
- **NVIVO**
- **Microsoft Word, Excel, & Powerpoint**
- **Canva**