

Haley S. McManus

Curriculum Vitae

University of Kentucky
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Education

- 2026 University of Kentucky – Lexington, KY, 40508
B.S. Neuroscience and Psychology Minor: Pharmacology Cumulative GPA: 4.0
Significant Coursework: Introduction to Neuroscience; Experimental Psychology; Neuroscience Laboratory Techniques; Neuropharmacology: Drugs and Behavior; Animal Physiology; Application of Stats in Psychology; Pharmacology: Drugs and Human Health; Brain and Behavior; Cognition; Developmental Psychology; Pharmacology: Principles of Drug Action;
Anticipated Coursework: Comparing Neurobiology and Behavior; Pharmacology of Treating Human Disease; Social Psychology and Cultural Processes; Biology of Sleep and Circadian Rhythms;
- 2022 Xenia High School – Xenia, OH, 45385
Graduate of Distinction
Cumulative (weighted) GPA: 4.0

Recognitions

Honors and Awards

- 2022-present University of Kentucky Dean's List
2025 Commonwealth Undergraduate Research Experience (CURE) Fellowship
2025 UK College of Medicine SURES Program: Undergraduate Research Experience in Environmental Health Sciences Program
A competitive program that selects students from the University of Kentucky, and others, to stay in on the UK campus for the summer term to work with a research mentor on a project discussed with their lab.
2024 UK College of Arts & Sciences Summer Undergraduate Research Award (SURA)

Scholarships

- 2025 UK Education Abroad & Exchanges Scholarship - \$2,000
2022-present University of Kentucky Bluegrass Spirit Scholarship - \$12,500 per year

Research Interests

How poly-substance use can drive craving and relapse rates, as well as most effective means of treatment.
The combination of contingency management with psychotherapy and pharmacotherapy as a means of treating individuals with substance use disorders.
The role of repurposing OTC medications for the possibility of an adjunct therapeutic for individuals transitioning from active use to medication assisted treatment plans.
Understanding how youths can develop substance use disorders through life experience, and/or living with parental figures that use substances.

Research Experience

Research Engagements

- 2025 Faculty Directed – From Science to Culture: Exploring Drug Use and Addiction in Lisbon, Portugal
- *Visited mobile methadone units, drug consumption rooms (in both remote and neighborhood locations), and outreach organizations focused on reintegration into society.*
 - *Analyzed Portuguese drug policy and its decriminalization approach as compared to the United States.*
 - *Explored how cultural attitudes impact substance use treatment and stigma.*

- Created group presentations about our time spent in Lisbon, and how we can bring different aspects of their drug treatment policies and attitudes back to the U.S.

Research at the University of Kentucky

2025-present Shadowing/Volunteer with Dr. William Stoops

- Observing and learning about the process of alcohol and opioid administration in human laboratory models and the cognitive testing involved in each study
- Understanding the progressive ratio procedure and how it is applied in human laboratory settings with addiction studies
- Training on phone screening procedures for potential study participants

2024-present University of Kentucky Undergraduate Research Assistant for Dr. Gipson-Reichardt in the field of substance use disorder

- Leading an independent project building on prior research performed in the lab
- Guiding and teaching incoming undergraduate students and high school student volunteers
- Perform jugular vein catheterization surgeries
- Staining of intestines through use of “Swiss Rolling” technique for sample collection
- Analysis of intestinal morphology
- Measuring and determining accurate drug dosage for animals in operant chamber boxes
- Handling and carrying out behavior experiments through operant chamber self-administration rat models

2023 University of Kentucky Undergraduate Research Assistant for Dr. Joshua Morganti: Sanders-Brown Center on Aging, Department of Neuroscience
Mounted mouse brain slices on slides for staining and worked with computer software and identifying hippocampal, gray and white matter on brain staining. Project: “APOE modulates microglial immunometabolism in response to age, amyloid pathology, and inflammatory challenge.”

Conference Attendance

2025 7th Annual Substance Use Research Event

2024 6th Annual Substance Use Research Event

Posters

2025 Summer Training in Environmental Health Sciences

“Targeting Fentanyl Pharmacokinetics to Reduce Fentanyl Withdrawal Severity: A Preclinical Evaluation of Cimetidine as a Potential Medication to Reduce Fentanyl Withdrawal”

Oral Presentations

2025 Undergraduate Research Symposium

“Breaking Barriers: Cimetidine’s Unlikely Role in Easing Fentanyl Withdrawal”

2024 Summer Undergraduate Research Symposium

Elevator pitch given on substance use disorder during summer research conducted in Dr. Gipson-Reichardt’s lab through the SURA Fellowship Award.

Publications

Corley CL, **McManus H**, Gipson CD. (in prep) Investigating the role of cimetidine in decreasing gastrointestinal withdrawal symptoms after fentanyl and xylazine co-use.

White AM, Craig AJ, Richie D, Corley CL, Bondy EO, Kendrick PT Jr, **McManus H**, Sadek SM, Scofield MD, Gipson CD. Utility of the Recombinase Driver CX3CR1::Cre Rat Strain to Evaluate Microglial Contributions to Nicotine Addiction. bioRxiv. 2025 Mar 18; DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2025.03.18.643780>.

Professional Experience

- 2023 Miami Valley Juvenile Rehabilitation Center Juvenile Supervision Specialist
Worked as a supervisor for children ages 12-21 that had been convicted of level 3 felonies. Duties included following the guidelines for each of the youth's specific rehabilitation program requirements, correcting the youth when necessary, de-escalating situations between the youth, and creating different enrichment activities for the youth to participate in. Trained and certified in Crisis Prevention Intervention (CPI), which includes de-escalation tactics and safe restraining techniques to be used when necessary.
- 2022-2024 University of Kentucky Intramural Employee, Supervisor and Sports Official, Lexington, KY.
Promoted to Supervisor position in 2024. Worked as supervisor to manage entire fields/courts where sports games were played. Reported injuries, prevented conflict, and helped to further train officials for each game. Also worked as an official to officiate different intramural sports teams such as basketball, flag football, volleyball, etc. Awarded the honor of being able to officiate championship games, which are only awarded to officials with a high skill level.

Volunteer Experience

- 2025-present Stable Recovery with University of Kentucky REACH UK Organization
Helped to move new furniture and appliances to a storage barn at Keenland in Lexington, KY, that will be used in the new housing location for participants in the Stable Recovery Rehabilitation Program. The housing units allow for those seeking recovery from substance use disorder to live among peers in the program with aligned goals. Completion of the Stable Recovery program provides graduates with the tools to continue their recovery journey, as well as careers in the thoroughbred industry.
- 2023-2024 Neuroscience Community-Based Outreach with University of Kentucky Neurocats Organization
Taught pre-school and elementary students in and underprivileged Lexington, KY, community about the brain and spinal cord anatomy using preserved specimens and one of the four preserved human brains on the university campus. Held Q&A after mini-neuroscience lessons for students to ask questions about the brain and/or college.
- 2023-2024 Meal Preparation with University of Kentucky Minorities in Neuroscience Organization
Prepared meals with the Neurocats and Minorities in Neuroscience Organizations to send to the local homeless shelter in Lexington, KY.

Leadership

- 2025-present Founder and University of Kentucky Outreach Coordinator of the REACH (Recovery, Education, Awareness, Community, Hope) UK Organization
After traveling to Lisbon, Portugal, with the University of Kentucky to study drug use and drug policy, I worked with four other students from the program and Dr. Lynda Sharrett-Field to bring what we learned to the U.S. Our organization works to streamline involvement opportunities for volunteering and substance use based research. We work with local organizations, such as Stable Recovery, as well as other UK organizations to educate and raise awareness about harm reduction methods and sources of support.
- 2025-present University of Kentucky College of Arts and Sciences Ambassador
Students are selected to represent the University of Kentucky College of Arts and Sciences based on a competitive application and interview process. The position takes approximately 3-5 hours per week of required time in a once-a-week course for professional development and presentations on the different college majors. We are also required to take potential students on visits around the campus and create a comfortable environment for new students to learn about the process from current students.
- 2024-present National Society of Leadership and Success Member
- 2023-2024 Supervisor title at the University of Kentucky Intramural Program