

**COLLEGE OF NURSING
SUMMER RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES
FOR UNDERGRADUATE WOMEN**

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 1, 2005

The College of Nursing is pleased to offer the following research project for the summer of 2005. Interested students are urged to contact the faculty member(s) directing the project that most interests them. By contacting the faculty member, you can discover more about the project, learn what your responsibilities will be and if possible, develop a timetable for the twelve-week research period.

**Intervening to Reduce Risk Taking Behavior and Injury in an Urban Emergency
Department Population**

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Injury is the leading cause of disability and death in the first four decades of life. Risk-taking behaviors such as binge drinking and unsafe driving are known to contribute to injury and are particularly dangerous in young adults. Our research team of nurses, physicians, and psychologists are implementing a randomized controlled trial in an urban Emergency Department (ED) to test the effectiveness of a brief counseling intervention. In addition, the trial will result in a benefit-cost analysis of the intervention. We enroll young adults who have a positive screen for risky driving practices and problem drinking while they are patients in the ED. Patients are assigned randomly to one of three groups with varying doses of the intervention. All subjects will be telephoned at 3, 6, 9, and 12 months by interviewers blinded to condition. Outcomes of interest include reported alcohol use, risky driving behaviors, driving citations, adverse health outcomes, and costs (health care utilization, property damage, travel delays, lost work productivity, criminal justice expenses, and monetarized adverse health outcomes).

Students have several options for their role on this project. After training, they will participate with other nursing and medical students in screening patients in the ED with a simple set of screening questions about risky behavior. The data on problem drinking, risky driving, and other health behaviors will serve as the basis for the summer project. Students will not only be involved in data collection, but will determine national norms for drinking, driving, and other health behaviors and then compare the behaviors of young urban adults in the ED to those norms. They will have the opportunity to investigate the association between risky driving and driving citations from state driving records, or the differences in self-reported alcohol use depending on several ways of collecting data on consumption. In addition to gaining experience in RCT of behavioral interventions, students will have the opportunity to learn data entry and analysis techniques, data extraction from state records, human subjects issues related to confidentiality, and measurement of alcohol consumption. Dr. Sommers is both the principal investigator for this study and the mentor for the student.