

Aidan Finegan

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Education

University of Mary Washington

Fredericksburg, VA

Bachelor of Science in Psychology, Minor in Neuroscience, May 2022

Magna cum laude

- Major GPA: 3.68
- Cumulative GPA: 3.62

Skills

- Participant Recruitment
- IRB Preparation
- Survey Design
- Data Entry, Analysis, & Visualization
- Patient/Customer Service
- Participant Interviewing
- Interview Scheduling
- SPSS Statistical Program

Relevant Courses

- Advanced Statistics
- Research Methods
- Independent Research
- Neurobiology
- Cognitive Neuroscience
- Health Psychology
- Abnormal Psychology
- Cognitive Psychology

Research Experience

Learning to Like Vegetables and Donuts: Early Feeding Practices Predict a Preference for All Types of Food.

Undergraduate Research

Advisor: Dr. Christine McBride, PhD

Developed an IRB approved empirical study to evaluate the relationships between early childhood parental feeding practices and adult food preferences. Recruited 130 participants using the SONA subject pool management system, designed a Qualtrics-based survey, and analyzed data using SPSS programming. Managed detailed scheduling of survey launch and interviews.

Food Choices Throughout the Life Span: a Parent and Child Study

Undergraduate Research

Advisor: Dr. Christine McBride, PhD

Designed an IRB approved empirical study to evaluate parental enforced eating habits, childhood understanding of nutrition, and parent and child food preferences. Facilitated Zoom interviews with children ranging in age from 3 to 12 and created Qualtrics-based online survey for parents and older children. Analyzed data with SPSS to determine food knowledge develops around age 7 and parental feeding practices such as persuasive feeding, family meals eaten together, and reward based feeding predict the development of children's food knowledge.

The Role of Extroversion and Social Media Use in Well-Being and Social Distancing During the Late COVID-19 Pandemic

Undergraduate Research

Advisor: Dr. Hillary Stebbins, PhD

Used social media for the recruitment of one hundred college age participants to investigate the extent extroversion and social media impact well-being and social distancing. Designed a Qualtrics-based online survey using 3 measures scoring each variable independently. Performed SPSS statistical analysis to confirm a significant negative correlation between social media use and well-being.

Presentations

Billy, C., Dick, L., Finegan, A., Nicoli, G., String, L., & McBride, C., (2022). Learning to Like Vegetables and Donuts: Early Feeding Practices Predicts a Preference for All Types of Food.

Poster will be presented at annual Association of Psychological Science, Chicago, IL.

Billy, C., Dick, L., Finegan, A., Nicoli, G., String, L., & McBride, C. (2022). Food Choices Throughout the Life Span: a Parent and Child Study.

Poster presented at annual University of Mary Washington Research Symposium, Fredericksburg, VA in April, 2022.

Boxley, P., Finegan, A., & Hoffman, H., & Stebbins, H. (2021). The Role of Extroversion and Social Media Use in Well-Being and Social Distancing During the Late COVID-19 Pandemic

Presented virtually at annual University of Mary Washington Research Symposium, Fredericksburg, VA

Extracurriculars

Division III Athlete, University of Mary Washington Varsity Volleyball

Elected Team Captain, 2021-2022

- Worked as a facilitator of problem solving for internal team issues and made decisions for team events
- Held teammates accountable for actions and decisions made on and off the volleyball court

Elected Team Representative to Student Athletic Advisory Committee

2021-2022

- Participated in student athlete led meetings to facilitate communication between athletics and the University
- Assisted in the advertisement and execution of a campus wide food drive

Study Abroad – Sustainability in South Africa

Winter 2020

- Participated in the study of environmental and social sustainability in Cape Town, South Africa
- Examined the history of Apartheid in South Africa and its effects on social and economic development

Awards and Accolades

- UMW Presidential Scholarship Awardee
2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022
- UMW Psi Chi Honor Society
Inducted Fall 2020
- UMW Chi Alpha Sigma Honor Society
Inducted Spring 2021
- UMW Dean's List
Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022
- Capital Athletic Conference All-Academic Team
Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021
- Coast to Coast Athletic Conference All-Academic Team
Fall 2021, Spring 2022