



Xiangyou (Sharon) Shen, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor in Leisure and Health
College of Forestry
Oregon State University
212 Richardson Hall, Corvallis, OR 97331
e: sharon.shen@oregonstate.edu
p: +1 (541)737-1779
w: <https://healresearchlab.weebly.com/>

Graduate Assistantship in Playfulness Interventions for Adults

The **Health, Environment, and Leisure (HEAL) Laboratory**—housed in the Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society (FES) in the College of Forestry at Oregon State University in Corvallis, Oregon—is seeking a graduate assistant interested in pursuing a M.S. or Ph.D. degree focused on **adult play and playfulness**.

The HEAL Laboratory

Our mission is to advance knowledge in the conditions and mechanisms related to leisure and play to enhance human health, wellbeing, and performance. We conduct integrated studies that draw insights from multiple disciplines to understand relations between human leisure behavior, natural and social-cultural environment, psychological factors, and physical and mental health.

In HEAL, we support the wholesome development of each lab member. We support each other and take personal responsibilities for our work. If you join us, you can expect to receive individualized mentorship and resources to help you achieve your professional development goals. By the same token, you will be expected to bring your passion, ideas, skills, and dedication to your work.

The Assistantship

Responsibilities will include contributions to teaching and research. Your primary research will support the HEAL Lab's efforts to develop, implement, assess, and disseminate play and playfulness intervention programs for adults. Your responsibilities will include assisting with participant recruitment, training material development, intervention implementation, and program evaluation. You will also support no more than one undergraduate course per quarter in the Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society. As part of your engagement and assimilation with the HEAL Lab, you might also contribute to research in nature-based recreation and health and other projects in collaboration with the College of Public Health and Human Sciences.

The Candidate

Minimum/Required Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in a related field. Relevant disciplines include psychology, health, human development, leisure, and related disciplines.
- Research experience or work/life experience related to health, positive psychology, and active living

- A demonstrated commitment to teamwork, collaboration, diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Desire to disseminate research through peer-reviewed publications
- Strong writing and oral communication skills

Preferred Qualifications

- Experience working in health research and/or psychological interventions
- Experience working on interdisciplinary or multi-disciplinary projects
- Experience using qualitative and/or quantitative social science research methods
- Strong quantitative skills and familiarity with statistical software
- For Ph.D. applicants, a M.S. degree in a topical area that is related to the role of leisure or environment on human health
- For Ph.D. applicants, publication of your M.S. research in a peer-reviewed journal and a drive to strengthen your publication record and research impacts

Equal Employment Opportunity

Oregon State University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. We are committed to inclusive excellence by advancing equity and diversity in all that we do. We encourage applications from members of historically underrepresented racial/ethnic groups, women, individuals with disabilities, veterans, LGBTQ community members, and others who demonstrate the ability to help us achieve our vision of a diverse and inclusive community. All employment decisions are made without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, marital or family status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or genetic information.

Timeline and Application

Applications will be considered until the position is filled. Interested applicants should submit an e-mail describing their interests and experiences, topical alignment with the HEAL Lab, reasons for pursuing an advanced degree, and outlining how they meet the required and desirable qualifications listed above. Please also include a copy of your CV. Promising candidates will be invited to apply to the FES graduate program.

For questions related to this opportunity, please contact Dr. Xiangyou (Sharon) Shen at sharon.shen@oregonstate.edu.

Additional information

The assistantship will cover tuition, fees, and stipend. The assistantship is for a 9-month academic year and is renewable for 2 (for M.S. student) or 4 (for PhD. student) academic years, including some terms with teaching responsibilities, contingent upon satisfactory performance. Additional pay may be available during the summer months to teach, work on grant-funded projects, or to perform additional duties. The preferred start date is September 2022. Later start dates can be discussed.

Oregon State University, as one of the largest land-grant institutions in the U.S., is located in Corvallis, Oregon, which has been ranked as the [11th best place to live in the U.S.](#)