

VICTORIA COONS

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Education, Specialization: Sociocultural and Community-Based Approaches (SCA), University of Delaware, anticipated 2028, Supervisor: Dr. Sarah Curtiss

M.S.Ed., Interdisciplinary Studies in Human Development, University of Pennsylvania, 2024

B.A., Psychology, University of North Carolina at Wilmington, 2021

A.A., Education, Delaware County Community College, 2011

SUMMARY

Victoria Coons is a second-year Ph.D. student in the School of Education at the University of Delaware, specializing in Sociocultural and Community-Based Approaches (SCA) under the mentorship of Dr. Sarah Curtiss. She received her B.A. in Psychology from The University of North Carolina Wilmington, and her M.S.Ed. in Interdisciplinary Studies in Human Development from the University of Pennsylvania. Her research aims to understand access to higher education for disabled students. Her work centers on the critical role of identity, investigating how disabled students negotiate and navigate institutional systems to achieve their academic goals.

AWARDS & HONORS

Unidel Distinguished Graduate Scholar Award, University of Delaware, 2024-2028

Lydia C. Dunlap Scholar, University of Delaware, 2024-2028

ACADEMIC RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant, TELL Lab, The University of Delaware, August 2025 – Present
NIH R21-Funded Project on Caregiver Support Groups

- Conduct and facilitate qualitative focus groups with caregivers and speech-language pathologists (SLPs) as part of an NIH R21-funded study examining caregiver support needs
- Lead qualitative data preparation and analysis, including transcript review, coding, and synthesis of emergent themes
- Develop caregiver support group materials grounded in empirical findings from focus group data
- Prepare analytic reports and research summaries for internal use, grant documentation, and team dissemination
- Present preliminary and ongoing findings to the research team and advisory board to inform study development and implementation

Graduate Research Assistant, Child's Play, Learning, and Development Lab, The University of Delaware, 2024-2025

Supervisor: Dr. Roberta M. Golinkoff

- Mentored undergraduate lab interns in coding analysis, literature review, and research projects to facilitate lab productivity
- Assisted with data collection, data entry, and data analyses
- Actively participated in all lab-centered events, including weekly lab meetings where scientific research is reviewed
- Conducted original research, design studies, wrote study proposals, and actively pursued independent research initiatives

Research Team Leader, Consortium for Mental Health & Optimal Development, Chester County, PA, 2022 – 2024

- Led focus groups to gather insights on mental health issues among students, educators and staff at K-12 schools in the Montgomery County Area
- Provided research support to over 16 local school districts, assisting in data collection and analysis
- Instructed and mentored research assistants in qualitative coding techniques including focus groups, ensuring high-quality data analysis
- Prepared and analyzed data, and wrote detailed reports for grant reporting, ensuring transparency and accountability in research funding allocation
- Regularly presented research findings at the monthly consortium meetings, fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing within the group

FULL-TIME PROFESSIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Consultant, *Contracted Employee at:* C.W. Bill Young Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Aptive Resources, 2024

- Filled roles of IRB Administrator and Research & Development Administrator
- Coordinated/facilitated monthly RDC meetings and recorded meeting minutes
- Managed study packages and collected monthly reports
- Summarized study progress for presentation to the committee
- Processed incoming study requests, including new submissions, modifications, and annual reviews
- Reviewed submissions for compliance and approved or requested modifications
- Issued determination letters to study teams
- Managed Financial Conflict of Interest (FCOI) disclosures and tracked training requirements

Senior Research Coordinator, Institute of Education Sciences ([IES](#)) Predoctoral Training Program & Center for Benefit-Cost Studies of Education ([CBCSE](#)), GSE, University of Pennsylvania, 2023 - 2024

- Composed Letters of Intent (LOIs) and grant summaries for grant applications, effectively communicating the program's research objectives and needs.
- Maintained budget tracking, ensuring compliance and fiscal responsibility in grant-funded projects
- Led the grant application process, including submission, tracking, and management of awarded grants to support ongoing research initiatives
- Organized research placements for 14 predoctoral fellows, coordinating placements and maintaining relationships at institutions such as AIR, MDRC, and Mathematica.
- Facilitated workshops in cost-effectiveness analysis and research methods training, equipping researchers and analysts from around the country with valuable skills for their work

Senior Research Coordinator, Operations, Information and Decisions Department, The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, 2021-2023

- Directed and executed the entire spectrum of behavioral science research initiatives for 27 PhD students and over 30 faculty members
- Played a pivotal role in study design, construction and analysis, proficiently utilizing tools such as Qualtrics, Prolific, Mturk, SPSS and JavaScript launching and completing over 1000 studies
- Designed and implemented an online platform to streamline research related requests and manage budget systems
- Maintained budgetary oversight on a daily and monthly basis and collaborated closely with the Wharton Behavioral Lab

VOLUNTEER RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Learning Consultant, [SEE Initiative \(Social Equity & Education\)](#), Sarasota & Manatee, FL, 2022 - 2023 **In response to Florida's Parental Rights in Education Act, which restricts classroom instruction on sexual orientation and gender identity in Florida public schools*

- Conducted and coordinated research initiatives aimed at bolstering curriculum development for LGBTQ+ youth (age 13-18)
- Collaborated with neighboring youth centers in Sarasota and Manatee, Florida, to devise comprehensive strategies for adapting curriculum and programming into virtual formats, ensuring remote accessibility and effectiveness
- Provided guidance and training to a team of dedicated staff, ensuring their professional development and the delivery of high-quality services
- Demonstrated organizational skills by managing schedules and maintaining regular weekly office hours to optimize productivity and communication

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant: University of Pennsylvania EDUC 5560: Human Development, 2023

PUBLICATIONS

Coons, V., Delgado, A., & Golinkoff, R. M. (2025, April). “*There’s Something Beyond Just Being Able To Identify Hexagon*”: Teachers’ Use and Perceptions of a Novel Visual Alphabet. Poster, Steele Symposium, Newark, DE, United States.

Delgado, A., Işıkoğlu, N., Braley, M., Araya, F., Chen, S., Gonzalez, B., **Coons, V.**, Wascheck, M., Gates, R., Gonsiewski, A., Mehr, J., & Golinkoff, R. M. (2025, April). *Exploring playful parent-child interactions with a novel visual alphabet*. Poster, Steele Symposium, Newark, DE, United States.

Zosh, J. M., Ramirez, A., **Coons, V.**, & Golinkoff, R. M., (2025, May [accepted]). Leveraging multi-generational video chat as a source of spatial language [Symposium presentation]. In L. Pagano (Chair), *Out-of-school time tech: Supporting children’s STEM engagement through digital tools and conversations*. Society for Research in Child Development biennial meeting, Minneapolis, MN, United States.

PUBLISHED NEWSLETTERS

“Addressing Educator Burnout: A Multifaceted Approach.” *Consortium For Mental Health & Optimal Development*, 2023.

“Empowering Educators and Students: Alleviating Anxiety in Schools with Mindfulness.” *Consortium For Mental Health & Optimal Development*, 2023.

MEMBERSHIPS

American Psychological Association: Division 15, 2024 - Present

National Head Start Association, 2023 - Present

Psi Chi, The International Honor Society in Psychology, 2020 - Present

CERTIFICATES & TRAINING

Lean Six Sigma Green Belt. Course Number: EV-101-LSSGB. 2024

CITI Research, Ethics, & Compliance Training

- Social/Behavioral Research Course IRB (Record ID-40696525)
- Working with the IACUC (Record ID-40789171)

- IPS Researchers Record (ID-40789173)
- Essentials for IACUC Members (ID-60814438)
- RandD Committee Members (ID-60814440)
- VA Human Subjects Protection (ID-60814437)
- VA ORD Biosecurity Training (ID-60814439)