

Hector Bode

EDUCATION

University of Central Florida

Ph.D. in Human Factors and Cognitive Psychology

Orlando, FL

Expected August 2029

Florida Gulf Coast University

Master's in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, GPA: 3.96/4.00

Fort Myers, FL

May 2026

Selected coursework: Lifespan Development; Mental Disorders; Counseling Theories and Techniques; Play Therapy; Appraisal Procedures; Research and Program Evaluation.

Florida Gulf Coast University

B.A. in Psychology, Neuroscience and Cognition Concentration, GPA: 3.78/4.00

Fort Myers, FL

May 2023

Selected coursework: Abnormal Psychology; Developmental Psychology; Research Methods in Psychology; Psychology of Tests and Measurements; Human Memory and Cognition; Brain and Behavior; Statistical Methods; Social Science Statistics; Psychology of Adulthood and Aging; Neuropsychology of Aging.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Adult development, aging, and cognitive functioning
- Judgment and decision-making across the lifespan
- Emotion regulation, trauma, and PTSD
- Mood and anxiety disorders
- Psychotherapy process and treatment outcomes
- Developmental psychopathology
- Neuropsychology
- Artificial intelligence applications in psychological assessment, intervention, and research

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

UCF Adult Development and Decision Making Lab

Doctoral Research Student, Dr. Nichole Lighthall

Orlando, FL

May 2026-Present

- Assist with research examining adult development, aging, decision-making, cognition, and socioemotional processes across the lifespan.
- Conduct literature reviews on aging, emotion, risk perception, cognitive control, and human factors-related decision-making.
- Support ongoing lab projects through study preparation, protocol implementation, research documentation, and coordination with lab members.
- Apply psychological theory and empirical research methods to investigate age-related differences in judgment, decision-making, and behavior.

FGCU Department of Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Research Assistant, Dr. Bethany Russell

Fort Myers, FL

April 2025-May 2026

- Assisted in designing, implementing, and evaluating research studies related to mental health outcomes and public perceptions of mental health care.
- Collected, organized, and analyzed qualitative and quantitative data.
- Contributed to manuscript preparation, citation management, and APA-style references.
- Supported development of assessment tools, surveys, and data collection protocols.
- Translated research findings into practical applications for community mental health settings.

FGCU Department of Psychology

Research Assistant, Dr. Roy Pipitone, Computational Perception Lab

Fort Myers, FL

January 2023-May 2023

- Assisted with data collection and analysis for studies of visual perception and attention.
- Contributed to experimental procedure development and study implementation.
- Used eye-tracking and data analysis software to support research operations.
- Interpreted findings and contributed to internal dissemination of results.

Jealousy in Infancy Study

- Assisted with research on infant emotional responses to social and emotional stimuli.
- Conducted observational and behavioral coding of second-by-second infant reactions.
- Participated in data analysis and preparation of research presentation materials.

Emotion Recognition Study

- Examined facial emotion recognition as a function of facial familiarity in children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).
- Supported community outreach and recruitment efforts.
- Edited images using Morph Man to create smooth transitions between facial stimuli.

Literature Reviews

- Identified relevant sources, evaluated quality, and synthesized findings.
- Produced clear, concise summaries of research literature for use by the research team.
- Developed familiarity with developmental, social-emotional, and autism-related research literature.

PUBLICATIONS

- Russell, B. R., & Bode, H. (2026). Public sentiment toward traditional mental health providers and AI alternatives: A mixed-methods analysis of 2025 multilingual X discourse. *Frontiers in Human Dynamics*, 8, Article 1765197. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fhumd.2026.1765197>

PRESENTATIONS

- Bode, H., Gerakios, O., & Mize, K. D. (2023, April). *Infant jealousy paradigms: Exploring second-by-second reactions* [Poster presentation]. FGCU Eagle X 2023, Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers, FL.

CLINICAL TRAINING AND APPLIED EXPERIENCE

Bethany R. Russell, Ph.D. & Associates, P.A.

Babcock Ranch, FL

Registered Mental Health Counseling Intern

July 2026-Present

- Provide counseling services within a research-informed private practice serving children, adolescents, adults, and families.
- Conduct intake assessments, develop case conceptualizations, and support individualized treatment planning under clinical supervision.
- Implement evidence-based and developmentally appropriate interventions, including CBT, trauma-informed care, mindfulness-based strategies, play therapy-informed approaches, and family systems perspectives.
- Use validated outcome measures, including PHQ-9 and GAD-7, to monitor client symptoms and treatment progress.
- Maintain clinical documentation and participate in individual supervision, group supervision, and case consultation to support HIPAA-aligned care and progress toward licensure.

Community Health Partners

Naples, FL

Counselor in Training

August 2025-May 2026

- Conducted intake interviews and psychosocial assessments.
- Formulated case conceptualizations and treatment goals under supervision.
- Implemented evidence-based interventions, including CBT, DBT, and mindfulness-based approaches.
- Collaborated with interdisciplinary treatment teams.
- Monitored client progress and adjusted interventions as clinically indicated.

FGCU Community Counseling and Education Center

Fort Myers, FL

Counselor in Training

August 2024-July 2025

- Developed case conceptualizations integrating client history, presenting concerns, and treatment goals.
- Created and revised individualized treatment plans based on client progress and clinical needs.
- Maintained session notes, treatment plans, and progress reports in accordance with clinical documentation standards.
- Conducted intake assessments and built therapeutic rapport with clients.
- Participated in supervision and case conceptualization meetings to refine treatment approaches.

Collier Neurologic Specialist

Naples, FL

Undergraduate Assistant, Dr. David Cox, Private Practice

January 2023-May 2023

- Observed a licensed clinician conduct clinical interviews and administer, score, interpret, and report neuropsychological assessments.

- Reviewed medical records and gathered relevant client history.
- Practiced rapport-building, history-taking, and psychiatric interviewing skills.
- Assisted with selection and administration of neuropsychological and select psychiatric measures using a flexible battery approach.
- Applied appropriate norms when scoring measures and discussing results.
- Observed interpretation of findings using a functional cerebral systems model.
- Gained exposure to practice administration, Florida-specific rules and laws, and insurance procedures.

ADDITIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Mindful Masterpieces Behavioral Services

Registered Behavior Technician

August 2023-Present

- Provide direct one-to-one applied behavior analysis (ABA) services to individuals with autism and other developmental disorders.
- Implement behavior intervention plans to reduce challenging behaviors and support skill acquisition.
- Collect and maintain detailed client progress data to track behavioral change over time.
- Facilitate functional communication training (FCT) using vocalizations, PECS, AAC devices, and/or sign language.
- Manage and de-escalate maladaptive behaviors, including self-injury, aggression, and noncompliance, using reinforcement-based and crisis intervention strategies.
- Collaborate with families and caregivers to promote skill generalization across home and community settings.
- Adapt interventions based on individualized client needs and developmental level.

YMCA

Naples, FL

Summer Camp Counselor

June 2021-August 2021

- Planned and led sports, games, arts and crafts, and field-trip activities for summer camp participants.
- Supervised children during meals, free play, and structured activities while enforcing safety procedures.
- Responded to behavioral and emergency situations in accordance with camp policies.
- Collaborated with fellow counselors to maintain a safe, supportive, and engaging environment.
- Communicated professionally with parents and guardians regarding needs and concerns.

TriCore Wellness

Naples, FL

Administrative Assistant Intern

June 2019-August 2019

- Entered, updated, and maintained client and customer information in company databases.
- Maintained organized records, files, correspondence, and administrative documents.
- Provided customer service by answering questions and addressing concerns efficiently and professionally.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

- American Counseling Association (ACA)
- Association for Assessment and Research in Counseling (AARC)
- Association for Play Therapy (APT)
- Chi Sigma Iota (CSI)
- Psi Chi International Honor Society in Psychology
- Psychology Club
- Honors College
- TRIO Student Support Services

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

- The Naples Preserve, Environmental Cleanup Volunteer - Naples, FL | February 2022-July 2022
- Mangrove Review, Editor | October 2021-July 2022
- Golisano Children's Museum of Naples, Exhibit Assistant - Naples, FL | July 2019-April 2021

CERTIFICATIONS AND SKILLS

- Languages: Fluent in English and Spanish
- Software: SPSS; Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Outlook; CMS software
- Certifications/Training: Registered Behavior Technician (RBT); CITI Program Certification; HIPAA Certification; Mental Health First Aid; CPR/AED; DCF Mandated Reporter Certification; Stewards of Children; Concussion Awareness and Prevention Certification