

# Submit an Abstract

\* Fields are required

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## Student Information

\*First Name: MacKenzie

\*Last Name: Paul

MSU Net ID: ex1234

\*Email: ex1234@msstate.edu

\*Pronouns:

- She/Her/Hers
- He/Him/His
- They/Them/Theirs
- Other:

\*Academic Year

- First year
- Sophomore
- Junior
- Senior
- Other:

\*Major (Please select)

Psychology

Home University (if not MSU): N/A

\*Academic College (check all that apply)

- I am not a student enrolled at MSU
- College of Academic Affairs
- College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
- College of Architecture, Art and Design
- College of Arts & Sciences
- College of Business
- College of Education
- College of Forest Resources
- College of Veterinary Medicine
- James Worth Bagley College of Engineering

\*Are you a member of Shackouls Honors College or an Honors program at another university?

- Yes
- No

Funding source for this research project (e.g., an REU or other funded undergraduate research program) (select all that apply)

- Shackouls Honors College Research Fellowship
- College of Agriculture and Life Sciences URSP
- ORED Undergraduate Research Program
- NSF REU:
- Other:

**\*Does the abstract that you are submitting represent a completed research project or research that is still in progress?**

- Completed
- In progress

**If this research was completed as a part of an academic course, please identify which course (e.g., AN 1143 Intro to Cultural Anthropology):**

Course Code: N/A      Course Name: N/A

Have you previously or do you plan to submit this project in a competition or conference?

- Yes
- No

Do you plan to pursue research in your future (in graduate school, career, or otherwise)?

- Yes
  - No
- 

## Faculty Advisor(s) Information

This information will appear in the abstract booklet exactly as submitted below. Please be sure to verify the spelling of your advisor's name and the accuracy of their department and email address.

**\*Is your Primary Advisor from MSU?**

- Yes
- No

*If yes is selected, a field for the student to input their advisor's MSU NetID should appear. When that information is entered, the fields for the primary advisor's name, departmental affiliation, and email should autofill.*

**\*Primary Advisor MSU NetID:** ex1234

**\*Primary Advisor First Name:** Kevin

**\*Primary Advisor Last Name:** Armstrong

**\*Primary Advisor Departmental Affiliation:** Department of Psychology

**\*Primary Advisor Email:** ex1234@msstate.edu

**Secondary Advisor First Name** (Do not include title): N/A

**Secondary Advisor Last Name** (Do not include suffix): N/A

**Secondary Advisor Departmental Affiliation:** N/A

**Secondary Advisor Email:** N/A

*If no is selected, the following fields should all require manual entry.*

**\*Primary Advisor First Name** (Do not include title): N/A

**\*Primary Advisor Last Name** (Do not include suffix): N/A

**\*Primary Advisor Departmental Affiliation:** N/A

**\*Primary Advisor Email:** N/A

**Secondary Advisor First Name** (Do not include title): N/A

**Secondary Advisor Last Name** (Do not include suffix): N/A

**Secondary Advisor Departmental Affiliation:** N/A

**Secondary Advisor Email:** N/A

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## Project Information

### \*Category

- Biological Sciences & Engineering
- Physical Sciences & Engineering
- Social Sciences
- Humanities & Arts

If Biological Sciences & Engineering, Physical Sciences & Engineering, or Social Sciences is selected, automatically select project type as poster:

### \*Project Type

- Poster

### \*Project Title

Issues affecting cross-referrals between Oktibbeha County clergy and mental health professionals

In addition to you, how many Co-Authors does this project include?

No Co-Authors

Co-Author names(s) (Do not include any Faculty Advisors listed above):

First Name: N/A

Last Name: N/A

First Name: N/A

Last Name: N/A

Add another Co-Author

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## Abstract Submission

### \*Abstract (max 300 words)

Throughout much of the United States, religious leaders operate as first responders for mental health issues within their congregations. Clergy members serve a prominent role in communities and may substantially influence their congregations' perceptions of when normal suffering or distress becomes a mental health issue. The importance of clergy is underscored by findings that nearly one-fourth of U.S. adults affected by mental illness report contacting their religious leaders for mental health support. This relationship may be especially evident within highly religious states like Mississippi. Clergy members regularly serve parishioners with a wide range of personal concerns (e.g., grief, child discipline, marital/family relationships, anxiety, depression, and PTSD). However, many religious leaders have minimal professional counseling training. A parallel issue exists among mental health professionals. Within the Bible Belt, most clients report having significant religious beliefs and practices, but not all mental health professionals have the spiritual/religious competency training necessary to provide informed care. Increasing attention has been brought within the mental health field towards developing the competencies necessary to effectively consult with clergy and to participate in effective cross-referrals with local pastors. In an effort to improve cross-referral success between clergy and mental health professionals in Oktibbeha County, members of both groups were invited to a workshop where they are scheduled to review a variety of issues together and answer questions regarding what supports effective cross-discipline experiences and what barriers or obstacles exist to achieving positive outcomes for their clients and congregants. This project will summarize what is learned about each group's experiences, attitudes, and intentions regarding cross-referrals in this community. The workshop is intended to identify essential information for the creation of a clergy-counselor network that could support effective collaborations.

\*If you do not receive an e-mail confirmation of your registration, you are not registered.

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