



2016-2017 Academic Year
2 Research Assistantships (Doctoral Students only)
Office of Research and Evaluation (ORE)
Placement ID: **VAIW**

Topic Area: Research Examining Violence against American Indian (AI) and Alaska Native (AN) Women living in Indian Country and Alaska Native villages

Program Overview: Title IX, Section 904(a) of the Violence against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (VAWA 2005), Pub. Law No. 109-162 (codified at 42 U.S.C. § 3796gg-10 note), as amended by Section 907 of the Violence against Women Reauthorization Act, Pub. L. No. 113-4, calls for the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) in consultation with OVW, to conduct analyses and research on violence committed against Indian women living in Indian Country and in Alaska Native villages. In conducting its analyses and research, NIJ is asked to focus on dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking, stalking, and murder, and to evaluate the effectiveness of responses to those violations.

As a direct result of this legislation, NIJ has developed a comprehensive research program consisting of multiple research studies that will be accomplished over an extended period of time. The capstone of this program is the National Baseline Study (NBS)—the first national study conducted in Indian Country and Alaska Native Villages. The NBS is being conducted in geographically dispersed tribal communities across the U.S. and its primary aim is to provide an accurate *national* victimization rate of violence committed against AI and AN women. The NBS is critical to quantifying the magnitude of violence and victimization in tribal communities and understanding service needs.

NIJ's Violence Against Indian Women (VAIW) research program also supports other extramural and intramural research and evaluation studies that will: produce a deeper understanding of the issues faced by Native American women; expand the body of criminal justice policy-relevant research; and help formulate public policies and prevention strategies to decrease the incidence of violent crimes committed against AI and AN women. Results from all of these studies are anticipated to help establish and enhance justice systems that will successfully restore victim safety and promote healing.

For more information on NIJ's program of research, please go to <http://www.nij.gov/topics/tribal-justice/vaw-research/welcome.htm>.

Research assistant project task responsibilities would include but are not limited to:

- ♦ Compiling, summarizing, revising, or making use of complex, technical, or specialized literature.
- ♦ Participating in data collection activities in Indian Country and Alaska villages.
- ♦ Extracting and compiling a range of data from written sources, from individuals (questionnaires and interviews), and from one or several given databases.
- ♦ Assisting in research design strategies (e.g., developing and modifying research proposals, procedures, or tools/instruments).
- ♦ Processing and summarizing data using scientific or statistical techniques.
- ♦ Assisting in data interpretation and analyses to generate reports/papers.
- ♦ Assist in developing research questions and designs for intramural studies.
- ♦ Assist in preparing materials for Institutional Review Board (IRB) review for intramural studies.
- ♦ Conceptualizing and drafting publications (such as government reports, peer-reviewed journal articles, NIJ publications, and trade magazine articles).



- ♦ Drafting and presenting presentations at conferences (where funding permits and the University approves).
- ♦ Recording, compiling, and reporting information related to the research program and activities with a focus on relevance for the policy or practitioner fields and prepare policy briefs and assist with responses to Congressional inquiries, as needed.
- ♦ Assisting with coordination of research activities and participate in intra- and inter-agency working groups (e.g., other federal science agencies and stakeholders such as the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Census Bureau, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Executive Office for the United States Attorneys, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Indian Health Service, National Science Foundation, Office of Justice Programs, the Office of Tribal Justice).
- ♦ Assisting with tribal outreach activities that include data collection site visits and research dissemination activities (e.g., meeting presentations, articles, webinars).

Candidate Eligibility Criteria

- Demonstrated knowledge of the U.S. criminal justice system **required**.
- Demonstrated knowledge of U.S. tribal justice systems **preferred**.
- Demonstrated knowledge of intermediate to advanced research and evaluation methods and analysis **required**.
- Demonstrated experience in social or behavioral science related to victimization or crime **required**.
- Demonstrated knowledge of violence against women research and evaluation **preferred**.
- Demonstrated knowledge of AI and AN crime and justice issues **preferred**.

General Required Qualifications

- **Education and/or Experience:** Doctoral students working toward a terminal degree (e.g., Ph.D., D.P.A., Dr.PH., D.H.Sc., D.S.W., Psy.D., Ed.D.).
- **Mathematical Skills:** Very good to advanced understanding of statistical principles and research methods (quantitative and qualitative).
- **Computer Skills:** Working knowledge of computers and standard software such as Adobe Professional, Excel, Internet Explorer, Outlook, Windows operating systems, Word, and PowerPoint required. Proficiency using , SPSS, SAS, or Stata. Knowledge of Access, ATLAS.ti and other statistical or geospatial software a plus.
- **Reasoning Ability:** Ability to work independently, accurately, and in a timely manner.
- **Communication Skills:** Ability to communicate orally and in writing to prepare comprehensive research reports, proposals, and presentations and make recommendations to accomplish and enhance project objectives.
- **Certifications, Licenses, Registrations:** Human Subjects (HS) Protection training is required. NIJ research assistants must take annual HS training onsite at the Office of Justice Programs. RAs also must successfully complete [CITI training](#) prior to participating on any studies.
- **Background Check:** Candidates must complete all required U.S. Department of Justice profile and pre-screening paperwork with all security reviews and background investigations (such as credit and criminal investigations) resulting in a favorable adjudication.
- **Citizenship:** Candidates must be U.S. citizens.

Work Location: Primary work location will be at [NIJ's offices in Washington, D.C.](#) Minimal local travel in the [National Capital Region](#) may be needed to attend meetings and visit offsite research facilities. For this assistantship, extensive travel is anticipated to conduct research site visits.