

# NICOLE SAHRLING

San Diego, CA | nsahrling [at] ucsd.edu | [LinkedIn](#)

## Education

### University of California, San Diego

B.S. Psychology | GPA: 4.0

### Las Positas College

AA-T Psychology | GPA: 4.0

Graduated with distinction

San Diego, CA

September 2024 - June 2026

Livermore, CA

January 2023 - August 2024

## Honors & Awards

Regents Scholarship (UCSD)

2024 - 2026

Undergraduate Research Fellowship (UCSD, Department of Psychology)

2025

## Research Experience

### Visual Learning Lab

March 2025 - Present

Honors Thesis Student | PI: Dr. Bria Long, UC San Diego

- Designing and leading an honors thesis project investigating 4 to 9 year old children's visual concept production across drawing and linguistic modalities.
- Conducting original analyses using multimodal ML tools (CLIP, InternVL) comparing children's and adults' conceptual representations to test hypotheses about cross-modal concept production across development.
- Collaborating closely with faculty and graduate researchers to design experiments, interpret results, and situate findings within current literature.

### Social Cognition and Learning Lab

September 2024 - March 2025

Research Assistant | PI: Dr. Lindsey Powell, UC San Diego

- Ran studies with children (8 months to 7 years) on group membership and social reasoning.
- Coded and analyzed behavioral data; presented findings in lab meetings.
- Contributed to collaborative discussions with senior researchers.

### BRAIN Lab

June 2024 - August 2024

Summer Research Assistant | PI: Dr. Lisa Eyler, UC San Diego

- Conducted structured interviews using the MINI to evaluate empathy and compassion.
- Studied interpersonal dynamics and support strategies in mental health peer groups.

## Presentations

**Sahrling, N.**, Haskins, A.J., Sepuri, T., Long, B. (2025, August). *Tracing Children's Multimodal Production of Visual Concepts Across Development*. Talk presented at the Summer Undergraduate Research Conference, UC San Diego.

**Sahrling, N.**, Keller, I. (2024, May). *Brainspotting: A Way Through the Silent Epidemic*. Talk presented at the Bay Honors Consortium Research Symposium, Stanford University.

## Leadership & Service

### Scholars Society (UCSD)

November 2024 - Present

Co-President

- Leading programming for a 1700+ member merit scholar community, organizing events focused on connection, mentorship, and growth. Previously served as Social Co-Chair (2024–2025)

### Psychology Club (Las Positas College)

August 2023 - May 2024

Inter-Club Council Representative

- Facilitated cross-club events and boosted participation across student organizations.

## Teaching Experience

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, PSYC 101 – Developmental Psychology (Heyman)

Fall 2025

## Work Experience

### Tutu School Union City

January 2023 - August 2024

Ballet Teacher

- Taught ballet to children ages 18 months to 8 yearsCultivated joyful, developmentally attuned learning environments

## State Opera Stara Zagora

August 2021 - October 2022

### *Professional Ballerina*

- Performed internationally; developed cultural awareness and communication skills.
- Collaborated with a global team under high-pressure, high-performance conditions.

## Skills & Interests

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**Technical Skills:** Python, R, Bash, Datavyu, Excel

**Research Interests:** Cognitive and developmental psychology, visual perception, theory of mind, multimodal representation, statistical learning, naturalistic paradigms, computational models (CLIP, BART), PyTorch, statistical learning mechanisms, early word learning...

**Creative Interests:** Science communication, cross-disciplinary collaboration, creative writing, reading, event planning, ballet...