Faculty member or graduate student
Robert W. Proctor

Description of research area
We conduct research on basic attention and performance and applied human factors. Much of the research focuses on factors that determine how fast and accurately a person can decide what action they are to take in response to a stimulus event. Applications relate to interface design, training, and decision-making in applied contexts. We also conduct usability studies of statistical power analysis software.

Description of undergraduate participation
The primary responsibility for most of the undergraduate research assistants is to help in collecting data. You typically will work on several different experiments during the semester. For each experiment, you will be instructed about how to conduct the study and will be responsible for testing participants. We will explain to you what we are doing and why for the various experiments, so that you learn the reasoning behind the research being conducted.

For other research assistants, the participation will involve helping to conduct usability studies. This may involve data collection, but it will also involve assisting in organizing and coding data, including verbal answers provided by participants to open-ended survey and interview questions. You will learn the process by which such data are coded and analyzed.

Research setting
Most of the experiments are conducted in my laboratory, 3113 PSYC.

Number of assistants needed
6 students

Contact information
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Additional comments
I prefer students who have had or are taking PSY 201 and 203, and either PSY 200 or PSY/IE 577.