

# MARIA FLORENCE

MAFLORENCE0913@GMAIL.COM

201 HOCKEY LANE | LAFAYETTE, LA 70508 | (555) 555-1644

## EDUCATION

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University of Louisiana at Lafayette

**Bachelor of Science, Psychology**

Minor: Criminal Justice

Psychology GPA: 3.78/ Overall GPA: 3.33

### Honors:

Dean's List

TOPS Scholar

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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July 2013- Present

**Louisiana Contextual Science Research Group** - University of Louisiana at Lafayette

### Research Assistant

Through training, scientific inquiry and activities in keeping with the Contextual Behavioral Science (CBS) model, we attempt to make our own small contribution to the alleviation of human suffering.

- Assist in research design, project execution, data input, collection and analysis, as well as a variety of other research duties and assigned administrative assignments.
  - o Specific Projects of Focus
    - *Research Team Leader* : The Impact of Acceptance and Commitment Training on Graduate Record Examination Preparation Behavior
    - Criminal Recidivism: Longitudinal study examining psychological flexibility as a predictor of criminal recidivism.
    - BIFAP (Body Image Flexibility Assessment Procedure): Community based correlational study examining the relationship between psychological flexibility and quality of life.

## **SERVICE EXPERIENCE**

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January 2014 – present

### **Louisiana Parish Correctional Center, Mental Health Department**

- Facilitation of group therapy sessions consisting of probation clients with history of substance abuse and comorbid psychiatric diagnoses.
- Observing and conducting individual therapy sessions with currently and previously incarcerated individuals
- Administration of diagnostic intake interviews with rehabilitation patients and individuals with criminal history
- Directing “criminal and addictive behavior” seminars with incarcerated individuals

Supervisors: Emily Sandoz, PhD & Billie Sue Wallis, LCSW

January 2013 - Present

### **Hearts of Hope, Victim Advocate**

- Completed 40-hours of crisis intervention training.
- Run a 24-hour Rape Crisis Hot Line
- Provide support as an escort to survivors in the emergency room
- Provided specific assistance with raising awareness and understanding of sexual violence in the LGBT community.

January 2013 - Present

### **AVEC Les Enfants, Visitation Monitor**

- Completed a 20-hour training session
- Neutral supervisor and monitor of visitations between non-custodial parents and their children

August 2010 - Present

### **Psychology Colloquium**

- National Alliance of Mental Health Walks
- Walk for Hope Autism Society of Acadiana

August 2010- Present

**V-Day Lafayette**

- V-Day is a catalyst that promotes creative events to increase awareness, raise money and revitalize the spirit of existing anti-violence organizations.
  - o The Vagina Monologues

**PRESENTATIONS**

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**Florence, M.** (2013, November) Vulnerable Populations and Understanding Sexual Abuse in the LGBT Community. Presentation at Hearts of Hope: Support Services for the Sexually Abused- Training Session. Lafayette, LA

**MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS**

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- Psi Chi: International Honors Society in Psychology
  - o Leadership Board of Officers- Historian of Lafayette Chapter
- Sigma Alpha Lambda: National Leadership and Honors Organization
- Criminal Justice Society – University of Louisiana
- American Psychological Association
- Association for Contextual Behavioral Science
- American Psychology-Law Association

**REFERENCES**

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**Emily K. Sandoz, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor of Psychology  
Psychology Department  
University of Louisiana at Lafayette

P.O. Box 43131  
Lafayette, Louisiana 70504  
Girard Hall, 202A  
office: 337.482.1497  
cell: 337.371.5440

E-Mail: [emilysandoz@louisiana.edu](mailto:emilysandoz@louisiana.edu)

**Monica Tauzin, M.S.**

Professor of Psychology  
Psychology Department  
University of Louisiana at Lafayette

P.O. Box 43131  
Lafayette, Louisiana 70504  
Girard Hall, Room 313F  
Phone: 337.482.1587  
E-Mail: [mmt9226@louisiana.edu](mailto:mmt9226@louisiana.edu)

**Jencie Hebert**

Volunteer Coordinator/Victim Advocate  
Hearts of Hope- Lafayette, Louisiana  
Office: 337.269.1557  
E-Mail: [jencie.hebert@theheartsofhope.org](mailto:jencie.hebert@theheartsofhope.org)