

Undergraduate Research on Crime and Policing in Baltimore City

The research group of Bloomberg Distinguished Professor Stephen L. Morgan (website [here](#)) seeks to recruit a team of undergraduate research assistants to help analyze crime and policing in Baltimore City since the 1990s. The project will build on a prior report (see [here](#)).

New topics for investigation include: changes in police tactics and policy since the 1990s (e.g., discontinuation of stop and frisk practices, deployment of community policing, decriminalization of Marijuana possession), police recruitment and training, big data use in policing, consent decree monitoring, changes in the characteristics of homicide victims, and case studies of major crime incidents and their impact on communities.

Positions are available for the spring 2018 semester with the opportunity to continue in summer 2018 and/or fall 2018. Course credit is available. For research assistants who wish to work for pay instead, work-study eligible students will be given preference in hiring. Students with local experience in the Baltimore area are strongly encouraged to apply.

Responsibilities

For spring 2018, student research assistants will work from 6 to 10 hours per week, pursuing two primary tasks each: (1) collecting academic and journalistic literature in order to draft a memo on a specific assigned topic, and (2) transcribing audio recordings of police officers. Students will be directly supervised by Professor Morgan as well as a graduate student research assistant. The team will convene every other week for a group meeting to share and discuss progress. For summer 2018 and fall 2018, work will shift toward analysis, at which point additional students with programming experience might be recruited. Continuing team members with relevant skills will be given the first opportunity to serve as data analysts.

Qualifications

- Interest in crime, policing, current events, and/or public policy in Baltimore City
- Excellent attention to detail and ability to meet deadlines
- Interest in learning research methods, including computational social science

How to Apply

Please send a resume as an attachment to an email message to Professor Stephen Morgan (stephen.morgan@jhu.edu). In the text of your email, share details of (a) any relevant professional or personal experience, (b) your availability for work in Spring, Summer, and Fall 2018, and (c) whether you are interested in working for experience (volunteer), independent research credit or pay, and (d) if pay, whether you are work-study eligible.