

Faculty Member Contact Information

Name	Matthew Schunke, PhD
Contact Info	
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Department	Philosophy

1 Unfunded URCA Assistant(s)

Are you willing to work with students from outside of your discipline? If yes, which other disciplines?

- Yes

How many hours per week will your student(s) be required to work in this position?
(Minimum is 6 hours per week; typical is 9)

- 9

Will it be possible for your student(s) to earn course credit?

- No

Location of research/creative activities:

- No specific location. The need internet access

Brief description of the nature of the research/creative activity?

- I am writing a journal article that uses a recent publication by philosopher C. Thi Nguyen to examine the goals of university first-year experience programs. Nguyen's concept of "value capture" explains how our decision-making processes can be captured by the metrics and norms of large-scale institutions, a process he calls value capture. Given that universities are the type of large scale institutions that promote value capture, I aim to show that Nguyen's analysis raises concerns about how we approach first-year programming. The URCA project apply Nguyen's concept to articulate a vision of the first-year experience that helps students avoid being value-captured by the university, resulting in more engaged and autonomous students. The project connects philosophy with current work on student success and should be of interest to students from a variety of backgrounds.

Brief description of student responsibilities?

- The URCA assistant will be responsible for helping me to find relevant research on student success and provide summaries of their findings. I will provide a summary of the philosophical literature and they can also seek out other philosophical resources related to the project. They will also utilize their first-person experience as a student to provide feedback on drafts of the article. There is a strong potential of being a co-author on the finished article.

URCA Assistant positions are designed to provide students with *research or creative activities* experience. As such, there should be measurable, appropriate outcome goals. What exactly should your student(s) have learned by the end of this experience?

- Through the semester the student will gain the experience of seeing how an academic article develops. They will learn how to find and process literature for an interdisciplinary humanities academic article, to develop and support an article length argument aimed at professionals working on student success at college, and to develop and prepare a manuscript for publication.

Requirements of Students

If the position(s) require students to be available at certain times each week (as opposed to them being able to set their own hours) please indicate all required days and times:

- We will schedule a weekly meeting time.

If the location of the research/creative activities involves off campus work, must students provide their own transportation?

- N/A

Must students have taken any prerequisite classes? Please list classes and preferred grades:

- No

Other requirements or notes to applicants: