CURRICULUM VITAE

Ashley Chikkala

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Education

University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX   August 2023 – Present
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with Highest Distinction   Overall GPA**:** 4.00/4.00; Major GPA: 4.0
Minor: English
Certificate: Spanish in the Mental Health Professions
Advisor: Alexandra L. Clark, Ph.D.

Awards and Honors

University of Texas at Austin Dean's Honor List   August 2023 – May 2025

Research Experience

Research Assistant, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX   August 2022 – Present
Mechanisms Underlying Neurocognitive Aging Laboratory
Project: Brain Aging Study
Mentor: Alexandra L. Clark, Ph.D.
- Exploring links between social determinants of health and heterogeneity in cognitive functioning within racially/ethnically minoritized older adults
- Calling and screening potential participants for eligibility
- Scoring comprehensive neuropsychological assessments
- Processing blood samples for analysis of blood-based biomarkers
- Analyzing large-scale datasets, including National Census Data and the Advanced Cognitive Training for Independent and Vital Elderly (ACTIVE) Study
- Assisted with manuscript preparation through data management and analysis, creating figures and tables, formatting, and editing text

Publications

Peer-reviewed Articles:

1. Clark, A.L., Hamlin, A.M., **Chikkala, A.**, Weigand, A.J., Tarraf, W., Sisco, S., Thomas, K.R., & Marsiske, M. (2025). The Impact of Tract- and County-Level Segregation on 10-year Cognitive and Everyday Functioning Outcomes of Black/African American Older Adults in the ACTIVE Study. *Alzheimer's & Dementia: Behavior & Socioeconomics of Aging.* https://doi.org/10.1002/bsa3.70014

Works Under Review:

1. Hamlin, A.M.**,** Romañach Álvarez, L. S., Muñoz, E., **Chikkala, A.**, & Clark, A.L. (Under Review). Built and Social Environment Resources are Associated with Memory Outcomes of Adults Enrolled in the Health and Retirement Study. *Research on Aging.*

Works In Preparation:

1. Clark, A.L., **Chikkala, A.**, Hamlin, A.M., Bush, A., Tarraf, W., Weigand, A.J., Sisco, S., Thomas, K.R., & Marsiske, M., Residential Segregation Exacerbates the Impact of Cardiovascular Disease on Late-Life Cognitive Outcomes of Black Older Adults. *Health and Place*

Presentations

1. **Chikkala, A.,** Hamlin, A.M., Weigand, A.J., Thomas, K.R., Marsiske, M., & Clark, A.L. (Feb 2026). Neighborhood Disadvantage as a Mediator of the Effects Residential Segregation on Longitudinal Cognitive and Functional Outcomes among Black Older Adults in ACTIVE. Paper presentation submitted to the 54th Annual Meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

2. Hamlin, A.M., **Chikkala, A.,** Jackson, C.J., & Clark, A.L. (Feb 2026). Residential Segregation Across the Life Course and Dementia Risk: Effects of Mid-life, Late-life, and 20-years of Neighborhood Change on Brain and Memory Outcomes. Symposium presentation submitted to the 54th Annual Meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

3. Clark, A.L., Hamlin, A.M., **Chikkala, A.** (Feb 2026). Twenty Years of Neighborhood Change and Alzheimer's Disease Biomarkers: Linking Residential Segregation to Neurodegeneration and Neuroinflammation. Paper presentation submitted to the 54th Annual Meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

4. Hamlin, A.M., Weigand, A.J., **Chikkala, A.,** Marsiske, M., Sisco, S., Tarraf, W., Thomas, K.R., & Clark, A.L. (Nov 2025). Locus of Control Moderates the Effect of Segregation on Everyday Functioning of Black Older Adults in the ACTIVE Study. Paper to be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society for America, Boston, Massachusetts.

5. Hamlin, A.M., Romañach Álvarez, L.S., **Chikkala, A.,** Muñoz, E., & Clark, A.L. (Feb 2025). Characterizing Novel Neighborhood Factors and Associations with Memory Outcomes in Adults Age 50+ enrolled in the Health and Retirement Study. Paper presented at the 53rd Annual Meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society, New Orleans, Louisiana.

6. Clark, A.L., Hamlin, A.M., **Chikkala, A.,** Weigand, A.J., Tarraf, W. Sisco, S., Thomas, K.R., & Marsiske, M. (Feb 2025). Tract- and County-Level Segregation Measures Differentially Impact 10-year Cognitive and Functional Outcomes of Black/African American Older Adults. Paper presented at the 53rd Annual Meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Professional Experience

Customer Service Associate, HEB, Cedar Park, TX   August 2022 – Present
- Efficiently processed an average of 150-200 customer transactions per shift while consistently maintaining above average times, ensuring ~34-38 IPM (items scanned per minute) and reducing wait times.
- Provided exceptional customer service by greeting customers, answering inquiries, and resolving issues in a friendly and professional manner.
- Assisted in training 5+ new cashiers on company policies, procedures, and customer service techniques.

Hospital Volunteer, Ascension Seton, Austin, TX   January 2024 – December 2024

- Aided an average of 20-30 patients and their families per shift, ensuring a welcoming and supportive environment
- Contributed 120+ volunteer hours, assisting in various departments to support hospital, and freeing up hours for nurses to focus on patient care

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Service and Outreach

Texas Humane Heroes, Leander, TX   August 2021 – August 2023
- Volunteered 100+ hours providing an enriched environment for the animals by cleaning kennels, reducing stress levels, and organizing a volunteer training of 20 people.
- Provided care for an average of 50 animals per shift, including feeding and exercising.

Relevant Skills

- Scoring neuropsychological assessments including subtests from the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale – 4th Edition (WAIS-IV), Delis-Kaplan Executive Function System (D-KEFS), and California Verbal Learning Test 3rd Edition (CVLT-3)
- Statistical coding and analysis in R/RStudio
  - Logistic Regression, Structural Equation Modeling, Mixed Effects Models
- Proficiency in Microsoft Excel
- Reference management in Web of Science and Zotero

References

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