

Dr. Samantha F. Johnson earned her Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology from East Tennessee State University in 2015. Her dissertation entitled “Investigating Barriers to Mental Health Care in Law Enforcement Officers” sought to understand why law enforcement personnel are less likely to seek mental health care even though they tend to have higher rates of stress-related mental health disorders as compared to the general population. Within the project, Johnson proposed and validated a model of barriers to mental health care which highlighted the importance of perceived stigma related to having a mental disorder. Her findings are in preparation for peer-review publication.

While completing her PhD, Johnson worked as a graduate teaching assistant. She taught courses in statistics and probability, APA writing, general psychology, and motivation and emotion. Additionally, she worked as an

adjunct instructor at Tusculum University and Northeast Community College, teaching courses in general psychology, social psychology, and developmental psychology.

Dr. Johnson is a full-time faculty member at Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College in Asheville, NC. She has been a member of the faculty since 2015. She teaches courses in general, social, and abnormal psychology and is the lead instructor of the social psychology and abnormal psychology courses. Additionally, she offers professional development in topics relating to emotional intelligence and incorporating such skills to enhance supervisory skills and support students in the classroom.

In service to the Kingsport community, Dr. Johnson serves as an annual in-service instructor for Kingsport Police Department,

teaching mental health courses in personal wellness, emotional development, and deescalation during mental health crises.

Her current research interests include social determinants of health, well-being, and health disparities, as well as stress and health-related outcomes.