

Caitlin Cooper

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Lansing, MI

Research Interests: Plant Evolutionary Biology and Ecology

Phenotypic plasticity in vascular plants, hydraulic morphology, geometric branching patterns, anatomical and physiological responses to climate change in plant communities.

Education

Grand Valley State University - Frederik Meijer Honors College

Allendale, MI

Bachelor of Science in Writing, minors in Biology and Psychology

April 2025

Cumulative GPA 3.9, STEM GPA 4.0; *summa cum laude*

Dean's List: Fall 2020, Fall 2022 – Winter 2025

Boston University

Boston, MA

Courses: Biology I, Biology II. **GPA 4.0**

May – Aug 2024

Applicable courses: Systematic Botany, Plant Morphology, Ecology, Statistics, Conservation Biology, General Biology I, General Biology II, Our Evolving World (Evolution & Humanities), Magnitude (Physics & Humanities), Introduction to Python, Research Methods in Psychology.

Research Experience

Research Supervisor to mentor Dr. Gary Greer

Oct 2024 – Current

- Recruiting and mentoring undergraduate lab assistants.
- Building educational materials for plant identification and data collection protocol

Research Assistant in Greer Labs

Sep 2023 – Current

- Field work, data analysis, SPSS graphing, presenting, co-writing.
- Currenting working on a first-author manuscript.

GVSU Herbarium Assistant

Aug 2024 – Current

- Contributing 22+ specimens to the university's herbarium collection.
- Mounting and repairing existing herbarium specimens.
- Assembling and troubleshooting digitization hardware and software.

Conference Presentations

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Botanical Society of America Annual Meeting, Grand Rapids, MI

2024

Utility assessment of handheld photography for measuring coarse elements of tree geometry. Caitlin Cooper, Gary Greer.

Botanical Society of America Annual Meeting, Grand Rapids, MI

2024

Does the Geometry of the Three Basal Nodes Exhibit Species-specific Scaling Patterns? Catherine Chappell, Caitlin Cooper, Gary Greer.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Student Scholars Day at Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI

2024

Assessing the Accuracy of Tree Geometry Measurements from Photos Take with Common Handheld Cameras. **Caitlin Cooper**, Gary Greer.

Relevant Skills

SPSS: Graphing, ANOVA, ANCOVA, and linear regressions.

Data Collection: Field work and ImageJ.

Excel: Documentation, variable manipulation, graphing, and regressions.

Presenting: Projection of voice, experience troubleshooting PowerPoint on older and newer software, and fielding Q&As.

Plant Identification: Native MI plants using a dichotomous key.

Proposal Writing: Research project proposals used as examples in subsequent semesters in 2+ courses.

Professional Memberships

Botanical Society of America

Feb, 2025

American Association for the Advancement of Science

Feb, 2025

HONOR SOCIETIES

Phi Kappa Phi – Chapter 217

Mar, 2024

Omicron Delta Kappa, the National Leadership Honor Society

Apr, 2024

Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology

Nov, 2024