

# APRIL N. WRIGHT

COMMUNICATION STUDIES LECTURER & COURSE DESIGNER

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## PROFILE

Lifelong learner and dynamic communication studies lecturer in face-to-face and online (synchronous and asynchronous) environments with excellent communication skills. Teaching philosophy includes a learner focus and commitment to diversity with an emphasis on community building, active learning, experiential education, and academic rigor to ensure student learning and success. Skilled at course design, development, and implementation online and face-to-face.

## TEACHING DUTIES

- Encourage growth of communication skills and higher order thinking skills;
- Create effective instructional content for diverse learners (syllabi, lectures - virtual and live, tutorials, screen captures, infographics, discussion posts, assignments, case studies, scenarios, tests, etc.);
- Customize instructional methods and strategies to meet diverse student learning needs and delivery methods (face-to-face, online synchronous and asynchronous);
- Utilize available instructional methods, i.e., peer-to-peer learning, scenario-based learning, course management systems, multimedia technology, video micro learning, gamification, online conferencing software, etc. to create effective, rigorous, and engaging content;
- Initiate, facilitate, and moderate meaningful discussions and learning in face-to-face and online, synchronous and asynchronous learning environments;
- Build community and maintain discipline and academic rigor;
- Promote a physically and mentally safe, accepting learning environment for all;
- Evaluate student coursework and courses for learning using research & analysis: ADDIE, Backwards design, SAM and other Instructional design models and update courses based on analysis;
- Utilize Universal Design principles, WCAG, etc. to ensure inclusive learning experience and ADA accessible content;
- Collect and use data and feedback to improve teaching;
- Maintain accurate records.

## COURSE DESIGN & WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

Utilize LMS (Blackboard, Moodle, and Canvas – including some HTML coding in Canvas) to build face-to-face and online courses (Introduction to Communication Studies, Interpersonal Communication, Public Speaking, Workplace Communication, Communication Studies Internship)

- including website design and formatting (organization, ADA compliance, and aesthetics);
- research and utilization of open access sources;
- creation of effective and innovative diagnostic, formative, summative, and ipsative assessments;
- collect data and conduct ongoing course evaluations and improvements.

## TECHNOLOGY SKILLS

- Microsoft Office Suite: Word, PPT, Excel, Publisher, Outlook
- Google Tools: Drive, Docs, Sheets, Slides, Forms, Sites, Meet, Gmail, Google Classroom, Jamboard
- Adobe Creative Suite: InDesign, Photoshop, Illustrator, Premier
- Learning Management Software: Canvas, Blackboard, Moodle
- Online Conferencing Software: Zoom, Google Meets, Skype, Discord
- Audacity

## EDUCATION

University of North Carolina Greensboro, Greensboro, NC

- M.A. Communication Studies (May 2014)

- B.A. Communication Studies, Minor in Human Development (Dec 2009); Summa Cum Laude

## **AWARDS, HONORS, & ASSOCIATIONS**

- Advisor of the Year Award (2021)
- OER Grant (2021)
- Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society
- Lambda Pi Eta National Honor Society
- Carolinas Communication Association
- National Communication Association

## **ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT**

### **Graduate Teaching Assistant (Instructor of Record)**

Department of Communication Studies: West Virginia University

- COMM 104 – Fundamentals of Public Communication (face to face)

**Fall 2023 - present**

Morgantown, WV

### **Academic Advisor**

Department of Communication Studies: University of North Carolina Greensboro

- One of two advisors for approximately 400 students
- Meet with diverse communication studies students prior to registration each semester to explain institutional policies, procedures, and requirements;
- Provide guidance and assist students by recommending courses that help them plan schedules that are realistic, consistent with their abilities and interests, and that help them meet their future career goals;
- Act as mentor and manage 2-4 peer advisors.

**Spring 2020 - May 2023**

Greensboro, NC

### **Internship Coordinator**

Department of Communication Studies: University of North Carolina Greensboro

- Collaborated with committee of subject matter experts to create and revise policy and procedures to ensure academic quality and integrity of internship program;
- Built, organized, and formatted course website including organization and aesthetics;
- Researched and obtained open access resources appropriate to the course, rigor, etc.;
- Developed academic content and continue to evaluate sources and assessments to ensure they are appropriate for the experience, the discipline, and the credit hours required;
- Coordinated approximately 85 internships as of Jan 2023
- Advise students regarding employment opportunities to ensure appropriate site placement based on hours, scope, relevance, and level of responsibility;
- Help students secure appropriate internships to enhance overall academic experience;
- Identify opportunities and promote internships to CST Majors;
- Initiate, build, and maintain partnerships with local employers to develop opportunities for students;
- Serve as a liaison between local organizations and UNCG CST;
- Conduct site visits to evaluate appropriateness and relevance of internships for students;
- Maintain internship website;
- Assess the effectiveness of the internship program and update as needed;
- Maintain academic records as appropriate.

**Fall 2017 - May 2023**

Greensboro, NC

### **Lecturer**

Department of Communication Studies: University of North Carolina Greensboro

- 4/4 course load with one release per year for advising duties
- **CST 105** – Introduction to Communication Studies (face-to-face, hybrid, and online synchronous and asynchronous, including co-teaching experience); Speaking Intensive with 25 students per section
- **CST 341** – Communication and Workplace Relationships (face-to-face and online synchronous and asynchronous); Speaking Intensive with 25 students per section

**Fall 2016 - May 2023**

Greensboro, NC

- **CST 412** – Communication Internship course (face-to-face and online)

**Adjunct**

Phillips School of Business: High Point University

**Fall 2018 - Spring 2020**

High Point, NC

- **BUA 2990** – Business Communication (face-to-face and online; Speaking Intensive with 32 students per section; 2-4 sections)

**Adjunct**

Department of Communication Studies: University of North Carolina Greensboro

**Fall 2014 - Fall 2016**

Greensboro, NC

- **CST 105** – Introduction to Communication Studies (face-to-face, hybrid, and online); Speaking Intensive with 25 students per section
- **CST 341** – Workplace Communication (face-to-face and online); Speaking Intensive with 25 students per section

**Adjunct**

Department of Communication and Foreign Language, Guilford Technical Community College

**Fall 2014 - Spring 2017**

Jamestown, NC

- **COM 110** – Introduction to Communication (face-to-face, hybrid, and online); 25 students per section
- **COM 120** – Interpersonal Communication (face-to-face and online); 25 students per section
- **COM 231** – Public Speaking (face-to-face); 25 students per section

**ACADEMIC SERVICE**

- Spring 2022 Carolinas Communication Association Planning Committee Member
- Spring 2021 to present Carolinas Communication Association Journal Peer Reviewer
- Spring 2021 to present College of Arts and Sciences Connects Graduate Student Mentor
- Spring 2020 to present Communication Studies Department Academic Advisor
- Fall 2018 to present Communication Studies Department Internship Coordinator
- Fall 2018 to present College Conduct Team Member
- Fall 2018 to 2021 State Employees Combined Campaign Representative (Solicitor & Admin)
- Fall 2017 to Spring 2018 Communication Studies Department Internship Committee
- Fall 2015 to present Communication Studies Department Christmas Giving Committee

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

Colonna, S., Warfford, A., Wicker, C., & **Wright, A. N.** (2022, May). *Lightning round: Student engagement*. Presenter at ADAPT 2022: Teaching in Transformative Times, UNCG, Greensboro, NC.

**Wright, A.**, Cuny, K., & Salah, A. (2022, March). *Giving students a do-over: Speaking center as support for re-doing unsatisfactory presentations*. Panel Chaired and presented at National Association of Communication Centers: 21st Excellence at the Center Conference, UNCG, Greensboro, NC.

McCall, J., **Wright, A. N.**, Southard, J.M., & Williams, T.L. (2019, September). *Millennials, generation z, and beyond: Negotiating online education generation by generation*. Panel Presented at Sustainability: 2019 Annual Conference, Carolinas Communication Association, Hilton Head, SC.

Eriksen, J. E., Hollingsworth, S. E., & **Wright, A. N.** (2013). *Bride or bridezilla: Celebration or commodity*. Presented at Positive Communication Graduate Student Symposia, 2013, in Greenville North Carolina.

**Wright, A. N.**, Wood, K. E., Hollingsworth, S. E., Eriksen, J. E., Hosack, J. T., Sutton, C. & Olson, L. (2013). *Breast is not always best: A communicative analysis of the master narrative*. Presented at the Carolinas Communication Association (CCA) Conference 2013: Communication and Civility in Traditional and Technological Contexts in Charlotte, North Carolina.

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- 2023
  - Ph.D. GTA
- 2022
  - Association of College and University Educators (ACUE): Inspiring Inquiry and Lifelong Learning in Your Online Course
    - Motivating students online
    - Providing clear directions and explanations in an online course
    - Integrating visualization tools in an online course
    - Using data and feedback to improve online teaching
    - Using advances questioning in online courses
    - Developing self-directed online learners
  - ADAPT 2022: Teaching in Transformative Times
    - Student Engagement
    - Let's Talk about the Connection between Retention and Instruction
    - Adapting to Change: Supporting Student Learning Post-Pandemic
    - Inclusive Teaching
    - Creating Slide Presentations that are Accessible
    - Trauma Informed Teaching
    - Centering Values, Viewpoints and Voices in Teaching and Learning
    - Practicing Positive Teaching
    - Faculty Roundtable – Teaching in a Time of Change: Start, Stop, Keep
  - Using Panopto
  - Video Editing
  - Audio Editing
  - Inspiring Inquiry and Lifelong Learning in Online Courses (ACUE)
- 2021
  - Information Security Awareness
  - Subject Research Training Workshop
  - Gallup Strength Assessment and Teaching
  - Quality Matters (QM: Independent Applying the QM Rubric)
  - ADAPT Conference
    - Developing Social Presence in the online classroom
    - Delivering Engaging Presentations
    - Teamwork Makes the Dream Work: Groups in Online Classes
    - Retrieval Practice Instead of Assessment: A Learning Strategy
    - 10 tips for effective instructional videos
    - Advanced Multimedia Integration and Complex Animations in PowerPoint
    - Caring for Ourselves, Caring for Others: The Inclusion of Mental Health in the Classroom
    - Sharing Power with Your Students: Why Do It, How To Do It
    - Adding Icons to Module and Page Titles
- 2020
  - Preparing Students & Companies for Virtual Internships Webinar (May)
  - New General Education Course Design Incubator (May)
  - Designing Gamified Learning Environments (June)
  - Online Learning Level 2 (Advanced Teaching Online) (Oct)
  - QPR Suicide Prevention Training (Oct)
- 2019
  - Diversity.Edu
  - Transforming Online Pedagogy and Practice Symposium (TOPPS)
    - Neuro-Pedagogy and Dynamic Learning Environments
    - Digital Tools that Foster Engagement
    - High Touch Feedback and Transformative Learning

- Viewpoints of Inclusive Student Experiences
- 2018
  - Transforming Online Pedagogy and Practice Symposium (TOPPS)
    - Strategies to Avoid Cheating
    - Facilitating Online Discussions in Graduate Education – Best Practices/Designing Student-Driven Multimedia and Video Projects: Tools and Techniques
    - Leveraging Psychology to Create Compelling Learning Experiences: Attention and Memory
    - Leveraging Psychology to Create Compelling Learning Experiences II: Thinking and Motivation
    - Online Group Work
    - Make your Canvas course more visually appealing
    - Resources in Embedding Linking and more
  - Conduct Team Training
    - Hearing Procedures & Processes
    - Evidence Evaluation
    - Questioning
    - Hearing Deliberations/Sanctions
    - Conduct through Social Justice Lens
    - Understanding Sexual Misconduct and IPV
    - Trauma-informed response
- 2017
  - Chickering's Principles
  - Bloom's Taxonomy Review
  - Retention Training
  - Writing Effective Essential Questions
- 2015
  - Teaching Online – Intermediate to Advanced
- 2014 - Preparing Future Faculty Program
  - Models of Teaching/ Small & Large Classes
  - Using Assessment to Design Effective Courses & Syllabi
  - Conflict Management in the Classroom
  - Student Learning Outcomes
  - Learning Styles/Teaching a Diverse Student Body
  - Success and the Online Professor
  - Creative Technology Use in the Classroom

## **CORPORATE EMPLOYMENT**

### **Marketing Assistant**

**April 2010 - July 2012**

Guilford Technical Community College

Jamestown, NC

- Served as primary photographer for departmental projects;
- Designed graphic projects such as ads, tradeshow booths, brochures, posters, flyers, etc.;
- Edited graphics and photographs using Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator);
- Responsible for the set-up, organization, and maintenance of college photo gallery of over 10,000 images;
- Managed editorial calendar for college magazine and determined layout and design;
- Coordinated marketing efforts for Cline Observatory;
- Worked as communications specialist disseminating information via campus video monitors, electronic boards, HTML newsletters, and Institutional Advancement calendar for three campuses and two satellites;
- Wrote text for print media and website including press releases;
- Utilized Associated Press style for proofing and editing services for 11 staff members;
- Monitored local media resources daily and maintained records of media coverage;
- Organized and coordinated marketing activities including room assignment, audiovisual and other equipment and supplies, etc.;
- Maintained departmental records, i.e. travel, leave, media coverage etc. for 6 staff members;

- Served on a variety of committees including, diversity committee and student honors committee;
- Served as a student advocate – worked one-on-one with students to foster retention and success.

## Hospital Corpsman

United States Navy

July 1995 - July 2001

Multiple

### Locations

- EMS Training Coordinator (1999-2001)
  - Developed, coordinated, and implemented Education and Training programs for active duty staff;
  - Reviewed and evaluated courses for most effective methods, current trends and best practices;
  - Developed and implemented training exercises for EMT Bs and Ps: created plausible medical emergency scenarios, recruited personnel to act in created roles, trained participants in role simulation, oversaw scenarios, and assessed medical personnel actions for appropriate responses;
  - Identified and scheduled professional development needs of staff;
  - Created and utilized multiple presentation and training techniques to facilitate basic lifesaving skills, emergency vehicle operation, and emergency medical technician classes, as well as other medical and non-emergency related classes;
  - Updated and maintained training records.
- Staff Social Committee Representative (1997-2001)
  - Managed organization, coordination, and staffing of special events;
  - Created graphics for events;
  - Conducted event planning.
- Emergency Department Corpsman (1997-2000)
  - Served as EMT Paramedic in emergency clinic and on ambulance;
  - Monitored vital signs;
  - Assisted with minor surgeries;
  - Administered shots and IVs;
  - Sutured small wounds;
  - Splinted wounds;
  - Performed irrigation of wounds, eyes, ear lavages, etc.
- Medical Records Clerk (1996-1997)
  - Collected patient information;
  - Created new records;
  - Organized and maintained medical records;
  - Retrieved, delivered, and filed records;
  - Adhered to hospital, federal, state, local, and JCAHO requirements.

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- 2018 - Aug 2023 Plan meals, shop, cook, and serve 20-100 community members monthly or bi-monthly
- 2014 - 2020 RYTC Board Member
  - Organize workshops, costumes, and props for 50 – 75 cast members three times a year;
  - Communicate with students ages 8-18, parents, and the community;
  - Attend meetings, help make financial, scheduling, etc. decisions;
  - Edit advertising documents.
- 2009 - 2012 Boy Scouts of America
  - Assistant Scout Master
- 2011 - 2013 Girl Scouts of America