



Justiss Wilder Burry

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Academic Appointments

James Madison University

2025-Present

Assistant Professor, School of Writing, Rhetoric, and Technical Communication
Graduate Faculty

Tarleton State University

2023-2025

Assistant Professor of Professional Writing, Department of English and Languages
Graduate Faculty

University of South Florida

Graduate Teaching Associate, Department of English

2019-2023

Education

University of South Florida

Ph.D.: English - Rhetoric and Composition

May 2023

Specialization in Technical and Professional Writing

Dissertation: Of *Mētis* and Cuttlefish: Employing Collective *Mētis* as a Theoretical Framework for Marginalized Communities

Committee: Lisa Melonçon (Chair), J. Blake Scott (University of Central Florida), Ángel José Maldonado, Jeffrey A. Bennett (Vanderbilt University)

University of Central Florida

M.A.: Rhetoric and Composition

Aug. 2017

Department of Writing and Rhetoric

B.A.: Interdisciplinary Studies: Psychology, Humanities, English Literature

May 2014

Certifications

The Association of College and University Educators (ACUE)

May 2025

Effective Online Teaching Practices

Canvas Best Practices Badge

Jan. 2024

Tarleton State University

Professional Technical Communication Certificate

University of South Florida

May 2023

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Burphy, J. & Stone, M. (May 2025). Introduction to “Down Home, Down the Street”: Examining rural health in the Rhetoric of Health and Medicine. *Rhetoric of Health and Medicine*, 6(2), 115-126. <https://doi.org/10.5744/rhm.2025.2970>

Burphy, J., Gubala, C., Griffith, J., Zarlengo, T., & Melonçon, L. (Sept. 2024). Creating assignments that put programmatic inclusion into practice. In H. Falconer & L. McClary (Eds.). *Inclusive STEM: Transforming Disciplinary Writing Instruction for a Socially Just Future*. <https://doi.org/10.37514/ATD-B.2024.2364.2.08>

Burphy, J., & Melonçon, L. (July 2024). Rhetoric of health and medicine. In Matthew Powers (Ed.), *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Communication*. New York and Oxford: Oxford UP. <https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190228613.013.1442>

Sonnenberg, M., Gubala, C., **Burphy, J.**, Griffith, J., Zarlengo, T., & Melonçon, L. (Sept. 2022). Implementing a continuous improvement model for assignment evaluation at the TPC program level. *Journal of Technical Writing and Communication*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00472816221124605>

Research In Progress

Burphy, J. (Submitted Dec. 2025). Working against surveillance: Community literacy, queer counterpublics, and mandated disclosure. [*Community Literacy Journal*](#).

Burphy, J. (Submitted Dec. 2025). Rhetorics of cunning care: Mapping collective mētis in LGBTQ+ community health practices. [*Rhetoric of Health and Medicine*](#).

Burphy, J. & Martin, J. (In peer review). Witnessing hospice AIDS patients’ stories: Embodied ethical processes in RHM research. In Gouge, C., Councilor, K. C., & Scott, J. B. (Eds.) *Graphic Conversations: RHM Comics in/and Teaching, Research, and Engagement*. (Penn State University Press Graphic Medicine Series; Revisions requested Jan. 2026).

Awards and Grants

CAL Mini Grant: \$2,500 Rural Health Rhetorics in Practice James Madison University	2025-2026
Students’ Choice Teaching Excellence Award Tarleton State University	Spring 2025
Professional Development Fund: \$2,000 Tarleton State University, Travel Grant	2024-2025
Affordable Course Materials Grant: \$2,000 Tarleton State University, OER creation	2023-2024
Laura Bassi Scholarship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$500 grant for research that focuses on neglected topics of study 	April 2024

Students' Choice Teaching Excellence Award
Tarleton State University

Fall 2023

Outstanding Graduate Student (department wide)
University of South Florida

Aug. 2021-May 2022

Accepted Grant: Meacham Foundation, proxy for Pet Rescue by Judy

Fall 2014

- Secured \$3,000 for Spay and Neuter Clinic from the Meacham Foundation

Conference Presentations

Burphy, J. & Hinson, K. (2025, Oct. 23). *Navigating Programmatic TPC Sustainability in a Rural University Context: A Technical Problem* [Conference session]. Council for Programs in Scientific and Technical Communication Annual Conference, Lubbock, TX, United States.

Burphy, J. & Stone, M. (2025, Oct. 18). *Advancing Theory-building in RHM through a Rural Health Framework* [Conference session]. Rhetoric of Health and Medicine Symposium, Minneapolis, MN, United States.

Stone, M. & **Burphy, J.** (2025, April 12). *Remixing a Rural Health Framework for RHM Writing Courses* [Conference session]. Conference on College Composition & Communication, Baltimore, MD, United States.

Burphy, J. (2024, Nov. 20). *Engaging Community Ethics: A RHM Methodological Approach in Action* [Conference session]. Association for the Rhetoric of Science, Technology, and Medicine, New Orleans, LA, United States.

Burphy, J. (2024, May 28). *Employing Collective Mētis as a Theoretical Framework for Marginalized Communities* [Conference session]. Rhetoric Society of America, Denver, CO, United States.

Burphy, J. (2024, April 5). *Medical Rhetoric Roundtable: Writing Abundance in Rhetorics of Health and Medicine* [Conference session]. Conference on College Composition & Communication, Spokane, WA, United States.

Burphy, J. (2023, Oct. 14). *Theory building in RHM: Introducing Collective Mētis as a Theoretical Framework for Marginalized Communities* [Conference session]. Rhetoric of Health and Medicine Symposium, Minneapolis, MN, United States.

Melonçon, L., Zarlengo, T., & **Burphy, J.** (2023, Sept. 23). *Revision in the Service Course* [Conference session]. Council for Programs in Scientific and Technical Communication Annual Conference, Colorado Springs, CO, United States.

Burphy, J. (2021, May 26). *Medicalizing Minority Bodies: Introducing Collective Mētis to Enact Justice* [Conference session]. Rhetoric Society of America, Baltimore, MD, United States.

Burphy, J. (2021, March 10). *Medicalizing Minority Bodies: Introducing Collective Mētis to Enact Justice* [Conference session]. Conference on College Composition and Communication, Medical Rhetoric Standing Group Roundtable. Chicago, IL, United States.

Burphy, J. (2020, March 27). *A Mētis Analysis of Serostatuses and Normativism* [Panel presentation]. UM Dept of English Annual Graduate Student Conference: The Race for (Queer) Theory Conference, University of Miami, Florida, United States. Cancelled due to COVID-19.

Burphy, J. (2016, April 12). *Investigating the Impact of Dual Enrollment and Advanced Placement* [Conference action hub]. Conference on College Composition and Communication, Houston, Texas, United States.

Invited Presentations

Burry, J. (2024, Oct. 7). *How to select, apply, and get accepted into English graduate programs*. Tarleton State University, ENGL 3396: Professional Development for English Majors. Classroom presentation.

Burry, J. (2024, April 25). *Utilizing AI ethically in professional writing*. Tarleton State University, The Center for Educational Excellence. Zoom presentation.

Burry, J. (2024, Feb. 14). *How to get through graduate school and successfully enter the job market*. University of South Florida, ENGL 6009: Introduction to Graduate Studies. Zoom presentation.

Teaching Experience

James Madison University

Aug. 2025-current

Assistant Professor, School of Writing, Rhetoric & Technical Communication

- Rhetorical Reading and Writing (WRTC 103)
 - Examined and practiced rhetorical reading strategies
 - Analyzed student writing processes and rhetorical connections to literacy
 - Employed metaknowledge to encourage revision and writing strategies
- Foundations of Technical Communication (WRTC 350)
 - Practiced writing in various genres of professional and technical discourse like the memo, letter, technical reports, and proposals
 - Developed strategies for planning, researching, drafting, and revising documents
 - Applied strategies for successful online and face-to-face collaboration

Tarleton State University

Aug. 2023-Aug. 2025

Assistant Professor of Professional Writing, Department of English

- Composition I and II Honors (ENGL 1301 & 1302H)
 - Introduced concepts of rhetoric, discourse, and writing
 - Analyzed student writing processes and rhetorical connections to literacy
 - Employed metaknowledge to encourage revision and writing strategies
 - Designed semester-long research projects for intended academic disciplines
- Professional Writing (ENGL 3309; multiple sections)
 - Encouraged analysis of professional cultures, social contexts, purposes, and audiences
 - Implemented various principles of format, layout, and document design to meet multiple user/reader needs
 - Practiced writing in various genres of professional and technical discourse like the memo, letter, technical reports, and proposals
 - Developed strategies for planning, researching, drafting, and revising documents
 - Applied strategies for successful online and face-to-face collaboration
- Professional Writing & Design (ENGL 3312)
 - Use appropriate technologies for myriad audiences and applied purposes
 - Apply basic design principles for documents used in professional workplaces
 - Produce well-designed, usable, accessible, and inclusive deliverables
- Writing, Gender, and Sexuality (ENGL 3348)
 - Analyze intersections of gender, sexuality, race, and disability through critical theory
 - Apply feminist, queer, and disability studies frameworks to cultural and institutional critiques

- o Evaluate power structures and norms that regulate bodies and identities across historical and contemporary contexts
- Discourse Studies (ENGL 4311)
 - o Identified conventions of discourse – linguistic, visual, and technological – within a community
 - o Designed presentations that effectively communicated with stakeholders
 - o Produced deliverables in multiple media reflecting professional writing expectations
- Independent Study (ENGL 4086; multiple sections)
 - o Adapted workplace documents needed to apply for jobs post-graduation
 - o Planned and practiced communication within specific communities
 - o Practiced writing conventions of professional discourse that transfers to business writing contexts
- Grant and Proposal Writing (ENGL 5336)
 - o Teach students to identify and analyze diverse funding opportunities and agency guidelines
 - o Guide students in crafting persuasive, competitive grant proposals for real-world contexts
 - o Develop students' proficiency in professional writing, budget preparation, and project evaluation
 - o Facilitate collaborative revision processes and peer feedback to enhance proposal quality
- Executive Writing (ENGL 5327)
 - o Employed flexible, national, and global collaborative strategies for generating, revising, editing, proofreading, and circulating texts for a specific purpose
 - o Demonstrated an ability to write in multiple genres (using conventions and formats) appropriate to the situation
 - o Defined workplace communication challenges including oral, written, non-verbal feedback for employees and employers
 - o Composed and edited communications up, down, and across the organizational apparatuses

University of South Florida

Graduate Teaching Instructor, Department of English

Aug. 2019-May 2023

- Expository Writing (ENC 3310)
 - o Themed around rhetoric of health and medicine with a focus on discourse communities
 - o Introduced students to community-based work and praxis
 - o Encouraged exploration of communities and language
- Communication for Engineers (ENC 3246; multiple sections)
 - o Developed exercises to engage DEI initiatives
 - o Taught rhetorical principles in trade publications
 - o Demonstrated and encouraged applied research practices
- Professional and Technical Writing for Health Science Majors (ENC 2210; multiple sections)
 - o Taught rhetorical skills and strategies specific to the Health Science program
 - o Explored effective rhetorical discipline-specific workplace writing strategies
 - o Developed exercises to engage discipline-specific applied research
- Composition 2 (ENC 1102; multiple sections)
 - o Taught two sections aimed at helping students complete academic research
 - o Guided students toward learning outcomes throughout the course
 - o Facilitated semester-long projects around rhetoric and writing
- Composition 1 (ENC 1101; multiple sections)
 - o Taught two sections of ENC 1101 based on rhetoric and literacy studies
 - o Noted feedback based on student assignments



- Assessed student writing for programmatic improvement

University of Central Florida

Adjunct Instructor, Department of Writing & Rhetoric

Aug. 2017-July 2019

- Composition I (ENC 1101; multiple sections)
 - Introduced concepts of discourse and writing processes
 - Encouraged metacognitive-based writing practices
 - Explored issues of literacy and writing threshold concepts
- Composition II (ENC 1102; multiple sections)
 - Designed curriculum to meet both department course outcomes
 - Developed assignments and activities to promote student transfer
 - Taught additional courses outside of contract to aid in department need

Graduate Teaching Instructor, Department of Writing & Rhetoric

Aug. 2015-May 2017

- Composition I (ENC1101; multiple sections)
- Composition II (ENC1102; multiple sections)

Teaching Assistant, Department of Writing & Rhetoric

Aug. 2015

- Theory and Practice of Tutoring Writing (ENC 4275/5933)

Writing Center Experience

Graduate Student Writing Consultant

Aug. 2014-May 2015

- Mentored undergraduate and novice graduate tutors
- Conducted inquiry projects to help with writing center assessment and improvement
- researched strategies to benefit multilingual writers in the writing center

Mentor Writing Consultant

Aug. 2013-May 2014

- Trained new consultants
- Observed novice tutors in order to provide constructive feedback
- Developed resources for tutors of multilingual writers at the university

Writing Consultant

Aug. 2012-May 2013

- Attended tutoring course to learn theory and writing pedagogy
- Tutored UCF undergraduate and graduate students

Administrative Experience

Tarleton State University

PPW Program Co-Coordinator

Aug. 2023-Aug. 2025

- Worked with colleagues in the Professional and Public Writing (PPW) program to encourage professional writing courses. Assist with scheduling and sequencing courses for undergraduate major.

University of South Florida

PTC Program Assistant

Aug. 2022-May 2023

- The Professional and Technical Communication (PTC) Program Assistant assists the Director for the

undergraduate technical and professional degree program and the PTC writing program, which serves ~5,000 students a year in three different service courses

PTC Program Summer Development Team

2020, 2021, 2022

Curriculum Development

PTC Service Course Program

- Developed specific assignment scenarios as part of the service course curriculum; included one scenario that specifically addresses DEI issues in the workplace
- Updated and modified uniform assignments for Instructors and students

Undergraduate PTC major

- Developed initial materials for Marginalized Rhetorics (ENC3373) course
 - Researched and developed curricular goals based on departmental learning outcomes
 - Submitted course materials for institutional review for high quality online courses
 - Developed assignments based on previous course data available and student feedback

Programmatic Administration

- Assisted with planning and leading monthly professional development meetings, including discussion leading, scheduling, promoting, and organizing logistics
- Assisted with planning and hosting Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 orientation for all PTC instructors, including leading sessions and managing/responding to questions in the chat
- Created and maintained listserv of PTC instructors
- Managed instructor policy documents
- Updated PTC standardized online shells, modules, syllabus, and calendar
- Attended committee meetings and documented course scheduling procedures
- Answered emails and questions from instructors or referred to the PTC Director

Programmatic Evaluation and Research

- Participated in a data analysis project for program evaluation. This program evaluation project analyzed a random sample (n=240) of student papers and related instructional comments to review the efficacy of the assignment and ways to improve the assignment for student learning outcomes
- Analyzed efficiency of random sample (n=354) of student papers in order to improve curricular outcomes and student assignments
- Organized instructional comments to review the efficacy of an assignment for both student and instructor improvement
- Suggested ways to improve uniform assignments to help bolster student learning outcomes and departmental goals

University of Central Florida

FYC E-Portfolio Assessment Committee

May 2016

- Attended normalizing session to ensure consistency in student documents
- Assessed student end-of-semester e-portfolio that showcased their work throughout the semester that align with student learning outcomes



Service

James Madison University

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

Aug. 2025-current

Tarleton State University

Honors College Advisory Council
Invited Committee Member

Oct. 2024-May 2025

Gay-Straight Alliance at Tarleton
Co-advisor

Aug. 2023-May 2025

Admissions Disclosure Review Committee
Invited Committee Member

Aug. 2023-May 2025

Writing Intensive Assessment Committee
Committee Member

Aug. 2023-May 2025

University of South Florida

Professional and Technical Communication Committee
Committee Member

Aug. 2022-May 2023

Rhetoric Society of America – Graduate Student Chapter
Chair

Aug. 2023-May 2023

USF Writes Committee
Committee Member

Aug. 2022-May 2023

English Graduate Student Association
Vice President of Events

Aug. 2021-May 2023

Rhetoric Society of America – Graduate Student Chapter
Assistant Chair

Aug. 2021-Aug. 2022

FYC Mentor, Department of English: Rhet/Comp

Aug. 2020-Dec. 2020

- ENC1101
 - Assisted five new graduate students with their course planning and teaching strategies
 - Provided feedback based on curricular and student outcomes and supported mentees

University of Central Florida

Invited Participant: POD Network

Summer 2019

- Analyzed and evaluated current issues in higher education
- Collaborated with professionals in other academic disciplines nationally

Faculty Handbook Creation Committee

Jan. 2019

- Organized creation of values and practices necessary to departmental values
- Created outcomes and goals with a timeline to meet them per department guidelines
- Facilitated departmental goals and outcomes concurrent with university policy

Mentor, Department of English

Aug. 2018-May 2019

- Helped an undergraduate Humanities major to get to know the campus
- Answered questions about and around English fields
- Maintained an active relationship with a student in order to help them feel comfortable

Knight Writes Showcase Award Committee

Aug. 2018

- Assessed first year composition student writing for university wide showcase
- Developed assessment criteria based on Writing about Writing curriculum
- Revised rubric for award assessment

Participant: External Academic Performance Review (APR)

Jan. 2018

- Discussed current departmental issues with Drs. Weiser and Wetherbee-Phelps
- Identified areas of concern at departmental and collegiate levels with solutions

E-Portfolio Program Assessment Committee

Dec. 2015-Dec. 2016

- Scored first year composition portfolios on their engagement with course outcomes
- Developed assessment criteria contingent on course outcomes
- Revised rubric per assessment criteria

Rhetoric of Health & Medicine (national)

Vice President: RHM Society

May 2025-Aug. 2027

Inaugural national syndication

Communication Officer: Medical Rhetoric Standing Group
Conference on College Composition & Communication

Aug. 2023-May 2025

Graduate Student Committee: Medical Rhetoric Standing Group
Conference on College Composition & Communication

Aug. 2022-May 2023

Facilitator: Rhetoric of Health and Medicine Writing Group
Synchronous – Nationwide - Online

Summer 2022

Rhetoric of Health and Medicine Meet Up Group

May 2022

Rhetoric Society of America, Baltimore, MD

Rhetoric of Health and Medicine Symposium Committee

2021

- Created participant profiles online
- Managed website and edited online professional content
- Coordinated logistics with Conference Chair

Rhetoric of Health and Medicine Symposium Committee

2020

- Facilitated conversations around interest in field
- Published notes from sessions for members
- Managed chat and participant questions

Academic Achievements

University of South Florida

Research Assistant to Interim Chair, Department of English

Aug. 2020-May 2022

- Aggregated and implemented data from programmatic assessment and improvement
- Collected data from national TPC degree programs for book project
- Maintained schedule and endnote citations
- Assisted with research tasks by collecting data for professional and technical writing field

University of Central Florida

Research Assistant to Writing Center Director, Department Writing & Rhetoric

Spring 2015

- Coded research data that contributed to *Around the Texts of Writing Center Work: An Inquiry-Based Approach to Tutor Education*
- Led class discussion around topics such as multilingual writers, effective tutoring strategies, space-based tutoring practices, and research of writing center work

Memberships and Affiliations

- Association for the Rhetoric of Science, Technology, and Medicine
- Association of Teachers of Technical Writing
- Council for Programs in Technical and Scientific Communication
- Rhetoric Society of America
- Rhetoric of Health and Medicine
- Conference on College Composition and Communication
- National Council of Teachers of English

Community Service Work

Erath County LGBTQ+ Community Group

June 2024-May 2025

Stephenville High School Choir Scholarship Selection Committee

May 2024

Empath Partners in Health (EPIC), Tampa, Florida

June 2021-May 2023

- Volunteered and helped take care of patients and clients

Invited Member: Central Florida Regional Hospital, Sanford, FL

Aug. 2016

Designed recruitment materials for National Farm Worker Ministry
Fellsmere, Florida

Fall 2014

- Researched disenfranchised farm worker's needs and created flyers to recruit volunteers
- Implemented community garden for undocumented workers and families

Selected Volunteer: UCF Department of Psychology, Orlando, FL

May 2014

- Study: "The Effects of Masculinity Manipulation through Mainstream Media Advertisements"



Invited Panel Member: "Meeting of the Minds," Africana Studies, Orlando, FL

May 2012

Participant: Safe Sex Seminar
Valencia, College, Orlando, FL

Sept. 2011

Founder & President: Gay-Straight Alliance
Valencia, College, Orlando, FL

Aug. 2011