



Curriculum Vita September 2025

Instructor: Leon King, MS, COTA
Adjunct Faculty

Academic Department: Psychology and Special Education

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EDUCATION

Ed.D., Major in Higher Education, East Texas A&M University, Commerce TX, (Expected 2028)

Graduate Certificate, East Texas A&M University, Commerce, TX, 2025 Higher Education Student Affairs

Graduate Certificate, East Texas A&M University, Commerce, TX 2025 Higher Education Teaching

M.S., Major in Higher Education, East Texas A&M University, Commerce, TX, 2023
Concentration: Teaching Emphasis in Biology and Psychology

Graduate Certificate, East Texas A&M University, Commerce, TX, 2023 Psychology of Gerontology and Positive Aging

B.S., Major in Health Studies, Texas Woman's University, Denton TX, 2015 Concentration: Health Education

A.A.S., in Applied Science, Weatherford College, Weatherford TX, 2013 Concentration: Occupational Therapy Assistant

A.A., in Associate of Art, Dallas College, Dallas, TX, 2011 Concentration: Liberal Arts

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Weatherford College, Weatherford, TX (1 year) 2024 - Present
Adjunct Professor of Biology 2024-Present
As an adjunct instructor in biological and environmental sciences, my aim and focuses are to ensure high quality post-secondary education to a wide range and diverse population of students from first generation college students, returning students and non-traditional students who are primarily aiming for admission into the allied health science professional programs offered at Weatherford College and neighboring colleges and universities. Most courses are taught online using the college's learning management system (LSM). Office hours and additional supplemental instruction are provided through Zoom and other real-time streaming platforms.

East Texas A&M University, Commerce, TX (2 years) 2023 - Present
Adjunct Professor of Psychology
As adjunct instructor in psychology at currently ranked 58th highest universities in social mobility in student access and affordability for disadvantaged postsecondary students in the United States according to US News & World Reports, my aim and focus is to ensure high quality post-secondary education to a wide student population. The student population includes both traditional and non-traditional students as well as first generation college students. Many students within the department of psychology and special education that I instruct aspire to apply to both master and doctoral programs upon degree competition.

Dallas College, Dallas, TX (3 years) 2017 – 2020
Adjunct Professor in Occupational Therapy Assistant Program
Assisted in the facilitation of the learning process of psychology through the implementation, development, and creation of a supplemental learning plan to meet the needs of college freshmen enrolled in a general psychology course. Met with students both one on one and through group sessions to review content covered in course lectures, help students organize/develop note taking skills, improve test taking skills and improve reading comprehension skills. Additional responsibilities included developing supplemental study materials for students and providing additional handouts to assist with general college study skills/preparation as needed by students or assigned by instructor of assigned course.

Courses Previously Taught

- BIOL 1408 – General Biology for Non-Science Majors I
- BIOL 1409 – General Biology for Non-Science Majors II
- BIOL 2401 – Human Anatomy & Physiology I
- BIOL 2402 – Human Anatomy & Physiology II
- PSY 301 – Understanding Statistics
- PSY 302 – Statistics/Research Design I
- PSY 305 – Statistics/Research Design II
- PSY 315 – Child and Adolescent Psychology
- PSY 322 – Lifespan Development

- PSY 339 – Forensic Psychology
- PSY 341 – Learning Theories and Processes
- PSY 403 – Development of Modern Psychology
- PSY 404 – Industrial/Organizational Psychology
- PSY 443 – Psychology of Death & Dying
- OTHA 1163 – Clinical Occupational Therapy Assistant
- OTHA 1253 – Occupational Performance in Elders
- OTHA 1315 – Therapeutic Use of Occupations and Activities I
- OTHA 1319 – Therapeutic Interventions I
- OTHA 1349 – Occupational Performance in Adulthood
- OTHA 2302 – Therapeutic Use of Occupations and Activities II
- OTHA 2305 – Therapeutic Interventions II
- OTHA 2331 – Physical Function in Occupational Therapy

Clinical Work Experience

Pure Health, Dallas TX (4 years, 5 months) 2021 – Present

Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant

As an occupational therapy assistant on a transitional care unit with an average length of stay of two to four weeks, my duties include, but are not limited to: data collection, treatment intervention planning and execution, participation in patient/family care conferences and implementation of patient/family education. Data collection responsibilities consist of collecting data from the client's previous hospital records, occupational profile, and physician orders. Intervention planning and execution includes the use of therapeutic exercise, activities of daily living and therapeutic activities incorporating instrumental activities of daily living/community integration. For patient/family care conferences, responsibilities include collaborating with the interdisciplinary team about the patient's progress, therapy goals, anticipated discharge needs including adaptive equipment, and conveying pertinent information to the patient as well as their family members. Finally, prior to discharge, responsibilities include establishing a home exercise program, establishing time for patient/family training session and carrying out effective training sessions.

Post-Acute Medical, Richardson, TX (5 years) 2020 – Present

Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant

Acute rehab setting for patients with a wide range of medical conditions including stroke, brain injury, total joint replacements, and other long-term medical conditions. Mostly covering weekend and holiday shifts, my personal aim is to provide continuity of care to further progress patients towards their goal of reaching modified independence with all ADLs and IADLs. The average length of stay ranged between two to three weeks, with patients receiving three hours of therapy services per day, six days a week.

Vibra Hospital of Richardson, Richardson, TX (10 years) 2015 - 2025

Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant

The focus of care and treatment is aimed at patients who are currently experiencing a wide range of medically complex conditions including but not limited to, advanced COPD, recovering COVID-19, wounds, chronic infection, and stroke. The average length of a stay is approximately

one to two months. Working with one supervising therapist, my focus of care includes developing individualized treatment plans that include performance of ADLs, general strengthening, education on energy conservation and cardiopulmonary efficiency techniques.

El Dorado Senior Living, Richardson TX (6 months)

2021-2021

Director of Rehabilitation/Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant

As director of rehabilitation in an independent living facility my role was to direct and lead a team of physical, occupational and speech therapists as well as run and maintain clinic operations. Additional duties include organizing and leading exercise groups; health literacy talks and social activities within the senior living community. Further administrative responsibilities include promoting therapy services through pre-screening clients for therapy service needs, filing insurance information on behalf of the clients served by Legacy Healthcare Services, assisting clients locate and navigate through financial assistance programs, ensure communication with physicians' offices including referrals/updates to plans of care and ensuring that all therapy supervised visits and additional paperwork was completed on time and filed with the correct agency or agencies. Clinically, my role as an occupational therapy assistant includes implementation of a wide variety of therapy interventions based on the plan of care set by the supervising occupational therapist including activities of daily living, exercises, and physical agent modalities.

Academic Volunteer Positions

Parker University, Dallas, TX (8 years)

2016-2024

Advisory Board Member for the School of Occupational Therapy Assistant

Participating on a board of other occupational therapy practitioners not affiliated with the University, faculty members and current students, focus is on enriching the education of future occupational therapy assistant students. Special emphasis is on ensuring that proper accreditation standards, set by the American Council of Occupational Therapy Education, are met. Additional supportive services are provided through informal and formal learning opportunities, in both lecture formats and one-on-one conversations, current students as well as serving as a clinical instructor for the fieldwork portion of the occupational therapy assistant program.

Parker University, Dallas, TX (8 years)

2016-2024

Fieldwork Educator

As a fieldwork educator, I provide students with learning opportunities in the real-world on-site clinic working with patients/clients under my supervision. Students initially observe my assessment and treatment of patients/clients, following a structured scaffolding process and under my direct supervision, students begin to assess and treat clients. Upon successful completion of fieldwork experience, students will take on close to, or a full case load of patients/clients under their supervision and will function in the role of an occupational therapy assistant. Students are also expected to document and bill for services provided during treatment sessions as allowed under Medicare/Medicaid guidelines as well as other third-party payer sources guidelines.

Clinical Volunteer Positions

AccentCare Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital, Dallas, TX (2 years)
Volunteer

2023 – 2025

As a volunteer in the inpatient hospice care facility, my aim is to assist nursing staff, chaplains, music therapists, social workers and other volunteers ensure the comfort and care of patients and their families from time of admission to time of discharge. More specific duties include, but are not limited to, providing companionship to patients and their families, assisting in legacy projects, assisting in military pinning ceremonies, providing/locating information requested by patients and their family members and other duties as assigned by the volunteer coordinator.

Scottish Rite Hospital, Dallas, TX (13 years)
Child Life/Clinics/Evenings

2007-2020

In collaboration with a team of approximately 100 other evening volunteers, our core responsibilities are to emphasize patient centered care using craft activities and games to allow patients and families to engage in opportunities outside of direct patient care with professional staff. Additional duties include developing and supporting special community-based programs to further support the awareness of hospital services and fundraising.

Professional Licensures/Certifications

Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners – Occupational Therapy Assistant (current through 2026)

National Board Certification of Occupational Therapy - Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (current through 2026)

Areas of Research in Graduate School and Research Interests

- Mental health on college campuses specifically among pre allied health science students and allied health students compared to the general college student population at both the undergraduate and graduate levels as well as on community college and university campuses. Additionally, focus of research is also aimed at addressing meaningful and appropriate intervention strategies to alleviate major psychological disorders among both pre allied health and allied health students to increase retention and reduce college stop out and dropout rates within the allied health science curriculums.
- Anthrozoology with specific focus on the relationship between the human-animal bond and how the biopsychosocial model interacts with the cognitive and physiological healing processes among a wide variety of physical impairments including, age-related cognitive decline, increased performance in exercise/physical activity to combat obesity, improve symptoms of autism spectrum disorder, manage/treat serious mental disorders, improve well-being and promotion of health along the lifespan and developmental milestones.
- Comparative animal anatomy and physiology specifically focus on analyzing and synthesizing the similarities and differences between the composition, structural

formation, performance, and pathophysiological changes among invertebrates and vertebrates at the cellular, histological, organ, organ system, and organismal levels.

- Photography with emphasis on the use of photographs to improve memory retrieval among older adults with cognitive impairments including normative aging processes as well as non-normative aging pathophysiological changes in memory/cognitive impairment such as, Alzheimer's Disease, Parkinson's Disease, Huntington's Disease and Multiple Sclerosis. Additional research efforts in photography include the use of phototherapy for the treatment of grief and reminiscing among survivors and individuals diagnoses and being treated for terminal illnesses as part of legacy work in palliative and hospice care.
- Sleep and dreams with special focus on the biological and psychological factors that affect sleep patterns in humans and other animals in both REM and non-REM sleep at the neurological and psychological levels.
- Obesity with a specific focus on the biological and physiological aspect of what causes obesity from an endocrinological standpoint, which medications help treat obesity, which surgical options are most effective, but also what drives hunger, food addiction, and psychosocial factors that promote obese patients to improve their health and which environmental factors serve as deterrents to change in healthy behaviors among patients fighting obesity.

Academic Awards and Accomplishments

- Phi Theta Kappa – Weatherford College
- Dean's List – Texas Woman's University
- Epsilon Omega Epsilon – Texas Woman's University
- Omicron Delta Kappa – Texas A&M University Commerce