

ALEXIS M. DENHAM

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Updated 11/2025

EDUCATION

PURDUE UNIVERSITY

MA, Health & Interpersonal Communication

West Lafayette, IN

Exp. May 2026

Thesis: *Navigating Stigma and Support: Applying the Disclosure Processes Model to Abortion Experiences*

Prospectus Defense: 11/7/2025

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Gabrielle Byrd

Thesis Committee: Dr. Emily Buehler, Dr. Chantel Haughton

PURDUE UNIVERSITY

West Lafayette, IN

BA, General Communication

May 2024

Minors: Sociology & Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies

Study Abroad: Stockholm, Sweden – May 2023

ACADEMIC AWARDS, GRANTS AND HONORS

PURDUE UNIVERSITY

West Lafayette, IN

PROMISE Research Grant, College of Liberal Arts; *Grant – \$1,000* (2025) [Co-Awarded with Sawyer, H.]

PROMISE Travel Grant, College of Liberal Arts; *Grant – \$974* (2025)

Bruce Kendall Award for Excellence; *Honor* (2024)

Laura G. & George P. McDowell and Charles Ray Gilliam Memorial Scholarship; *Award – \$2,000.00* (2023)

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Denham, A. (In press). Holding space: The labor of being the “safe” instructor. *Feminist Pedagogy*.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Denham, A. & Sawyer, H. (Forthcoming). Framing resistance: Intersectional identity and activism. [Submitted to NCA 2025]

Haughton, C., **Denham, A.**, Eggerman, C., & Sawyer, H. (Forthcoming). Coping through chaos: Exploring families’ identity negotiation amid the pandemic, protests, and political unrest. [Submitted to ICA 2026]

COMPETITIVELY SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Denham, A. & Sawyer, H. (2025). *Framing resistance: Intersectional identity and activism in the Trump era*. Extended abstract submitted to the National Communication Association (Activism & Social Justice Division). [November 2025]

Denham, A. (2025). *Holding space: The labor of being the “safe” instructor*. Critical commentary submitted to the Organization for the Study of Communication, Language, and Gender (Feminist Pedagogy). [October 2025]

Denham, A. (2024). *Identity disclosure of sex workers: Understanding how stigma impacts disclosure*. Proposal submitted to the D.C. Health Communication Conference (DCHC), Washington, D.C. [May 2025]

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

PURDUE UNIVERSITY

West Lafayette, IN

Instructor of Record, Brian Lamb School of Communication: Approaches to the Study of Interpersonal Communication [COM 212] – Spring 2026
Lectures, emphasis on *Interpersonal Theory, Human Communication, Oral Communication*

Instructor of Record, Brian Lamb School of Communication: Science Writing and Presentations [COM 217] – Spring 2025, Summer 2025, Fall 2025
Lectures, emphasis on *Science Communication, Audience Analysis, Research, Presentational Speaking*

Instructor of Record, Brian Lamb School of Communication: Intercultural Communication [COM 303] – Fall 2025
Lectures, emphasis on *Culture, Identity, Cultural Competence, Theory, Communication Styles*

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Brian Lamb School of Communication: Principles of Persuasion [COM 318] – Spring 2025
Tutoring, emphasis on *Persuasion, Influence, Message Design, Compliance, Audience Analysis, Ethics*

Instructor of Record, Brian Lamb School of Communication: Fundamentals of Speech Communication [COM 114] – Fall 2024
Lectures, emphasis on *Public Speaking, Audience, Persuasion, Delivery, Organization*

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Sociology: Health and Social Behavior [SOC 461] – Spring 2024
Tutoring, emphasis on *Health, Inequality, Social Behavior, Social Determinants, Stress, Policy*

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Sociology: Introduction to Sociology [SOC 100] – Fall 2023
Tutoring, emphasis on *Society, Culture, Socialization, Institutions, Change*

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Introduction to Graduate Writing Workshop Fall 2025

Completed a four-part workshop design to strengthen scholarly writing skills for graduate-level work. Topics included strategies for getting started, drafting, revising/editing, and project planning, with emphasis on preparing articles, grants, conference papers, and theses/dissertations.

Certificate in Foundations of College Teaching Spring 2025

A cohort-based, asynchronous program covering key topics in college teaching, including student learning assessment, learner-centered environments, and evidence-based teaching. Engaged in discussions and reflections on teaching practices while building a community with fellow educators.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

PURDUE UNIVERSITY

West Lafayette, IN

Presentation Consultant,

August 2024 – December 2024

Brian Lamb School of Communication

January 2026 – May 2026

Assisted students within the Purdue Presentation Center in developing clear, effective presentations through individualized coaching and workshops. Provided feedback on content, delivery, and visual design to enhance communication skills.

TEACHING INTERESTS

Presentational and Public Speaking, Interpersonal Communication, Intercultural Communication, Stigma & Identities, Culture, and Gender

TECHNICAL SKILLS

NVivo, SPSS, Canva, Microsoft Suite

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

PROFESSIONAL

Submission Reviewer, *Feminist Pedagogy* Spring 2026

Grant Reviewer, *Purdue University Graduate Student Government* Fall 2025 – Present

Submission Reviewer, *National Communication Association* Spring 2025

PERSONAL

Merchandise Director, *League of Women Voters of Greater Lafayette, IN* 2024 – Present

Strategy Steering Committee, *League of Women Voters of Indiana* 2024 – 2025

Membership Director, *League of Women Voters of Greater Lafayette, IN* 2023 – 2024

MEMBERSHIPS

National Communication Association 2024 – Present
Organization for the Study of Communication, 2025 – Present
Language, and Gender

REFERENCES

Dr. Gabrielle Byrd (Advisor) gabyrd@purdue.edu
Assistant Professor, Purdue University
Brian Lamb School of Communication

Dr. Stacey Connaughton sconnaug@purdue.edu
Professor, Purdue University
Brian Lamb School of Communication
Director, Purdue Policy Research Institute
Director, Purdue Peace Project

Dr. Ralph Webb rwebb@purdue.edu
Professor Emeritus, Purdue University
Brian Lamb School of Communication

Dr. Emily Buehler embuehle@purdue.edu
Assistant Professor, Purdue University
Brian Lamb School of Communication