

CURRICULUM VITAE

DESIREE L. STEPHENS, PhD, LPC-S, NCC, TLHT LMHC, Certified-CCPT

Curriculum Vita Updated: October 2025

EDUCATION

PhD in Counseling, Texas AM University – Commerce, August 2020. CACREP Accredited.

Dissertation: *Factors that Predict Multicultural Teaching Competency Among Counselor Educators*

Chair: Dr. Sam Bore

MS in Community Counseling, Texas A&M University – Commerce, December 2015. CACREP Accredited.

BA in Psychology, Texas A&M University – Commerce, August 2013.

PROFESSIONAL LICENSE AND CERTIFICATIONS

Licensed Professional Counselor-Supervisor (LPC-S), State of Texas, License No. 76520

National Certified Counselor (NCC), License No. 813839

TLHT Licensed Mental Health Counselor (LMHC), State of Florida, License No. 1894

Certified Child-Centered Play Therapist, Certification No. A-1076

Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), State of Colorado, License No. 0021962

COUNSELING AND SUPERVISION RELATED EXPERIENCE

Owner, Lead Therapist, & LPC-S, The Desired Journey, 2018 – Present.

Licensed Professional Counselor, New Perspective Counseling Services, 2018 – 2023.

Adult, Adolescent, and Child Counseling, Hope's Door New Beginning Center, 2016 - 2018.

Director of Residential Services, Hope's Door, 2016 - 2016.

Shelter Case Manager, Hope's Door, 2015 - 2016.

Crisis Advocate, Hope's Door, 2014 - 2015.

Graduate Counseling Intern, Hope's Door, 2014 - 2015.

Lead Therapist, ABA of North Texas, 2013 - 2014.

COUNSELOR EDUCATOR RELATED EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor, Dallas Baptist University, Fall 2025-Current.

- Intro/Professional Counseling, Masters level, Fall 2025
- Intro/Professional Counseling, Masters level, Fall 2025
- Ethics in Professional Counseling, Masters level, Fall 2025
- Internship I, Masters level, Fall 2025

Contributing Faculty, Walden University, Summer 2025

- Career Development, Masters level, Summer 2025
- Multicultural Counseling, Masters level, Summer 2025

Adjunct Professor, East Texas A&M University, Fall 2024-Summer 2025

- Intro to Play Therapy, Masters level, Summer 2025
- Practicum, Masters level, Spring 2025
- Internship, Masters level, Spring 2025
- Career Development, Masters level, Fall 2024
- Developmental Issues and Strategies, Masters level, Fall 2024

Ad-Interim Assistant Professor, Texas A&M University – Commerce, Spring 2023-Summer 2024.

- Family Crisis and Resources, Masters level, Summer 2024
- Intro to Play Therapy, Masters level, Spring 2024
- Assessment in Counseling, Masters level, Spring 2024
- Internship, Doctoral level, Spring 2024
- Counseling Children and Adolescents, Masters level, Spring 2024
- Counseling Diverse Populations, Masters level, Winter-Mini 2023
- Advance Practicum, Doctoral level, Fall 2023
- Internship, Doctoral level, Fall 2023
- Assessment in Counseling, Masters level, Fall 2023
- Intro to Play Therapy, Masters level, Fall 2023
- Internship, Masters level, Summer 2023
- Advanced Practicum, Masters level, Summer 2023
- Developmental Issues and Strategies, Masters level, Summer 2023
- Diagnosis and Treatment Planning, Masters level, Summer II 2023
- Intro to Counseling Profession, Masters level, Spring 2023
- Assessment in Counseling, Masters level, Spring 2023
- Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Masters level, Spring 2023
- Psychopharmacology, Masters level, Spring 2023
- Family Crisis and Resources, Masters level, Spring 2023

Adjunct Professor, Texas A&M University – Commerce, Fall 2022

- Intro to Play Therapy, Masters level, Fall 2022
- Assessment in Counseling, Masters level, Fall 2022

Graduate Assistant Teacher, Texas A&M University – Commerce, Fall 2019 – Spring 2020.

- Career Development, Bachelors level, Spring 2020
- Home and Family Living, Bachelors level, Spring 2020
- Orientation to Counseling Profession, Bachelors level, Fall 2019
- Introduction to Counseling Theory, Bachelors level, Fall 2019

Courses Co-Taught as a Doctoral Student

- Counseling Diverse Populations, Masters level, Summer II 2019
- Counseling Diverse Populations, Masters level, Summer I 2019
- Counseling Diverse Populations, Masters level, Summer 2018

Doctoral Student Supervisor, Texas A&M University – Commerce, Spring 2018.
Provided individual and triadic supervision to masters students.

RESEARCH RELATED EXPERIENCE

Applied Cognition Lab Coordinator, Collin Higher Education Center, Applied Cognition Laboratory, 2013 - 2014.

Graduate Research Assistant, Texas A&M University – Commerce, Applied Cognition Laboratory, 2013 - 2014.

Undergraduate Research Assistant, Texas A&M University – Commerce, Applied Cognition Laboratory, 2012 – 2013.

DEPARTMENT AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Member, Financial Aid Committee, Dallas Baptist University, Fall 2025 - Current.

Member, CACREP Committee, Department of Counseling, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Fall 2023 – Summer 2025.

Member, Masters Committee, Department of Counseling, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Fall 2023 – Summer 2025.

Member, Doctoral Committee, Department of Counseling, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Fall 2023 – Summer 2025.

Member, Web/Marketing/Alum, Department of Counseling, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Fall 2023 – Summer 2025.

Member, Scholarship Committee, Department of Counseling, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Fall 2023 – Summer 2025.

Advisor, Masters and Doctoral students, Department of Counseling, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Spring 2022 – Summer 2025.

Member, CACREP Committee, Department of Counseling, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Fall 2019 – Spring 2020.

STUDENT DISSERTATIONS

STUDENT	TITLE	ASSOCIATION	PROGRESS
Tana Yager	Experiences of LGBTQIA+ Adults in Rural Texas Accessing Affirming Mental Health Services	Committee Member	Defended
Elizabeth “Betsy” Jones	The Experiences of Licensed Professional Counselors Working with Military Sexual Trauma	Committee Member	Defended
Michelle Blake	What is the Lived Experience of Law Enforcement First Responders During a Pandemic and How Has Their View on Safety Changed?	Committee Member	Working on Defense

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND ADVOCACY IN COUNSELING

Member, Chi Sigma Iota
 Member, Association for Counselor Education and Supervision
 Member, Southern Association for Counselor Education and Supervision
 Reviewer, 2025 SACES Awards
 Member, The Texas Counseling Association
 Member, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society
 Member, The National Society of Leadership and Success

HONORS AND AWARDS

DFW Child, Mom Approved, 2025
Living Magazine, Best of McKinney and Allen for Counseling Services, The Desired Journey, Readers’ Choice, 2024

DFW Child, Mom Approved, 2024

Honorable Mention, ACA Graduate Student Ethics Competition, 2019.

National Engaged Leader Award, The National Society of Leadership and Success, 2013.

PRESENTATIONS

- Stephens, D.** Arriola, Crystal. (November, 2023). Understanding How Substance Use Impacts the Family System, TDLR Presentation, Texas.
- Khosravi, S., **Stephens, D.** (March, 2021) Game on! Ethical Ways to Make Counseling Appealing to “Gamers”, Law and Ethics in Counseling Conference, New Orleans, LA.
- Khosravi, S., Kaszynski, E., **Stephens, D.** (March, 2021) Supervising Counselors in Training to Ethically Terminate with Clients, Law and Ethics in Counseling Conference, New Orleans, LA.
- Stephens, D.** (November, 2020) Addressing and Prompting Multicultural Awareness, Knowledge, and Skills in Counselor Education, Proposed to TCA Conference, Dallas.
- Khosravi, S., Kaszynski, E., **Stephens, D.** (November, 2020) Supervising Counselors in Training to Ethically terminate with Clients, Proposed to TCA Conference, Dallas.
- Khosravi, S., Kaszynski, E., **Stephens, D.** (October, 2020) Supervising Counselors in Training to Ethically terminate with Clients, Proposed to SACES Conference, Maryland
- Khosravi, S., **Stephens, D.**, Pounce, E., Kaszynski, E. (November 15, 2018). Ways to Talk and Treat Trauma in Children. Texas Counseling Association Professional Growth Conference, Dallas, TX.

PUBLICATIONS

- Stephens, D., Hendricks, L., & Bore, S.** (2025, June). *Multicultural competency in counselor education: How training and experience matter. Journal of Wisdom Within Quarterly*, 2(1).

WORKSHOPS & TRAININGS FACILITATED

- Stephens, D. (2025, July). *Child-centered play therapy experience* [Professional training workshop]. The Desired Journey (private practice); offered to graduate students, East Texas A&M University, McKinney, TX.

*Voluntary supplemental training offered outside required coursework; emphasized experiential skill-building in child-centered play therapy.**