

# Tina Cafasso, EdD

## EDUCATION

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### **Ed.D. in Leadership and Administration (Dec. 2022)**

Point Park University, Pittsburgh, PA

**Dissertation:** A Convergent Mixed Methods Pragmatic Study Exploring the Readiness of First-Year Students in First-Year Composition Courses

### **M.A. in Adult Learning and Training (May 2019)**

Point Park University, Pittsburgh, PA

Academic Excellence Award

### **B.A. in Secondary Education (May 2003)**

Point Park University, Pittsburgh, PA

Dean's List

Project Teach Scholarship Recipient

### **B.S. in Communications (May 1998)**

Clarion University, Clarion, PA

Sports Reporter and General Assignment Reporter for the University television station and newspaper

Awarded an internship at WPXI-TV, Pittsburgh, PA

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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August 2023 - July 2024

#### **Adjunct Special Faculty**

English Department, *Carnegie Mellon University*

August 2022 –September 2025

#### **Adjunct Assistant Professor**

School of Education Master's Programs, *Point Park University*

August 2022 - December 2022

#### **Adjunct Assistant Professor**

Literature, Culture, and Society Department, *Point Park University*

August 2021 - present

#### **Adjunct Instructor/Visiting Lecturer**

English Department, *University of Pittsburgh*

June 2020 - December 2022

#### **Graduate Assistant**

School of Education Doctoral Program, *Point Park University*

August 2019 - December 2021

#### **Adjunct English Instructor**

English Department, *Butler County Community College*

January 2019 - June 2019

#### **Graduate Assistant**

Honors Department, *Point Park University*

August 2017 - December 2017

#### **Adjunct English Instructor, Bradford School**

## TEACHING

### **Carnegie Mellon University**

#### ***Undergraduate Course***

#### **76-101 – Interpretation and Argument**

An inquiry-driven writing course for first-year students focused on Becoming and Unbecoming Ourselves Online. Assignments include a Comparative Genre Analysis, a Proposal Essay, and a Contribution Essay.

## Point Park University

### *Graduate Courses*

#### **EDUC604 – Practicum in K-12 Schools in Learning, Design, and Technology**

The final course in the fully online M.Ed. in Learning, Design and Technology asynchronous program. Students engage in discussion boards, online activities aligned to K-12 Pennsylvania Department of Education standards, 60 hours of fieldwork, and an online portfolio focused on instructional technology concepts learned.

#### **EDUC603 – Field Work in K-12 Schools in Learning, Design, and Technology**

Practicum to assist graduate students in gaining experience teaching in an online K-12 environment. Assignments in this course include discussion boards, online activities aligned to K-12 Pennsylvania Department of Education standards, 60 hours of fieldwork, and an online portfolio focused on online teaching experiences.

#### **EDUC539 – Research in Learning, Design and Technology**

Part of the fully online M.Ed. in Learning, Design, and Technology asynchronous program. This graduate course requires students to conduct in-depth research regarding online learning, instructional design, and instructional technology administration and management. Students engage in discussions, collaborative learning activities, and the creation of research projects related to online learning strategies.

### *Undergraduate Courses*

#### **ENGL101 – College Composition**

This undergraduate course exposes students to the best theories regarding argumentative writing, researching, and analyzing. Students sharpen their writing and close-reading skills through collaborative and independent assignments.

#### **ENGL147 – Writing Studio**

This undergraduate course provides supplemental support for first-year writing students.

## University of Pittsburgh

### *Undergraduate Courses*

#### **ENGCOMP 0200 - Seminar in Composition**

An undergraduate seminar course focused on improving students' writing skills and close-reading skills. Students collaborate and learn through various activities, including discussion, in-class writing, and peer reviews.

#### **ENGCOMP 0210 - Seminar in Composition – Engineering**

An undergraduate seminar course in which students hone writing skills through various assignments focused on engineering ethics, disciplines, and practices used in the industry—member of the in-class teaching team since August 2023.

#### **ENGCOMP 0400 – Written Professional Communication**

As part of the Public and Professional Writing Certificate Program, students create a range of documents commonly found in various workplaces while also learning effective ways to communicate professionally.

#### **ENGCOMP 0412 – Engineering Communication in a Professional Context**

Students use writing and formatting skills learned in Seminar in Composition – Engineering to collaborate in groups to create a research paper, poster, and proposal featured at the First Year Engineering Conference. Member of the in-class teaching team since August 2023.

#### **ENGCOMP 1112 – Professional Uses of Social Media**

Part of the Public and Professional Writing Certificate Program. Summer 2025 – collaborated with the College of General Studies to create an online/synchronous section of this course. Weekly assignments and discussions are scaffolded to completion of the final project, a social media campaign.

## **Butler County Community College**

### *Undergraduate Courses*

#### **ENGL031- Reading, Writing, Reasoning**

This course focuses on providing students with additional tools used to increase close reading and academic writing skills. Scaffolding is used to engage students in activities and learning assessments.

#### **ENGL101 - College Writing**

This course introduces students to the writing and revision process of multi-paragraph essays. Students learn MLA and APA formatting, as well as methods for stronger academic writing.

#### **ENGL102 - Research Writing**

Students increase their writing and research skills through a variety of essays while strengthening persuasion, evaluation, and formatting skills.

#### **ENGL110 - Technical Writing I**

This course provides students with opportunities to strengthen oral and written communication skills used in the workplace. Students create a variety of letters, memos, job application materials, and oral presentations while also learning the uses of electronic and visual communication.

## **Bradford School**

### *Undergraduate Courses*

#### **EN101 – Business Communications I**

This course provided students with the tools needed to execute college-level writing assignments. Focus was placed on conducting academic research and writing various essays.

#### **EN114 – Written Business Communication**

Students were introduced to several types of written correspondence used in the workplace. Emphasis was placed on letter writing, memos, resumés, cover letters, grant writing, and oral presentations.

## **UNIVERSITY GRADUATE ASSISTANT EXPERIENCE**

### **Point Park University, School of Education, Ed. D program**

- Collaborated with the director of master's programs to write new curriculum and course objectives for all courses in the fully online M.Ed. in Learning, Design and Technology program.
- Interviewed graduates and authored stories featured on the Point Park School of Education webpage.
- Assisted with instruction of EDUC-712 Cultivating Ethical Diversity and EDUC-713 Organizational Development

### **Point Park University, Honors Department**

- Collaborated with Honors Students to create compelling written assignments and oral presentations.
- Created, organized, and managed various fundraising events, meetings, and Honors student activities.

## **UNIVERSITY WRITING CONSULTANT EXPERIENCE**

### **University of Pittsburgh, Writing Center**

- Completed 77 in-person tutoring sessions, working 5 hours a week during the 2024-2025 academic year
- Collaborated with fellow consultants to implement best practices for tutoring
- Allowed student peer tutors to shadow my sessions and shared new ideas with them

### **University of Pittsburgh, IE 1090 Industrial Engineering Senior Capstone Course**

- Created a rubric for grading the final capstone written project
- Collaborate with Dr. Scott Streiner regarding best writing and formatting practices for students
- Create and present an in-class writing workshop addressing student expectations and writing requirements

## **UNIVERSITY STUDENT MENTORING EXPERIENCE**

### **University of Pittsburgh, Seminar in Composition Instructor (2024)**

- Collaborated with the Teaching Assistant (TA) regarding lesson plans
- Implemented activities for the TA to utilize during small group instruction

### **Carnegie Mellon University, Summer Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship (SURA) Mentor (2024)**

- Collaborated with a second-year student regarding best practices for conducting research and analyzing data

## **FUNDED PROJECTS & AWARDS**

**Foundational Pedagogy Collective**, Project on pedagogical/applied research in Dialogic Teaching (funded by the “Year of Discourse & Dialogue” initiative), University of Pittsburgh, 2026

**College of General Studies (CGS) Cohort**, Online Pedagogy, course development (stipend)  
University of Pittsburgh, May 2025 – Present

**Most Valuable Professor** (award)

University of Pittsburgh Women’s Lacrosse, Spring 2025

**Writing in the Disciplines Fellowship**, William S. Dietrich II Institute for Writing Excellence Series (funded)  
University of Pittsburgh, Spring 2022

## **UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC SERVICE**

### **University of Pittsburgh**

Teaching Clusters Member (2025- 2026)

Winter Commencement Volunteer (2024)

Move-in Day Volunteer (2024)

First-Year Writing Assessment Committee (2023-2024 and 2021-2022)

First-Year Engineering Composition Program Language Awareness Project (2023)

Composition Curriculum Committee (2022-2023 and 2024-2025)

### **Point Park University**

**Redesigning the Master’s in Learning, Design and Technology Program Committee, Member (2025)**

## **Carnegie Mellon University**

**Supporting Student Writing Across the Disciplines Workshop (2024)**

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

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### **University of Pittsburgh**

Advance at Pitt Faculty Retreat – Professional Development Track (2026)

Faculty AI Literacy Seminar (2026)

Foundations of Inclusive Course Redesign (2025)

CCCC/Pitt Research on Coding (2022)

### **Point Park University**

Pennsylvania Department of Education Major Program Review Committee, Member (2020)

## **PRESCHOOL - GRADE 12 TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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### **Shaler Area Middle School (2020-2021)**

ELA Summer School Teacher (Grades 7 and 8)

ELA Coach and Long-Term Substitute ELA teacher (Grades 7 and 8)

### **Mars High School (2020)**

Long-Term Substitute Broadcast Media, Video Production, Graphic Design Teacher (Grades 9-12)

### **Pittsburgh Job Corps Center Trade School (2017- 2019)**

Substitute English and GED Teacher

### **The Preschool Place (2014-2017)**

Substitute Teacher

### **Knoch School District (2003-2016)**

Long-Term Substitute Reading and Language Arts Teacher (Grade 7)

Long-Term Substitute Advanced Placement English and Academic English Teacher (Grade 8)

Daily Substitute Teacher (Grades K-12)

### **Seneca Valley, Mars, and Pine-Richland School Districts (2003-2010)**

Daily Substitute Teacher (Grades 7-12)

### **North Hills School District (2003)**

Student Teacher (Grade 7 English and Honors English)

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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### **WPXI-TV, Pittsburgh, PA (1998-1999)**

**Production Assistant and News Writer**

- Authored informative stories for all newscasts by gathering information from various sources.
- Assisted in the production of daily news updates and newscasts

## **PUBLICATION**

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Cafasso, T. (2022). A Convergent Mixed Methods Pragmatic Study Exploring the Readiness of First-Year Students in First-Year Composition Courses

## **PRESENTATIONS & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**

### **University of Pittsburgh Department of History of Art & Architecture**

Positive Peer-Review Facilitator (2025)

### **University of Pittsburgh Swanson School of Engineering**

Senior Industrial Engineering Technical Writing Workshop every semester (2025-present)

### **Shaler Area School District**

Multi-Tiered Support Systems for ELA Instruction (2020)

### **Shaler Area Middle School, PaTTAN and Allegheny Intermediate Unit**

Multi-Tiered Support Systems for ELA Instruction (2020)

### **Point Park University**

#### **Ed. D. Orientation**

Communication in Leadership (2020)

### **School of Education Focus Group**

21<sup>st</sup> Century Higher Education Leadership (2020)

### **School of Education Conference**

Building Capacity to Improve Peru's Workforce Development (2019)

### **Point Park University Graduate Conference**

The Importance of Continuing Education & Community Education for Third Aged (2019)

## **ONLINE TEACHING CERTIFICATIONS**

- Quality Matters Certification - "Creating Presence in Your Online Course" (2022)
- Quality Matters Certification - "Connecting Learning Theories to Your Teaching Strategies" (2021)
- Quality Matters Certification - "Independent Designing Your Online Course" (2020)
- Quality Matters Certification - Online Instruction in Higher Education, "Independent Applying the QM Rubric (APPQMR): Statewide Systems (2019)

## **PENNSYLVANIA TEACHING CERTIFICATIONS**

- Pennsylvania Instructional I - Technology Education K-12 (2020)
- Pennsylvania Instructional I - English 7-12 (2019)
- Pennsylvania Instructional I - Communications 7-12 (2003)

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

- A Night to Remember
- Best Buddies Pittsburgh

## **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

- Best Practices for Transitioning Students from High School Writing Courses to College Writing Courses
- Student Mental Health Awareness and Accommodations