

# Tina Cafasso, EdD

## **EDUCATION**

### **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

## **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Andragogy and Adult Learning Methods

Best Practices for Transitioning Students from High School Writing Courses to College Writing Courses

Student Mental Health Awareness and Accommodations

First-Year College Student Writing Initiatives

## **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

May 2025 - August 2025

### **CGS Online Faculty Summer Cohort**

College of General Studies

*University of Pittsburgh*

August 2023 - July 2024

### **Adjunct Special Faculty (PT)**

English Department

*Carnegie Mellon University*

August 2022 - present

### **Adjunct Assistant Professor (PT)**

School of Education Master's Programs

*Point Park University*

August 2022 - May 2025

### **Visiting Lecturer (FT)**

English Department

*University of Pittsburgh*

August 2022 - December 2022

### **Adjunct Assistant Professor (PT)**

Literature, Culture, and Society Department

*Point Park University*

August 2021 - April 2022

### **English Instructor (PT)**

English Department

*University of Pittsburgh*

June 2020 - December 2022	<b>Graduate Assistant (FT)</b> School of Education Doctoral Program <i>Point Park University</i>
August 2019 - December 2021	<b>English Instructor (PT)</b> English Department <i>Butler County Community College</i>
January 2019 - June 2019	<b>Graduate Assistant (FT)</b> Honors Department <i>Point Park University</i>
August 2017 - December 2017	<b>English Instructor (PT)</b> <i>Bradford School of Business</i>

## **UNIVERSITY TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **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. Students learn methods for creating an original research question, creating surveys, compiling data, and writing an original, synthesized 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 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 increasing student writing levels and close reading skills. Small class size enables students and the professor to collaborate and learn through various activities, including small group 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**

Part of the Public and Professional Writing Certificate Program, students create an array of documents found in various workplaces while also learning 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, this undergraduate course focuses on using Social Media platforms for professional opportunities and communication. Assignments include a HubSpot Social Media Marketing Certificate, a social media campaign research proposal, and a final presentation.

## 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 increase their 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 provides students with the tools needed to execute college-level writing assignments. Focus is placed on sentence and paragraph flow as well as multi-paragraph essays.

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

Students are introduced to several types of written correspondence used in the workplace. Emphasis is placed on letter writing, memos, resumés, cover letters, 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.
- Conducted meetings with prospective Honors students and their families.
- 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
- Collaborated with Dr. Scott Streiner regarding best writing and formatting practices for students
- Created an in-class writing workshop addressing student expectations and writing requirements

## **UNIVERSITY STUDENT MENTORING EXPERIENCE**

### **University of Pittsburgh, Seminar in Composition Instructor**

- Collaborated with Teaching Assistant (TA) regarding lesson plans during the fall 2024 semester
- Implemented activities for the TA to utilize during small group instruction
- Taught TA ways to evaluate daily assignments and enter grades into Canvas

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

- Supervised a second-year student creating an original research study (Summer 2024)
- Collaborated with the student regarding best practices for conducting research and analyzing data
- Engaged in remote meetings and conversed with the student regarding project timeline and expectations

## **UNIVERSITY FELLOWSHIP**

### **University of Pittsburgh, Writing in the Disciplines Fellowship**

- William S. Dietrich II Institute for Writing Excellence (Spring 2022)
- Collaborated with faculty to revise writing assignments for Seminar in Composition course
- Shared revised assignments with peers and learned new ways of teaching writing

## **UNIVERSITY AWARDS**

### **University of Pittsburgh, Most Valuable Professor**

Nominated by a Women's Lacrosse player and recognized at halftime of a game

## **UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC SERVICE**

### **Carnegie Mellon University**

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

Collaborated with faculty to discuss the use of a disciplinary framework in student writing. Analyzed student writing samples and discussed analytical language use and argumentative language use.

### **University of Pittsburgh**

#### **Winter Commencement Volunteer (December 2024)**

#### **Move-in Day Volunteer (August 2024)**

#### **First-Year Writing Assessment Committee (Fall 2023-Spring 2024 and Fall 2021-Spring 2022)**

Collaborated with faculty to assess first-year writing techniques. Recruit readers to assist with the assessment of designated writing goals.

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

Collaborated with five fellow Engineering Composition professors to create a new curriculum and assignments geared towards increasing language awareness.

#### **Composition Curriculum Committee (Fall 2022-Spring 2023 and Fall 2024-Spring 2025)**

Engaged with fellow faculty members to evaluate and rewrite course descriptions to ensure linguistic justice and increase diversity awareness.

#### **CCCC/Pitt Research on Coding (Fall 2022)**

Participated in a research initiative focused on the use of coding in composition assignments. Learned and Taught students how to utilize Pitt Fuego technology.

## **UNIVERSITY CONTINUING EDUCATION**

### **University of Pittsburgh**

#### **Foundations of Inclusive Course Redesign (Spring 2025)**

#### **Commencement Volunteer (December 2024)**

#### **Student Move-In Day Volunteer (August 2024)**

### **Point Park University**

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

**Online Continuing Education Courses (Spring 2023)**

- Cultural Appropriation versus Appreciation
- Sexual Violence Awareness for Employees
- Supporting Students of Color at Predominantly White Campuses
- The Influence of Unconscious Bias

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

**PRESCHOOL - GRADE 12 TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Shaler Area Middle School (October 2020-August 2021)**

ELA Summer School Teacher (Grades 7 and 8)

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

**Mars High School (January 2020-June 2020)**

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

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

Substitute English and GED Teacher

**The Preschool Place (September 2014-May 2017)**

Substitute Teacher

**Knoch School District (September 2003-December 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 (September 2003-June 2010)**

Daily Substitute Teacher (Grades 7-12)

**North Hills School District (January 2003-May 2003)**

Student Teacher (Grade 7 English and Honors English)

**KINDERGARTEN - GRADE 12 ACADEMIC SERVICE**

**Western Pennsylvania Council of Teachers of English (WPCTE)**

- WPCTE English Festival Moderator (2017, 2015, 2014)

**Knoch School District**

- PTO Secretary (2017-2018)
- PSSA Test Administrator (2015-2018)
- PTO Vice-President (2012-2013)
- Room Parent (2011-2017)
- Coordinator of Various PTO Committees/Events (2011-2018)
- Knoch School District Nutrition Board (2011-2012)
- PTO President (2011-2012)

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

### **WPXI-TV, Pittsburgh, PA (January 1998-June 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
- Operated teleprompter, studio cameras, and various editing equipment

## **PUBLICATION**

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

## **PRESENTATIONS & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**

### **Shaler Area School District**

Multi-Tiered Support Systems for ELA Instruction (May 2020)

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

Multi-Tiered Support Systems for ELA Instruction (April 2020)

### **Point Park University**

**Ed. D. Orientation** Communication in Leadership (August 2020)

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

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

### **School of Education Conference**

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

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

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

## **PROFESSIONAL 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)

## **TEACHING CERTIFICATIONS**

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