

SAYDE J. BRAIS

Ed.D. in Educational Leadership
The University of North Carolina at Charlotte

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Ed.D. in Educational Leadership: Higher Education **2023**

University of North Carolina at Charlotte
*Dissertation: Exploring Sense of Belonging Among First-Generation College,
Second-Generation Immigrant Students*
Chair: Dr. Ryan A. Miller

Post-Master's Certificate in University & College Teaching **2020**

University of North Carolina at Charlotte

M.A. in Communication Studies: Organizational Communication **2012**

University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Thesis: Socialization and Membership Negotiation in a Church Setting
Chair: Dr. Clifton Scott

B.A. in Communication Studies: International Public Relations with Honors **2010**

University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Minor in Journalism

AREAS OF INTERESTS

Marginalized Student Groups
Learning Communities
High Impact Practices

First-Year Learning
Sense of Belonging
Higher Education Leadership

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

Associate Department Chair **2024-Present**

Communications Studies Department, UNC Charlotte

Charlotte, NC

Primary responsibilities include administrative support related to undergraduate programs, support structures, and student success initiatives. Additional responsibilities included coordinating the department's award-seeking efforts and publication of faculty and staff accomplishments, internally and externally. Work closely with the Student Support Unit (Undergraduate Coordinator, Department Advisor, Student Support Specialist, and Internship Director) to trouble-shoot undergraduate curriculum and advising issues. Partner with the Department Advisor to expand and enhance undergraduate student outreach initiatives.

TEACHING APPOINTMENTS & EXPERIENCE

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Department of Communication Studies

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| Associate Teaching Professor | 2023-Present |
| Senior Lecturer | 2019-2023 |
| Lecturer | 2013-2019 |
| Adjunct | 2012-2013 |

Rowan-Cabarrus Community College, South Campus

Arts & Sciences Program

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| Adjunct | 2013 |
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Courses of Record

Public Speaking

2012-Present

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Charlotte, NC

An undergraduate course designed to assist students in becoming more effective public speakers. Students learn to research and develop topics thoroughly, organize and support arguments efficiently, and utilize suitable delivery. A syllabus with a full and complete schedule of course events is created and maintained; participation and understanding of course material is facilitated through creation and dissemination of class activities; oral assignments are created and administered; exams are created and administered to evaluate knowledge and understanding of course content; and individual student performance is evaluated at the conclusion of the course.

Business Communications

2014-Present

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Charlotte, NC

An undergraduate course that introduces the nature and problems of individual, interpersonal, and organizational communication in business. A syllabus with a full and complete schedule of course events is created and maintained; discussion is facilitated through inquiry of knowledge, and creation of exercises and activities; written and oral assignments are created and administered; exams are created and administered to evaluate knowledge and understanding of course content; and individual student performance is evaluated at the conclusion of the course.

Small Group Communication

2020-Present

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Charlotte, NC

An undergraduate course focused on understanding and improving behavior in the group context by providing theories and applied learning opportunities for understanding and improving communication skills in small groups. Students study and apply the strategic and ethical uses of communication to build relationships and community. A syllabus with a full and complete schedule of course events is created and maintained; participation and understanding of course material is facilitated through creation and dissemination of class activities; exams are created and administered to evaluate knowledge and understanding of course content; and individual student performance is evaluated at the conclusion of the course.

Introduction to Communication Theory

2023-Present

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Charlotte, NC

An undergraduate course focused on understanding and improving behavior in the group context by providing theories and applied learning opportunities for understanding and improving communication skills in small groups. Students study and apply the strategic and ethical uses of

communication to build relationships and community. A syllabus with a full and complete schedule of course events is created and maintained; participation and understanding of course material is facilitated through creation and dissemination of class activities; exams are created and administered to evaluate knowledge and understanding of course content; and individual student performance is evaluated at the conclusion of the course.

Communication Research Methods

2013-2021

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Charlotte, NC

An undergraduate course that introduces students to the scientific, interpretive, rhetorical, and critical research methods used to study communication problems and processes with a focus on quantitative and qualitative communication research methods. A syllabus with a full and complete schedule of course events is created and maintained; discussion is facilitated through inquiry of knowledge, and use of exercises and activities; written assignments are created and administered; exams are created and administered to evaluate knowledge and understanding of course content; and individual student performance is evaluated at the conclusion of the course.

First-Year Seminar

2018-2024

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Charlotte, NC

An undergraduate course designed in a seminar-style with a project-based learning experience, to assist first-year students with developing leadership abilities, establishing personal passions and strengths, and learning to communicate them well to others, and figuring out how to use them in ways useful to society; and assisting with in the intellectual and social transition from high school to college by increasing involvement in the intellectual life of major department. A syllabus with a full and complete schedule of course events is created and maintained; participation and understanding of course material is facilitated through creation and dissemination of class activities; exams are created and administered to evaluate knowledge and understanding of course content; and individual student performance is evaluated at the conclusion of the course.

LEADS Colloquium

2021-2024

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Charlotte, NC

Through a series of personalized activities, this course aims to enhance personal and professional development and encourage an entrepreneurial mindset that emphasizes initiative, adaptability, creativity, critical questioning, and problem solving. This course is offered through LEADS whose primary mission is to provide students in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences with opportunities to fully develop and articulate their potential as creative problem solvers, innovative leaders, and engaged citizens who are well prepared for their future endeavors. A syllabus with a full and complete schedule of course events is created and maintained; participation and understanding of course material is facilitated through creation and dissemination of class activities; exams are created and administered to evaluate knowledge and understanding of course content; and individual student performance is evaluated at the conclusion of the course.

Advising & Student Success

Faculty Advisor

2013-Present

Communication Studies Department, UNC Charlotte

Charlotte, NC

Advise between 25-30 Communication Studies majors and Journalism minors. Provide guidance and advice regarding major curriculum requirements, based on individual's concentration within the major, using a variety of advising tools. Ensure students are meeting all university and major requirements for graduation. Assist with study abroad paperwork, transfer credits, and other advising matters.

Faculty Fellow, LEADS Program **2017-Present**
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, UNC Charlotte *Charlotte, NC*
The LEADS Program is an innovative, transdisciplinary program for College of Liberal Arts & Sciences (CLAS) undergraduate students. Faculty fellows champion, teach, advise, and recruit LEADS students throughout their duration at UNC Charlotte, seeking to expose students to internship and experiential learning opportunities, and prepare students for the job market.

Coordinator, SUCCESS Learning Community **2017-2024**
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, UNC Charlotte *Charlotte, NC*
Recruit, teach, and guide up to 25 first-year students within the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences and University College. Plan and facilitate academic and social events, and campus resource presentations throughout the first-year of college to assist with successful transition into college life. Prepare and expose students to the power of problem-solving, creativity, leadership, and community engagement, all in an effort geared toward recognizing and verbalizing the value of a liberal arts and sciences degree.

Faculty Supervisor, Graduate Teaching Assistants **2017-2024**
Communication Studies Graduate Program, UNC Charlotte *Charlotte, NC*
Serve as faculty supervisor for up to two graduate teaching assistants (GTA) each semester for courses that include COMM 3100: Communication Research Methods and COMM 2100: Introduction to Communication Theory. Guide and mentor GTAs as they either teach labs or provide supplemental instruction to undergraduate students enrolled in respective courses. Duties include weekly meetings to discuss course activities, prepping and guiding GTAs through challenges or inquiries, providing constructive feedback on GTA's grading efforts, where applicable, and offering additional project opportunities for GTAs to work on, time permitting. Provide voluntary teaching evaluations for GTAs teaching labs.

Faculty Mentor, Communication Consultants **2017-2020**
Communication Across the Curriculum, UNC Charlotte *Charlotte, NC*
Served as a faculty mentor for undergraduate students nominated to serve as Communication Consultants for COMM 3100: Communication Research Methods. Duties included weekly meetings with consultants, prepping and guiding consultants through challenges or inquiries, providing constructive feedback on consultants' work, and offering additional project opportunities for consultants to work on.

Learning & Technology Development

Professional Studies Course Development **2023**
Center for Teaching & Learning, UNC Charlotte *Charlotte, NC*
Worked with an instructional designer over 13 weeks to develop an asynchronous course with a Communication Studies focus for the Department of Professional Studies. This course was designed to be used as a permanent course within the program's curriculum.

Faculty Fellow, Student Experience Project **2023-2024**
Department of Communication Studies, UNC Charlotte *Charlotte, NC*
Work on a team to adjust undergraduate curriculum to improve student access and time to graduation, contributing to the overall goal of creating an inclusive major that can serve all students. The team will work to enhance these efforts and provide faculty with resources to center equitable teaching practices across two courses (COMM 2100 and COMM 2104) that reach a majority of Communication Studies students.

TOP Teacher, Teachers Observing Peers Program **2019-2020**
Center for Teaching & Learning, UNC Charlotte *Charlotte, NC*
 The Teaching Observing Peers (TOP) Program provides UNC Charlotte faculty members with an opportunity to observe peers, identified as TOP Teachers, representing a variety of disciplines implementing interactive methods in a live classroom setting. TOP Teachers facilitate peer observations and subsequent debrief sessions with observing peers.

ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

UNC Charlotte, University-Wide

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| Learning Community Program Steering Committee, Member | 2023-2024 |
| Provost's Student Success Working Group, CLAS Faculty Representative | 2019-2021 |
| University Faculty Council, Department Representative | 2015-2018 |
| Nominations, Honors, & Awards Committee, Alternate | 2016 |

UNC Charlotte, College-Wide (CLAS/CHESS)

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| CORE of Excellence, First-Generation Faculty & Staff Group | 2024-Present |
| CLAS Faculty Council, Alternate | 2021-2023 |
| Anti-Racist Workplace Working Group, Member | 2020-2021 |

UNC Charlotte Honors College, Undergraduate Thesis Committees

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| L. Shifflett, Psychological Sciences | 2022 |
| S. Ray, Communication Studies | 2018 |
| J. Smith, Communication Studies | 2017 |
| T. Whitaker, Communication Studies | 2016 |

UNC Charlotte, Communication Studies Department

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| Ad-Hoc Research Methods Committee, Member | 2024-Present |
| Ad-Hoc Business Services Coordinator Search Committee, Member | 2024-Present |
| Ad-Hoc Workload Policy Committee, Member | 2024-Present |
| Curriculum Committee, Ex-Officio Member | 2024-Present |
| Inclusion, Equity, and Justice Committee, Member | 2024-Present |
| Annual Evaluation and Salary Review Committee, Member | 2023-2024 |
| Ad-Hoc Professional Studies Committee, Member | 2023-2024 |
| Faculty Advisory Committee, Non-Tenure Track Representative | 2021-2024 |
| Ad-Hoc Department Chair Search Committee, Member | 2020-2021 |
| "COMM Day" Committee, Member (Chair, 2020-2021) | 2014-2021 |
| Ad-Hoc Core Curriculum Committee, Member | 2017 |
| Undergraduate Research Competition, Paper Reviewer | 2017 |
| Undergraduate Research Competition, Paper Reviewer | 2016 |
| Undergraduate Research Competition, Paper Reviewer | 2015 |
| Scholarship & Awards Committee, Member | 2015-2017 |
| Ad-Hoc Department Self-Study Committee, Member | 2014-2015 |

National

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| NACADA Faculty-Advisor Steering Committee, Member | 2019-2021 |
| LCA Faculty Scholars Program Working Group, Member | 2019-2020 |

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Mecklenburg County CSS Pathways Program
Guest Presenter: "The Basics of Public Speaking"

November 21, 2024
Charlotte, NC

Mecklenburg County CSS Pathways Program
Guest Presenter: "The Basics of Public Speaking"

January 24, 2024
Charlotte, NC

SCHOLARLY & PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Association for Study of Higher Education Annual Conference
Paper Presenter: "The Experience of Belonging Among First-Generation College, Second-Generation Immigrant Students"

2023; Minneapolis, MI

NCARE, Annual Conference
Poster Presenter: "Exploring a Sense of Belonging Among FGC, SGI Students"

2023; Greensboro, NC

National Communication Association Annual Convention
Co-Presenter: "Straight Talk About Communication Research Methods" Short Course

2019; Baltimore, MD
2018; Salt Lake City, UT
2017; Dallas, TX

CTL: Service Learning & Engaged Scholarship Showcase
Poster Presenter: "Public Relations Practicum: A Case Study Showing How to Serve Students and Communities"

2015; Charlotte NC

Annual NC Water Resources Research Conference & NCWRA Symposium
Paper Presenter: "Tailoring Fats, Oil, and Grease Communication Platforms to Fit the Needs of NC Utilities While Enhancing the Message through Statewide Synergy" Research Presentation

2013; Raleigh, NC

GRANT RESEARCH

Environmental Assistance Office, UNC Charlotte

2012-2013

Served as co-investigator during a year-long research effort to improve communication and marketing techniques used by various North Carolina utility departments, in their efforts to target publics on proper methods of disposal of cooking Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG). Research duties included reviewing secondary research and collecting primary data through interviews with various state municipalities.

COMPLETED & PUBLISHED SCHOLARLY WORK

Brais, S. J. (2023). *Exploring sense of belonging among first-generation college, second-generation immigrant students* (Doctoral dissertation). The University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Charlotte, NC.

Brais, S. J. (2012). *Membership negotiation and socialization in a church setting* (Master's thesis). The University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Charlotte, NC.

- Brais, S. J., Guyer, R., & Rothberg, R. (2014). Tailoring fats, oil, and grease communication platforms to fit the needs of NC utilities, while enhancing the message through statewide synergy. *Water Resources Research Institute of the University of North Carolina*.
- Davis, C., Stamper B., & Brais, S. J. (2017). *Workbook to accompany Straight Talk About Communication Research Methods*. Dubuque, IA: Kendall-Hunt.
- Long, S. D., Walton, F., & Brais, S. J. (2012). Applying dramaturgy to virtual work research. In S. D. Long (Ed.), *Virtual work and human interaction research* (pp. 277-285). Hershey, PA: IGI Global.
- Rothberg, R., Brais, S. J., & Freitag, A. R. (2016). Improving grease disposal behavior: Combining the classroom, real-world experience, and service learning in a PR practicum. *Journal of Public Relations Education*, 2(2), 54-67.

TEXTBOOK REVIEWS

Edition review and content development:

Shwom, B., & Snyder, L. G. (2024). *Business communication: Polishing your professional presence* (5th ed.). Pearson.

AWARDS & SPECIAL RECOGNITION

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| <i>UNC Charlotte - Teaching Excellence Award</i> Honorable Mention/Semi-Finalist | 2023 |
| <i>UNC Charlotte - Chancellor's Recognition for Significant Contribution to Education</i> Recipient - Selected by 10+ students in 2019 | 2014 - 2023 |
| <i>NCARE Annual Conference - 2023 Outstanding Poster Award</i> Recipient | 2023 |
| <i>2023 EHRA Performance Bonus</i> Recipient | 2023 |
| <i>UNC Charlotte - Alpha Chi Omega Professor the Year</i> Nominee | 2019 |
| <i>UNC Charlotte - Levine Scholar Seniors Banquet</i> Faculty Guest of Honor | 2017 |
| <i>UNC Charlotte - CHHS Faculty Teaching Award</i> Nominee | 2016 |

CONTINUING EDUCATION

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| Continuing Education, "Learning with Generative AI Tools" School of Professional Studies, UNC Charlotte | July 10-14, 2023 |
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