

## Amanda Elizabeth Ferster

The University of Georgia  
Department of Educational Psychology  
325L Aderhold Hall  
Athens, GA 30602

Phone: 770.714.4570; E-mail: [aefers@uga.edu](mailto:aefers@uga.edu)

<https://online.uga.edu/faculty/amanda-ferster-phd>; <https://people.coe.uga.edu/amanda-ferster/>

---

### Education

---

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 2013 | Ph.D., Educational Psychology, The University of Georgia<br>Emphasis: Research, Evaluation, Measurement & Statistics |
| 1998 | M.Ed., Educational Psychology, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania   |
| 1997 | B.A., Psychology, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania  |

### Certificates

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 2025 | Designing & Building AI Solutions, eCornell |
|------|---|

---

### Instructional Positions

---

#### The University of Georgia, Educational Psychology

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 2025 - Present | Senior Lecturer & QM Online MEd Coordinator                    |
| 2023 - 2025    | Senior Lecturer & ACD Online MEd Coordinator                   |
| 2019 - 2023    | Lecturer & ACD Online MEd Coordinator                          |
| 2017 - 2019    | Assistant Professor—Limited Term, Instructional Focus          |
| 2013 - 2017    | Assistant Professor while serving as Assistant Director of GCA |

*Instruct courses within the Quantitative Methods and Applied Cognition & Development areas of emphasis, develop face-to-face, hybrid, and online-delivery course material, mentor applied student research, and serve the field and university community. Serve as the Coordinator of the Applied Cognition & Development (ACD) and Quantitative Methods Online M.Ed. Program.*

---

### Assessment & Research Professional Positions

---

#### The University of Georgia

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 2013 - 2017 | Assistant Director, Georgia Center for Assessment (GCA) |
|-------------|---|

*Served as the PI and Coordinator for assessment projects totaling over \$3,210,000. I collaborated with clients, developed Scope of Work(s) and project budgets, supervised project staff and research*

assistants, and presented technical details to Technical Advisory Committees. In addition to my administrative role, I provided psychometric and programming support including form development, response analysis, calibration, equating, maintaining item banks, authoring annual technical manuals and evaluation reports, and supporting our largest client with item review and standard setting events.

## **The University of Kansas**

### **2012-2013                      Psychometrician, Center for Educational Testing & Evaluation**

*Served as a member of the psychometric and assessment development team for the Dynamic Learning Maps Consortium. I collaborated with the team regarding: pre-pilot assessment planning, scoring strategies for Technology Enhanced Item Types (TEIs), development of cognitive laboratory protocols, development of the student Personal Needs and Preferences Profile (PNP), and the development of evidence centered design resources. I presented assessment plans to grant partners and the DLM Consortium Technical Advisory Committee.*

## **The University of Georgia**

### **2009-2012                      Research Professional III, Georgia Center for Assessment (GCA)**

*Psychometrician for the Georgia Alternate Assessment based on Modified Achievement Standards (AA-MAS)—an assessment containing state-approved embedded cognitive supports. Conducted assessment calibration, equating, differential item functioning (DIF) analyses, and classical item evaluation; recommended assessment development procedures to the Georgia Department of Education (e.g., established sampling methodology, psychometric form guidelines, and equating plans), authored Standard Setting Reports and Operational Technical Manuals; assisted in the instruction and supervision of psychometric staff and graduate assistants; served as an advisor to content specialists during cognitive support enhancement and form development; generated user-interface programs to facilitate assessment development (e.g., Visual Basic rater scanning, Visual Basic for Applications form development, and Production Facility cut score impact projection programs); and presented technical details to the Georgia Technical Advisory Committee.*

## **Georgia Department of Education**

### **2002-2009                      Assessment Specialist & School Improvement Specialist Assessment Division, Office of School Improvement**

*Verified psychometric analyses and programming for quality assurance (i.e., pre-equating, scaling tables, and data management routines); served as a resource during assessment development activities (i.e., provided support to team during item/data review, standard setting, and vertical articulation); collaborated with service- providers on programming and reporting procedures; Developed user-friendly analysis applications, authored instructional assessment publications, and developed assessment learning modules for local educators (e.g., I authored the GA Data Utilization Guide. Over 20,000 copies were requested and I developed and delivered the professional learning modules); analyzed assessment results to prioritize district support; and conducted assessment development research and evaluation for at-risk agencies and students (e.g., evaluation of School Reform Models, impact of*

---

## **Funded Contracts & Grants**

---

2023 – 2024	<b>Director/Principal Investigator</b> , Virtual Reality Research & Statistics Consulting Center. Center for Teaching & Learning Technologies Grant, The University of Georgia. Project total \$24,544.
2020 – 2021	<b>Director/Principal Investigator</b> , The Augmented Reality Statistical Scatter. Center for Teaching & Learning Technologies Grant, The University of Georgia. Project total \$23,471.
2013 - 2017	<b>Principal Investigator</b> , Georgia Student Growth Model Report for Parents. Georgia Department of Education. Annual renewal. Project total \$1,091,546.
2015 - 2016	<b>Consultant</b> , Assessment Alignment Review. EdCount. Project total \$4,000.
2014 - 2015	<b>Project Coordinator</b> , Oconee County Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) Assessment Program. Project total \$45,000.
2014 - 2015	<b>Co-Principal Investigator</b> , Georgia High School Graduation Test. Georgia Department of Education. Project total \$755,162.
2013 - 2014	<b>Principal Investigator</b> , Criterion Referenced Competency Test –Modified. Georgia Department of Education. Project total \$1,314,656.

---

## **Fellowships, Professional Learning, Awards, & Recognitions**

---

2024 – 2025	Service Learning Fellow, University of Georgia, Office of Service-Learning. Stipend: \$2500
2016 - 2024	Innovation in Teaching and Technology Faculty Academy University of Georgia, College of Education. Stipend: \$500 per semester
2021 - 2022	SoTL Scholar University of Georgia, Center for Teaching & Learning
2017 - 2018	Teaching Academy Fellowship Program University of Georgia, Teaching Academy
2017 – 2018	Certificate in Diversity, Equity & Inclusion University of Georgia, Office of Institutional Diversity
2013	Phi Kappa Phi, University of Georgia

2007 - 2010	Fellowship for Graduate Study AIR-National Center for Education Statistics. <i>Study of assessment and psychometrics to bridge assessment practice K-20</i> . Award total: \$30,000
2009	National Summer Data Policy Institute Fellowship AIR-National Center for Education Statistics. Training & Travel Award
2008	Georgia Department of Education Team Recognition: Assessment Development
2005-2007	Teaching Leader, Georgia Leadership Institute for School Improvement
2006	Compass Award for School Improvement, Georgia Department of Education
2005	State Superintendent Recognition for authoring the GA Data Utilization Guide
2003	National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Research Institute National Center for Education Statistics. Training & Travel Award

---

## Academic Publications

---

### Abstracts

**Ferster, A.E.** (2010). Evaluating the efficacy of item enhancements. *Multivariate Behavioral Research*, 45(6), 1024 – 1024.

### Chapters in Books

Bandalos, D.L., Davis, S., **Ferster, A.E.**, & Samuelson, K. (2011). Validation of high stakes testing in accountability systems. In K. Geissinger and J. Boivard, (Eds.), *Contemporary Issues in High Stakes Testing*. American Psychological Association.

### Proceedings

Kim, S.-H., & **Ferster, A.E.** (2010). An assessment-based innovation: A balanced assessment system to improve student academic achievement. In Kwak, B.-S. (Ed.), *An educational innovation for the 21<sup>st</sup> century: Sharing visions and experiences* (pp. 131-149). Seoul, South Korea: Korean Educational Research Association.

Kim, S.-H., & **Ferster, A.E.** (2010). Use of academic assessment results to improve student academic achievement: Balanced assessment system. In T.W. Kim (Ed.), *School accountability policy and use of academic data* (No. RRM 2010-03, pp. 281 – 310). Seoul, South Korea: Korean Educational Development Institute.

## Published Journal Articles

- Barger, M. M., Xiong, N., & **Ferster, A.E.** (2022). Identifying false growth mindsets in adults and implications for mathematics motivation. *Journal of Contemporary Educational Psychology*, 70. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cedpsych.2022.102079>
- Paff, M., Harrison, A., Erikson, S.R., **Ferster, A.E.**, Neuharth-Pritchett, S. (2022). Calculating “at-risk” rates and service utilization disparities in early intervention and early childhood special education services. *Adversity and Resilience Science*.

---

## Academic Presentations

---

- Ferster, A.E.** & Vakoutis, E\* (2025, August). Artificial Beginnings to Human Conclusions: Using AI to Enhance Measurement Instruction. Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Psychological Association.
- Ferster, A.E.**, Liu, X\* & Madison, M (2024, August). Research & statistics consulting within virtual reality: Boon or bust? Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Psychological Association.
- Ferster, A.E.** & Potts, J\* (2023, August). Impact of explicit metacognition & SRL instruction on perception of strategy benefit & evaluation accuracy: A research methods SoTL study. Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Psychological Association.
- Ferster, A.E.** & Brown, J\* (2022, August). Understanding why students activate cognitive supports during formative assessment: A mixed-methods study. Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Psychological Association.
- Ferster, A.E.**, Barger, M.M., Eidman, L.\*, Hirt, S.\*, Lee, J.\*, Onwaku, A.\*, Rosenzweig, E., & Wescott, C.\* (2021, August). Leveling-up an instructional assessment game: the impact of self-regulation and augmented cognitive support delivery on learning. Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Psychological Association.
- Barger, M. M., & **Ferster, A.E.** (2021, April). Profiles of teachers’ math mindsets and implications for motivation. Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association Annual Conference, virtual conference.
- Ferster, A.E.** (2020, August). Predictors of cognitive support activation within a dynamic classroom assessment system. Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Psychological Association, virtual conference.
- Ferster, A.E.**, Mellom, P., Hixon, R., & Weber, J. (2020, July). Evaluation of an Educator Professional Development Series via Latent Growth Modeling. Poster session presented at the meeting of International Meeting of the Psychometric Society (IMPS), virtual conference.

- Ferster, A.E., Wang, B.\*, & Zhang, Z.\*** (2018, October). The impact of a negligible penalty on students' inclination to use cognitive supports during assessment. Poster presented at the University of Georgia 2018 Innovation in Teaching Conference.
- Ferster, A.E., & Walker, A.A.** (2018, April). Construct refinement & item development: A journey guided by the Rasch Partial Credit Model. Paper presented at the 2018 Annual International Objective Measurement Workshop. New York, NY.
- Ferster, A.E., Walker, A.A., & Purcell, S.\*** (2017, October). Detecting atypical assessment perceptions via Rasch Person Fit. Paper presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Georgia Educational Research Association. Augusta, GA.
- Ferster, A.E.** (2015, October). Technology enhanced items: Independent discovery of pitfalls. Innovation in Teaching Conference, Athens, GA.
- Ferster, A.E., Zhao, F.\*, & Clark, A.\*** (2014, April). Understanding the academic profiles of students participating in the Alternate Assessment: A cluster analysis. Paper presented at the 2014 Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association in Philadelphia, PA.
- Ferster, A.E., Zhao, F.\*, & Qin, L.\*** (2013, May). A program to assist non-psychometric faculty with their assessment practice. Computer program developed and distributed at the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Association for Institutional Research in Long Beach, CA.
- Ferster, A.E., & Templin, J.** (2013, April). An evaluation of item level design features via an extension of the Linear Logistic Test Model with Random Effects. Paper presented at the 2013 Annual Meeting of the National Council on Measurement in Education in San Francisco, CA.
- Ferster, A.E., Shaftel, J., Sheinker, A., & Yung, S.\*** (2013, April). An argument-based approach to the reliability of the First Contact Inventory. Poster presented at the 2013 Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association in San Francisco, CA.
- Nixon, C., Algoloz, C., **Ferster, A.E.**, Jenkins, C., & Templin, J. (2012, April). A diagnostic model for GKIDS performance ratings. Poster presented at the 2012 Annual Meeting of the National Council on Measurement in Education in Vancouver, BC, Canada.
- Ferster, A.E.** (2010, September). Evaluating the efficacy of item modifications under the Rasch model, mixed-Rasch, and invariance procedures. In-progress research presented at the 8th Annual Society of Multivariate Experimental Psychology Graduate Student Preconference in Atlanta, GA.
- Ferster, A.E., & Kim, S.-H.** (2010, July). Compatibility of item parameter estimates. Poster presented at the 75<sup>th</sup> Annual International Meeting of the Psychometric Society in Athens, GA.

- Ferster, A.E.** (2017). Georgia Student Growth Model Report Program Evaluation. Athens, GA: Georgia Center for Assessment, UGA.
- Ferster, A.E., & Feldberg, Z.\*** (2016). Georgia Student Growth Model Quality Assurance Report. Athens, GA: Georgia Center for Assessment, UGA.
- Ferster, A.E., & Choi, H.J.** (2016). Principal Components Analysis of the IDEA Survey. Athens, GA: Georgia Center for Assessment, UGA.
- Ferster, A.E.** (2015). Georgia Kindergarten Entry Profile Educator Evaluation of Essential Entry Skills. Athens, GA: Georgia Center for Assessment, UGA.
- Ferster, A.E.** (2015). Georgia Student Growth Model Report Program Evaluation. Athens, GA: Georgia Center for Assessment, UGA.
- Choi, H.J., Ferster, A.E., Lai, S., & Jang, Y.\*** (2015). The Georgia High School Graduation Test Technical Report. Athens, GA: Georgia Center for Assessment, UGA.
- Alagoz-Eciki, C., & Ferster, A.E.** (2014). The Georgia High School Writing Technical Report. Athens, GA: Georgia Center for Assessment, UGA.
- Alagoz-Eciki, C., & Ferster, A.E.** (2014). The Georgia Grades 5 & 8 Writing Technical Reports. Athens, GA: Georgia Center for Assessment, UGA.
- Alagoz-Eciki, C., Calhoun, L., Cramer, S., Ferster, A.E., Gonyea, M., Jiminez, B., Lai, S.\*** (2014). The Criterion Referenced Competency Tests—Modified (CRCT-M) Operational Technical Report. Athens, GA: Georgia Center for Assessment, UGA.
- Ferster, A.E.** (2013). The Criterion Referenced Competency Tests—Modified (CRCT-M) Item and Data Review Workshop Report. Athens, GA: Georgia Center for Assessment, UGA.
- Alagoz-Eciki, C., Calhoun, L., Cramer, S., Ferster, A.E., Gonyea, M., Jiminez, B., Lai, S.** (2013). The Criterion Referenced Competency Tests—Modified (CRCT-M) Operational Technical Report. Athens, GA: Georgia Center for Assessment, UGA.
- Shaftel, J., & Ferster, A.E.** (2012). Cognitive Laboratory Protocol: Understanding Student Interactions with Technology Enhanced Item Types. Lawrence, KS: Center for Educational Testing & Evaluation, KU.
- Calhoun, L., Cramer, S., Ferster, A.E., Gonyea, M.** (2011). The Criterion Referenced Competency Tests—Modified (CRCT-M) Operational Technical Report. Athens, GA: Georgia Center for Assessment, UGA.
- Calhoun, L., Cramer, S., Ferster, A.E.** (2011). The Georgia CRCT-M Modified Angoff Standard Setting Technical Report. Athens, GA: Georgia Center for Assessment, UGA.

**Ferster, A.E.** (2010). Georgia Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills validity study in support of the argument: GKIDS indicates the level of support entering first-graders require. Athens, GA: Georgia Center for Assessment, UGA.

Cramer, S., & **Ferster, A.E.** (2010). Gwinnett Gateway Assessment Annual Report. Athens, GA: Georgia Center for Assessment, UGA.

**Ferster, A.E.** (2009). Five-year proposal for investigating the consequential validity of Georgia's Assessment System. Atlanta, GA: GaDOE.

**Ferster, A.E.** (2008). Examining the impact of the Georgia state funded SAT preparatory program via latent growth modeling. Atlanta, GA: GaDOE.

**Ferster, A.E.** (2008). An evaluation of Georgia's Online Assessment System. Atlanta, GA: GaDOE.

**Ferster, A.E.** (2005 – 2008) The Data Utilization Guide: A resource guide for Georgia Educators. Atlanta, GA: GaDOE.

---

## **Pedagogical Presentations**

---

**Ferster, A.E.** (2025, March). Statistics and Assessment for Service (SA4S). Public Service & Outreach Annual Meeting. Athens, GA.

Chisea, D.L., & **Ferster, A.E.** (2021, October). To be a better educator, let go of teaching and embrace the freedom of risk. Unsoiled Conversations about Teaching. Invited talks hosted by the MFECOE Innovation in Teaching & Technology Academy. Athens, GA.

**Ferster, A.E.,** & Henry, T.\* (2019, October). Making Online Program Coordination Awesomely Effortless. Innovation in Teaching Conference. Athens, GA.

**Ferster, A.E.,** & Brock, M.\* (2018, October). Be Instructionally POWERful with POWtoon: A user-friendly active and problem-based learning tool. Innovation in Teaching Conference. Athens, GA.

**Ferster, A.E.** (2018, April). Assessment series for future educators: tools for assessment *for* learning and assessment *of* learning. Presentation given to the Collegiate Middle Levels Association (CMLA). Athens, GA.

**Ferster, A.E.,** & Tanaka, V.\* (2017, October). What happens when F2Fers don't get their facetime? Evaluating the relationship between online instructional expectations, perception and student achievement. Innovation in Teaching Conference. Athens, GA.

**Ferster, A.E.,** & Raczynski, K.A. (2016, October). Incorporating metacognitive instructional strategies into an online course. Innovation in Teaching Conference. Athens, GA.

\*Student Researcher

---

## Service & Outreach

---

### Professional Affiliations

American Educational Research Association (AERA), American Psychological Association (APA)  
National Council for Measurement in Education (NCME), Psychometric Society (IMPS)

### Field

2026	Manuscript reviewer: <i>Applied Psychological Measurement</i>
2019, 2021, 2023	AERA Annual conference proposal reviewer
2018 & 2020	IOMW Annual conference proposal reviewer
2017-2018	GLA Research & Assessment Group, Outcomes Assessment PLC Facilitator
2015	Manuscript reviewer: <i>Journal of Adolescence</i>
2014	AERA Rasch Special Interest Group Session Chair
2011-2012	NCME Annual Conference proposal reviewer
2009-2012	NCME Standards & Test Use Committee: Graduate Student Representative
2010	Psychometric Society: 75 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Local Organizing Committee

### University

2025 – 2026	MFE College of Education Curriculum Committee, UGA
2025	MFE College of Education Career Track Promotion Committee, UGA
2023	MFE College of Education Career Track Promotion Committee, UGA
2019-2021	MFE College of Education Awards Committee, UGA (Chair, 2019 – 2020)
2020	MFECOE Reconceptualizing Teacher Education Working Group
2019-2020	College of Education Teaching and Learning Strategic Planning Committee
2019	Innovation in Teaching Conference Planning Committee
2018	Applied Cognition & Development Faculty Search Committee
2017	College of Education & EPSY, Graduate Research Award Evaluator
2016	College of Education, Student Dispositions Task Force
2016	Educational Psychology, Online Expectations Development Team

### Organization

2008	Georgia Department of Education CLASS KEYS Advisory Council
2008	Development Committee for the Georgia Leadership Institute Data Module
2006	Georgia Department of Education Task Force on Disproportionality within SWD