

Curriculum Vitae
Laura Nichols Ed.S. CCC – SLP

ACADEMIC HISTORY

Name: Laura Nichols Ed.S. CCC - SLP

Present rank, recommended rank, proportion time assignments: Clinical Associate Professor. 100% instruction.

Tenure status: Non-tenure

Administrative title (if any): Communication Sciences & Disorders Program Coordinator

Highest degree, the institution, the date:

- Ed.S., Columbus State University, January 4, 2003
- Master of Science William Paterson University May 1986
- Bachelor of Arts. William Paterson University May 1984

List of Academic Positions

- Clinical Associate Professor July 2020- current
- Clinical Assistant Professor July 2015 – July 2020

Administrative and Program Leadership

- CMSD Program Coordinator July 1, 2021 – present
- Scope (≈200 students)
- Accreditation leadership (CAA/ASHA)
- Curriculum revision
- Course scheduling
- Assessment and reporting systems

Other Professional Employment

- Special Education Coordinator Troup County School System. LaGrange, Georgia July 2007 – June 2015
- Assistive Technology Specialists Troup County School System. LaGrange, Georgia July 2004- 2007
- Assistive Technology Specialist Georgia Department of Education. Columbus State University, Columbus Georgia. June 1998 – July 2004
- Speech-Language Pathologist in a wide variety of educational and healthcare service facilities, including the following:
 - Babies Can't Wait Early Intervention Services Newnan, Georgia 2004 – 2008 (part time, per-diem).
 - Warm Spring Rehabilitation Hospital. Warm Springs, Georgia July 1996 – July 1998.

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- Columbus Speech and Hearing Center, Columbus, Georgia. August 1992 – July 1996.
- Helen Hayes Hospital, Haverstraw, New York. August 1987 – July 1992.

Resident Instruction Narrative Summary:

- Since joining the University of Georgia in 2015 as a Clinical Associate Professor, Laura R. Nichols, Ed.S., CCC-SLP, has provided extensive resident instruction at both the undergraduate and graduate levels within the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. Her instructional portfolio reflects sustained responsibility for core academic, clinical, and practicum-based coursework central to the professional preparation of speech-language pathologists.
- At the **undergraduate level**, Ms. Nichols has taught observation and directed study courses, including *CMSD 5010E Observations in Speech-Language Pathology* and *CMSD 4000 Special Problems in Communication Sciences and Disorders*, supporting students' early professional socialization and individualized learning experiences.
- At the **graduate level**, Ms. Nichols has served as an instructor for a wide range of academic and clinically intensive courses. These include didactic coursework such as *Clinical Methods in Speech-Language Pathology* (*CMSD 6000/7039*), *Speech Sound Disorders* (*CMSD 6740*), *Augmentative Communication* (*CMSD 6650*), and *Comprehensive Examinations* (*CMSD 7200*). She has also provided long-standing instruction and supervision in sequential clinical practicum courses (*CMSD 7040–7044*), clinical internships (*CMSD 7700*), applied projects (*CMSD 7650*), and clinical resource seminars (*CMSD 6000*), often coordinating or co-coordinating these offerings.
- Her instructional responsibilities regularly involve **small-cohort, high-intensity clinical teaching**, with sustained supervision of graduate clinicians across on-campus and off-campus clinical placements. Across her tenure, she has instructed and supervised hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students, with typical enrollments ranging from small clinical groups (3–10 students) to larger didactic courses exceeding 20 students.
- In addition to semester-based resident instruction, Ms. Nichols has contributed to **continuing and specialized education initiatives**, including serving as a co-developer, co-instructor, and facilitator for interdisciplinary summer institutes focused on evidence-based practice for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers with complex communication needs. These instructional activities integrate applied case-based learning and interprofessional collaboration.
- Collectively, Ms. Nichols' instructional record demonstrates sustained commitment to high-quality resident instruction, integration of academic and clinical education, mentorship of graduate students, and leadership in clinically focused professional preparation at the University of Georgia.

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Invited Presentations:

- *Response to Intervention for Speech-Language Pathologists and Accurate Eligibility Determination* Southwest Regional Education Service Areas for Speech-Language Pathologists. Camilla, Georgia. January 2017.
- *Augmentative Communication and Work for Non-verbal Communicators. A presentation to Georgia Department of Labor Rehabilitation Services*, Vocational Rehabilitation Services, May 2014.

Conference and Convention Papers:

- Nichols, L. (January 30 – February 1, 2020). *Learning AAC in the real world*. [Poster presentation] Assistive Technology Industry Association Annual Conference, Orlando, Florida, United States
- Nichols, L (October 17 – 18, 2018). *Collaboration for AAC* [Conference presentation]. Southeastern University Clinical Educators Annual Conference, Lafayette, Louisiana, United States.
- Nichols, L. and Harrison, W. (December 8, 2017). *AAC Training: Collaboration Between a University and a Local School System*. [Conference Presentation] Georgia Assistive Technology in Education: Tools for Life Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, United States.
- Nichols, L., Browne, E., Cannon, R., Hicks, C., (March 2017) *Augmentative Communication Solutions Following Facial Reconstructive Surgery* [Poster presentation] Georgia Speech-Language-Hearing Association Conference Athens, Georgia, United States.
- Nichols, L., Ritts, C. (October 15, 2002). *Assistive Technology Solutions for Improved Written Expression*. [Conference presentation]. Closing the Gap Annual Conference. Minneapolis, Minnesota, United States.
- Nichols, L et all (April 1999). *Assistive Technology Software for Language Arts*. [Conference Presentation] Georgia State Educational Technology Conference, Macon, Georgia, United States.
- Nichols, L., (May 1994). *Knowledge and Skills Required for*

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Assessment and Treatment of Dysphagia Patients; A Clinician Training Program.
[Conference Presentation] Georgia Speech-Language- Hearing Association
Annual Conference, Atlanta Georgia, United States.

- Nichols, L., et al (June 1992) *Voices that Count – A Support Group for Traumatically Brain Injured.* [Conference Presentation] Post Graduate Course in the Treatment of the Brain Injured Adult and Child. Williamsburg, Virginia, United States.

Recognitions and Outstanding Achievements:

- Recognized by the UGA Career Center (2024) for contributing to the career development of UGA graduates, class of 2022.
- Chosen as a participant in the 2021 American Speech-Language and Hearing Association (ASHA) Leadership Academy. American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Bethesda, Md.
- Supervised clinical experiences for fourteen graduate students who earned the Jane Harvey Award for Clinical Excellence (2018 – 2025).
- Excellence in Assistive Technology Award – Awarded by the Georgia Project for Assistive Technology (GPAT) Georgia Department of Education.

APPLIED CLINICAL SCHOLARSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL DISSEMINATION:

Policy

Invited to serve on a committee gathered by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission for development of a Speech-Language Associate certificate for professionals with a bachelor level degree in CSD to provide services in Georgia Public Schools under the direction and supervision of licensed and certified SLPs.

Multi-disciplinary and Multi-agency Collaboration

Beginning in September of 2019, in collaboration with professionals from the Atlanta Center for Rare Neurological Diseases, Children's Hospital of Atlanta, GSU (CMSD) faculty, and other clinicians, a weekend-long day camp has been developed and coordinated annually for four years (2022–2025) for children with complex communication disorders who use augmentative and alternative communication (AAC). UGA Communication Sciences and Disorders graduate students, CMSD graduate students from other universities, and UGA ABA students participated in the camp as a clinical practicum. Pre-camp instruction was developed and delivered to students from multiple universities, and intensive clinical supervision was provided during the 2022, 2023, and 2024 camps.

School-Based AAC Evaluation, Training, and Implementation Support

Provided instruction to graduate speech-language pathology students who were completing augmentative communication evaluations for Oconee County School System Children Spring 2016 - 2022. Assisted school speech-language pathologists with funding

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and implementation plans. Provided instruction to speech-language pathology graduate students who provided augmentative communication therapy.

Grants

Contributing faculty member to the principal investigators (Brown, Vail, Lieberman-Betz) of the PIPs Project, which was a 1.1 million dollar grant that prepared highly qualified professionals to work with infants, toddlers, and preschoolers with high intensity needs and their families. Developed and delivered interdisciplinary learning materials in the areas of assistive technology and augmentative communication for grant participants.

Supervision of Student Research

Fall 2016, Spring 2017, and Summer 2017 semesters; co-advised a candidate for an educational specialist degree in speech-language pathology, including her specialist projects, *Learning Modules for Principal Supervision of Gwinnett County Speech-Language Pathologists*. This training program and teaching modules were later integrated into the Gwinnett Public Schools teacher/SLP evaluation system.

Editorship or Editorial Board Member of Journals or Other Learned Publications

- Peer reviewer of Revolutionizing Augmentative and Alternate Communication with Generative Artificial Intelligence Assistive Technology Outcomes and Benefits.
- Reviewer for conference proposal for National Youth Advocacy and Resilience 2024
- Reviewer for manuscript Promoting a culture of inclusion: Impact of professional development on teachers' assistive technology practices to support early learning. (Journal of Early Childhood Teacher Education.
- Reviewer for Journal of Early Childhood Teacher Education 2021.
- Reviewer for proposals for the 2018 National Youth-At-Risk Conference, the 2019 and the 2020 National Youth-At-Risk Conference in Savannah, Ga.
- Manuscript reviewer for Assistive Technology Outcomes and Benefits - Communication Disorders and Assistive Technology January 2021, September 2019, and June 2017.
- Manuscript reviewer for Communication Disorders and Assistive Technology March 2017.

SERVICE

Service to the University

Office of Academic Honesty as a faculty representative for students seeking restorative justice after an incident of academic cheating.

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Service to the Program

- CMSD Program Coordinator July 2022 – present
- Chair of Curriculum Committee 2025 – present. Led the faculty in revision of the BSEd curriculum. Led the committee in the adjustment to the MSEd and MA credit hours as per USG request.
- Comprehensive Exam Development and Grading Committee 2019 – 2021 and 2023 – 2026.
- Speech and Hearing Clinic Director Search Committee 2019 – 2020
- Graduate Admissions Committee CMSD 2017, 2018, 2019, 2022 and 2024
- CMSD department task force to evaluate and prioritize annual evaluations of clinical faculty. October, 2018.
- Three-year review committee member for faculty seeking association professor promotion.

Service to the Department

- Communication Sciences and Special Education Appeals Committee 2018 – 2019 and 2021 - 2022
- Special Education Assistant Professor Search Committee 2018 – 2019

Service to Student Organizations

- Faculty Advisor for *Communicaid Nation* August 2016 - present

Service to the Profession

- ASHA Mentor to graduate students at other universities or new professionals in the field of SLP, 2019 – 2021.
- Was invited by The Minspeak Organization to attend and participate in the *Pittsburgh Language Seminar Series* December 11 - 13, 2018. This was a collaboration seminar for leaders in the field of AAC who were responsible for university instruction of SLP students and research at university CMSD programs.

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- Invited to participate in a national focus group for university clinical faculty and supervisors in AAC. June 5, 2018- August 7, 2018.
- ASHA State Education Advocacy Leader (SEAL) for Georgia Speech-Language-Hearing Association. July 2016 – July 2018
- Georgia Organization School Speech-Language Pathologists, (GOSSLP). Regional Representative and Advisory Committee for Recruitment and Retention of SLPs in Schools. July 2012 – July 2015

Professional Service to the Community

Provided instruction and supervised graduate students as they administered speech-language screenings Fall 2015 to present in Athens and surrounding area; including the following sites: Prince Avenue Christian School, Athens Academy, Barrow County Schools, Athens Montessori School, University Child Care, Downs Preschool, Morgan County Primary School, Primrose Preschool, Our Kids Preschool, UGA Speech and Hearing Clinic free public screenings, and “National Voice Day” voice screenings in collaboration with UGA School of Music. Screenings have been provided annually and each semester.

Public Service

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). Volunteer service to advocate for a child who has experienced abuse and neglect and is in foster care. Responsible for monitoring all aspects of her care and services and developing a strong and trusting bond with the child.