



Curriculum Vita
July 2026

Instructor: Carolyn (Shelly) Bates, Ph.D., CTRS

Academic Department: College of Innovation and Design

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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, Instructional Design & Development
University of South Alabama, 2023

Master of Science, Parks, Recreation & Tourism Management with emphasis Recreational
Therapy
Clemson University, 2018

Bachelor of Science, Therapeutic Recreation
University of Southern Mississippi, 2003

Associate of Arts, Jones County Junior College, 2001.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

(May 2026 – Present), Adjunct Instructor, East Texas A & M University

(August 2023-Present, Assistant Professor, University of South Alabama

(August 2022-August 2023), Instructor, University of South Alabama

(August 2018-December 2021), Adjunct Instructor, University of South Alabama

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2018-2022 North Baldwin Infirmary Senior Behavioral Health, Bay Minette, AL
Recreational Therapist/CTRS

- Provides assessment, planning, implementation, documentation, and evaluation of recreational therapy services for behavioral health patients over 55 years of age.
- Oversight of the best practice committee
- Co-coordinator of Monthly Recreational Therapy CEU teleconferences for Horizon Healthcare

2006-2018 William F. Green St. Veterans Home, Bay Minette, AL
Director of Recreational Services/CTRS

- Developed and oversaw implementation of a recreational therapy program that served 150 long-term care veterans, which followed the A.P.I.E.D. process and ATRA Standards of Practice.
- Managed staff and volunteers.
- Managed the budget for the department and aided in the growth of the volunteer donation account.
- Event planning and organization.
- Developed an internship program, including implementation through written proposal, protocols, and recruitment.
- Served on the fall focus committee, psychotropic committee, and treatment team.
- Served on internal audit teams for sister facilities in Alabama, Maryland, and South Carolina.
- Responsible for aiding in writing a grant of more than \$36,000 from the Home Depot Foundation to restore outdoor gardens for the facility.
- Responsible for fundraising for funds to support programming from community donors and foundations.
- Responsible for ensuring honor flight participation for 6 WWII veterans within the local program.

2006-2007 Mercy Medical Healthcare
Recreational Therapist/CTRS

- Provided recreational therapy care that followed the A.P.I.E.D. process, ATRA Standards of Practice, and JCHAO standards with sub-acute, rehabilitation, and hospice patients.

Consulting Activity (Pre-Academic Appointment)

2013-2018 Healthcare Management Resources of Alabama
Recreational Therapy Consultant

- Guided federal VA and ADPH regulations for annual regulatory inspections.
- Aided in the Department of Justice's plan of correction.
- Provided suggestions for program growth and maintenance for long-term care and assisted living veteran-centered care.
- Served on internal audit teams for sister facilities in Maryland and South Carolina.

2005-2012 Sojourner's Geriatric Psychiatric Unit
Recreational Therapy Consultant

- Provided suggestions for program maintenance and growth.
- Guided preparation for JCAHO and MDPH regulatory inspections.

PUBLICATIONS

- Rand, A. M., Shepard, E. R., Bates, C. M. (2026). Teaching information literacy in the age of AI: Developing AI competency for research. *The Journal of Applied Instructional Design*, 15(2), 613-618.
<https://doi.org/10.59668/2579.27567>
- Bates, C. M., Bates, C., Bates, M., McCulloch, H., Llewelyn, C. (2026). Preliminary effects of a seated dance and reminisce intervention on veterans with dementia. *Journal of Gerontology and Geriatrics*, 74 (3), 21. <https://doi.org/10.3390/jgg74030021>
- Bates, C. M., & Forester, B. E. (2026). The initial evaluation of an experiential learning project using Kaufman's Evaluation Framework. *Journal of Experiential Education*, Advance online publication.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/10538259261463561>
- Bates, C. M. (2026). Beyond the gym: Recreational therapy as a collaborative partner in physical education. *Journal of Physical Education, Recreation & Dance*, 97(3), 3-4.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/07303084.2025.2608569>
- Bates, C. M., & Van Haneghan, J. (2026). Melodies of Memory: Using Daily Familiar Music Exposure to Decrease Apathy. *Activities, Adaptation & Aging*, 50(3), 484-495.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/01924788.2025.2486749>
- Bates, C., Boatwright, M. (2025). A Case Report of a Chair Yoga Intervention for Acute Geriatric Psychiatry. *Therapeutic Recreation Journal*, 59(1). <https://doi.org/10.18666/trj-2025-v59-i1-12421>
- Bates, Carolyn. (2025). Recreational therapy as a tool against social disconnection in school settings. *Journal of Physical Education, Recreation & Dance*. 96. 3-4. 10.1080/07303084.2024.2423729.
- White, L. W., Smith, K. G., Bates, C., Saale, B., Choi, D., Drake, S. M., Thompson, T., & Davis, T. M. (2024). The Bright Ideas TBI Camp: fostering innovation in interprofessional education and collaborative practice for traumatic brain injury by students in rehabilitation professions. *Journal of interprofessional care*, 38(6), 1140-1146. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13561820.2024.2395970>
- Bates, C., C. B. (in press). The Empowering Language Framework: A model for recreational therapists to foster autonomy in older adults. *Therapeutic Recreation Journal* (3).

RESEARCH GRANTS AND AWARDS

Funded

Bates, C.M. (Principal), December 2025-Present, National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification Research Grant, National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification, Awarding Entity, \$4,787.00.

Barenie, M. (Principal), Bates, C.M. (Co-Principal), February 2026-Present, Sponsored by Research & Scholarly Development Grant Program, Internal to the University of South Alabama, \$24,820.00.

Bates, C.M. (Principal) , February 2024, Sponsored by College of Educational and Professional Studies, Internal to the University of South Alabama, \$2,500.00.

Not Funded

Bates, C. M. (Principal), "Creating Access to Wheelchair Tennis through Community Partnership between Mobile Dream Court and the University of South Alabama," Sponsored by The Office of Research and Economic Development, Internal to the University, \$8,914.00. (August 2025 - Present).

Reeves, L. (Principal), Baxter, A. (Co-Principal), Bates, C. M. (Co-Principal), Smith, K. (Co-Principal), Sponsored by U.S. Department of Education, \$1,888,429.00. (October 1, 2025 - October 1, 2030).

Awards and Honors

College of Education and Professional Studies Service Award, University of South Alabama. (April 23, 2026).

Office of Community Engagement Appreciation Award, Office of Community Engagement. (May 2024).

Dean's Award of Excellence, College of Education and Professional Studies. (April 10, 2023).

Top Prof, Mortar Board Senior Honor Society. (November 8, 2022).

First Place in Clinical Excellence, ATRA. (September 11, 2022).

Clinical Excellence Best Practice Award presented by Horizon Healthcare (2019)

Recipient of the WOW Award by HMR Services (2012)