



**Curriculum Vita
Spring 2022**

Instructor: April Sanders, Ph.D. – Associate Professor

Academic Department: Curriculum and Instruction

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Curriculum and Instruction, Specialization in Language and Literacy Studies
University of North Texas – Denton, Texas, 2013

M. Ed. Educational Administration,
Stephen F. Austin State University – Nacogdoches, Texas, 2002.

M. A. English Literature,
University of Central Arkansas – Conway, Arkansas, 1996.

B. A. English Literature,
University of Central Arkansas – Conway, Arkansas, 1995.

Certifications:

Principal (EC-12), Texas Professional Certificate
06/2003-04/2024

Secondary English (6-12), Texas Teaching Certificate
08/1999-04/2024

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

January 2021– Present, Associate Professor, Texas A&M University Commerce

August 2013 – December 2020, Associate Professor, Spring Hill College

August 2010 – May 2013, Graduate Teaching Fellow, University of North Texas

August 2009 – July 2010, Graduate Research Assistant, University of North Texas

August 2004 – July 2009, English Language Arts Curriculum Coordinator (K-12), Hudson Independent School District

August 2001 – May 2004, 7th and 8th Grade English Teacher, Hudson Independent School District

August 1999 – May 2001, English Teacher: 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th grades, Pineywoods Academy Public Charter School

PUBLICATIONS

Sanders, A., Isbell, L., & Dixon, K. (2021). Using instructional design to transform the lesson planning process for teacher candidate preparation. *The Texas Forum of Teacher Education*, 11 (1), 49-63.

Sanders, A. (2021). After innovative teaching during the pandemic, what will stick? An Educator's metamorphosis. *The Journal for Research and Practice in College Teaching*. 6 (2), 1-3.

Dixon, K., **Sanders, A.,** & Isbell, L. (2021). The utilization of technology tools and preparation of preservice teachers for literacy instruction in the age of virtual learning. In Araujo, J. & Araujo, D.L. (Eds.) *Handbook of Research on Reconceptualizing Preservice Teacher Preparation in Literacy Education*. IGI Global.

Smith, M., ElBassiouny, A., & **Sanders, A.** (2020). Partnering across disciplines: Engaging students in peer collaborations on writing assignments. *The Journal of Teacher Action Research*, 7(1), 101-125.

Sanders, A., Isbell, L., & Dixon, K. (Eds) (2020). *Incorporating LGBTQ+ Identities in K-12 Curriculum and Policy* (pp. 1-335). Hershey, PA: IGI Global. doi:10.4018/978-1-7998-1404-7.

Sanders, A., Isbell, L., & Dixon, K. (2020). LGBTQ+ literature in the elementary and secondary classroom as windows and mirrors for young readers. In Sanders, A., Isbell, L., & Dixon, K. (Eds) *Incorporating LGBTQ+ Identities in K-12 Curriculum and Policy* (pp. 198-222). Hershey, PA: IGI Global. doi:10.4018/978-1-7998-1404-7.

Sanders, A. (2020). Exploring literary merit of mainstream video games through gaming literacy theory. In Hubbell, G. (Ed.) *What is a game? Essays on the nature of videogames (Studies in gaming)*. McFarland.

Isbell, L., Dixon, K., & **Sanders, A.** (2019). Arming Teachers for School Safety: Providing Clarity for State Policies. *Texas Education Review*, 7(2), 6-13.

Dixon, K., **Sanders, A.**, & Putman, R. (2018). Using microblogging as a social media tool for discussions in higher education classrooms. *The Journal of Social Media in Society*, 7(1), 339-365.

Sanders, A. (2018, April 29). A Study of courage and caring. [Review of the book *Early childhood literacy teachers in high poverty schools* by M. Landa]. Teachers College Record, <http://www.tcrecord.org>, ID 22344.

Sanders, A. & Isbell, L. (2017). "Preservice teachers' self-reflection practices when integrating educational technology in the classroom." (p. 254-271). In *Fostering reflective teaching practice in pre-service education* edited by Z. Djoub. IGI Global: Hershey, PA.

Sanders, A. (2016). Understanding the video game experience through reader response theory. *READ: An Online Journal for Literacy Educators*, 2(3), 45-62.

Sanders, A. (2016). Preservice teachers' perceptions of reader response and motivation when traditional and digital read-aloud are combined. *The Reading Paradigm* 10(1), 5-10.

Isbell, L., & **Sanders, A.** (2016, September). Incorporating modern professional development to enhance pre-service teachers' knowledge. *The Journal of the Effective Schools Project*, 23, 31-36.

Sanders, A. (2015). "Emotional response to gaming producing Rosenblatt's transaction." In *Emotional, Technology, and Digital Games*, edited by S. Tettegah & W.D. Huang, Academic Press.

Sanders, A., & Voorhees-Dixon, K. (2014). A brave new world: Pre-service teachers understanding and integrating new literacies in the language arts classroom. *The Reading Paradigm*, 8(1), 4-9.

Sanders, A. (2013). Safety for K-12 students: United States policy concerning LGBT student safety must provide inclusion. *Confero*, 1(2), 1-10. doi: 10.3384/confero.2001-4562.13v1i21c

Sanders, A., & Mathis, J. (2013). Gay and lesbian literature in the classroom: Can gay themes overcome heteronormativity? *Journal of Praxis in Multicultural Education*, 7(1), doi: 10.9741/2161-2978.1067

Sanders, A. (2012). Rosenblatt's presence in the new literacies research. *Talking Points*, 24(1), 2-6.

Mathis, J., Bailey, A., Knezek, L., Morton, T., **Sanders, A.**, Shearer, R., & Stewart, M. (2011). Nonfiction access to information, insight, and imagination. *The Dragon Lode*, 29(2), 3-11.

PRESENTATIONS

National/International:

Sanders, A., Dixon, K., & Isbell, L. (November, 2021). *A Survey of Technology Tools Utilized for Virtual Reading Instruction*. Presented at The Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers Conference, Hilton Head, South Carolina.

Sanders, A., Isbell, L. (February, 2021). *Authentic Student Samples to Guide edTPA Conferencing*. Presented at The Southwest Educational Research Association Conference, Virtual Conference.

Sanders, A., Isbell, L., & Dixon, K. (March, 2021). *Effective Conferencing Techniques for Commentary Drafts*. Presented at The Texas edTPA Pilot Spring Institute, Virtual Conference.

Sanders, A., Isbell, L., & Dixon, K. (October, 2020). *Preparing teacher candidates for the lesson planning process*. Presented at The Mid-South Educational Research Association Conference, Virtual Conference.

Dyer, J., Isbell, L., & **Sanders, A.** (October, 2020). *Creating critical assignments from the group up*. Presented at The Consortium of State Organizations for Texas Teacher Education Conference, Virtual Conference.

Isbell, L., & **Sanders, A.** (October, 2020). *Developing an effective conferencing plan to use with preservice teachers when writing commentary*. Presented at The Consortium of State Organizations for Texas Teacher Education Conference, Virtual Conference.

Isbell, L., & **Sanders, A.** (2020). *Reading the rubrics: A systematic approach for supporting preservice teachers when creating an edTPA© portfolio*. Presented at Southeast Education Research Association Conference, Fort Worth, Texas.

Dixon, K., & **Sanders, A.** & Isbell, L. (2019). *Understanding & preparing preservice teachers for mass shootings in the K-12 Classroom*. Presented at American Association for Teaching and Curriculum, Birmingham, Alabama.

Sanders, A. & Dixon, K. (2018). *LGBTQ literature in the secondary classroom as windows and mirrors for young readers*. Presented at National Council for Teachers of English, Houston, Texas.

Sanders, A., Dixon, K., & Putman, R. (2016). *The roles and functions of microblogging in the classroom discussion*. Presented at National Council for Teachers of English, Atlanta, Georgia.

Sanders, A. (2016). *Preservice teachers' perceptions of reader response and motivation when traditional and digital read-aloud are combined*. Presented at American Education Research Association, Washington, D.C.

Sanders, A. & Isbell, L. (2016). *Connect 2 Learn: Preservice Teachers' Perception of Modern Professional Development*. Presented at American Education Research Association, Washington, D.C.

Sanders, A. & Isbell, L. (2016). *Transforming professional development for preservice teachers using connected learning theory*. Presented at Southeast Education Research Association Conference, New Orleans, LA.

Sanders, A., Putman, R., & Dixon, K. (2015). *Microblogging in the classroom*. Presented at Social Media Conference, Fort Worth, TX.

Sanders, A. (2014). *Parallels between the gaming experience and Rosenblatt's reader response theory*. Presented at American Education Research Association, Philadelphia, PA.

Sanders, A. & Stewart, M. (2014). *Pinning & clipping: Using Pinterest and EduClipper for ongoing professional development*. Social Media Conference, Fort Worth, TX.

Tunks, J., **Sanders, A.**, Ray, J., & Potter, C. (2013). *The Action of action research*. Presented at American Education Research Association, San Francisco, CA.

Harris, M., Field, K., **Sanders, A.**, & Cranmore, J. (2012). *Policy Matters for Learners*. Presented at Association of Teacher Educators, San Antonio, TX.

Tunks, J., **Sanders, A.**, Ray, J., & Potter, C. (2012). *The Action of action research*. Presented at American Association of Teaching & Curriculum, San Antonio, TX.

Sanders, A. (2011). *Gay and Lesbian Literature in the Classroom: Can the Saturation of Gay Themes Overcome Heteronormativity?* Presented at Whole Language Summer Institute/National Council for Teachers of English, Las Vegas, NV.

Mathis, J., **Sanders, A.**, Knezek, L., Stewart, M., Morton, T. (2010). *Teachers as first responders in selecting literature for classroom Use: Rosenblatt invites understandings into literature selections for contemporary classrooms*. Presented at the National Reading Conference/Literacy Research Association, Fort Worth, TX.

Regional:

Smith, M., ElBassiouny, A., & **Sanders, A.** (2018). *Partnering across disciplines: Engaging students in collaborations on writing assignments (Phase II of Study)*. Presented at Conference on Teaching and Learning, Mobile, AL.

Sanders, A. & Isbell, L. (2017). *Self-reflection process for integrating educational technology in the K-12 classroom*. Presented at Digital Frontiers Conference, Denton, Texas.

Simmons, C. & **Sanders, A.** (2017). *Smartphones in the chemistry lab: Enhancing student engagement and learning through digital lab reports*. Presented at Conference on Teaching and Learning, Mobile, AL.

Smith, M., ElBassiouney, A., & **Sanders, A.** (2017). *Collaborative support for undergraduate writing*. Presented at Conference on Teaching and Learning, Mobile, AL.

Howell, A. & **Sanders, A.** (2016). *Use of interactive notebooks in social studies for increased reading achievement and engagement*. Presented at Alabama Reading Association Fall Conference, Huntsville, AL.

McHugh, H. & **Sanders, A.** (2016). *Designing a poetry slam to increase reading motivation with students*. Presented at Alabama Reading Association Fall Conference, Huntsville, AL.

Sanders, A., Nelson, A., Wojda, C., & Ackels, M. (2015). *Reader's theater in the classroom*. Presented at Alabama Reading Association Fall Conference, Birmingham, AL.

Sanders, A. (2014). *Creation and use of a digital library for the elementary classroom*. Presented at Alabama Reading Association Fall Conference, Birmingham, AL.

Sanders, A. (2014). *Integration of digital read-alouds with preservice teachers*. Presented at Fourth Annual South Alabama Conference on Teaching and Learning, Mobile, AL.

Sanders, A. (2013). *Using comics for visual literacy*. Presented at Alabama Reading Association Fall Conference, Mobile, AL.

Sanders, A. (2012). *Using social media strategies in the ELA classroom*. Presented at the Texas Association for the Improvement of Reading, Denton, TX.

Sanders, A. (2011). *Using graphic novels in the classroom to understand visual literacy strategies*. Presented at the Texas Association for the Improvement of Reading, Denton, TX.

RESEARCH GRANTS AND AWARDS

External Grants:

2021-2022, edTPA Pilot Support Year 2, Texas Education Agency, \$9000.00 (Principal Investigator)

2022-2023, US PREP Cohort III, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, \$261,655.00 (Subrecipient Investigator)

2015-2018, edTPA Pilot Program Implementation, Alabama State Department of Education, \$15,000.00 (Principal Investigator)

Internal Grants:

2019-2020, Mitchell Foundation Faculty Grant, Mitchell Family Endowment at Spring Hill College, \$5000.00

2014-2015, Mitchell Foundation Faculty Grant, Mitchell Family Endowment at Spring Hill College, \$5000.00

Awards:

2019, Dawson Faculty Research Award, Spring Hill College, \$2500.00

2017, St. John Berchmans Award, Spring Hill College Student Organization and Leadership Awards

2014, Honorable Mention for Best Dissertation, College of Education, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas

REVIEWER

2016-2022, Co-Editor, *Journal of Teacher Action Research*

2016, Associate Editor, *Journal of Teacher Action Research*

Reviewer:

2019-2021, *IGI Global*

2018-2022, *Texas Journal of Literacy Education*

2018-2020, *Journal of Homosexuality*

2014-2022, *School Library Journal*

2015-2016, *Journal of Teacher Action Research*

2015-2016, Informing Science + IT Education Conference (InSITE)

2014-2015, *Talking Points*

2016-2017, SIIA CODiE Awards

2012-2013, *Current Issues in Education*

2012-2013, *Learning and Instruction*

COURSES TAUGHT

Spring 2022, Texas A&M University Commerce

SED 400 Pedagogy and Classroom Management in Field Based Environments

Fall 2021, Texas A&M University Commerce

SED 400 Pedagogy and Classroom Management in Field Based Environments

SED 405 Secondary Residency in Teaching

RDG 350 Reading and Literacy I

Summer 2021, Texas A&M University Commerce

RDG 380 Comprehension and Vocabulary in Middle and High Schools

EDCI 538 Classroom Management for Teachers

Spring 2021, Texas A&M University Commerce

SED 400 Pedagogy and Classroom Management in Field Based Environments

SED 405 Secondary Residency in Teaching

Fall 2020, Spring Hill College

EDU 280 Literature and Creative Drama for Children

EDU 520 Computer-Based Instructional Technologies (online – 7 week course)

Spring 2020, Spring Hill College

EDU 325 The Language Arts Program

EDU 328 Diagnosis and Adjustment of Reading Instruction

EDU 450 Strategies and Research: Teaching in the Secondary School

Fall 2019, Spring Hill College

EDU 280 Literature and Creative Drama for Children

EDU 326 Foundations of Reading Instruction

EDU 331 Instructional Media and Technology

EDU 329 Reading in the Content Areas

Spring 2019, Spring Hill College

EDU 325 The Language Arts Program

EDU 328 Diagnosis and Adjustment of Reading Instruction

EDU 450 Strategies and Research: Teaching in the Secondary School

Fall 2018, Spring Hill College

EDU 280 Literature and Creative Drama for Children

EDU 326 Foundations of Reading Instruction

EDU 331 Instructional Media and Technology

EDU 329 Reading in the Content Areas

Summer 2018, Spring Hill College

EDU 501 Strategies for Creative Classroom Management (online)

Spring 2018, Spring Hill College

EDU 325 The Language Arts Program

EDU 328 Diagnosis and Adjustment of Reading Instruction

EDU 450 Strategies and Research: Teaching in the Secondary School

EDU 503 Curriculum, Instruction, and Teaching Methods in the Secondary School (online – 7 week course)

Fall 2017, Spring Hill College

EDU 280 Literature and Creative Drama for Children
EDU 326 Foundations of Reading Instruction
EDU 331 Instructional Media and Technology
EDU 329 Reading in the Content Areas
EDU 495/496/499 Internship

Summer 2017, Spring Hill College

EDU 501 Strategies for Creative Classroom Management (online)

Spring 2017, Spring Hill College

EDU 328 Diagnosis and Adjustment of Reading Instruction
EDU 450 Strategies and Research: Teaching in the Secondary School
EDU 495/496/499 Internship

Fall 2016, Spring Hill College

EDU 280 Literature and Creative Drama for Children
EDU 326 Foundations of Reading Instruction
EDU 331 Instructional Media and Technology
EDU 495/496/499 Internship

Summer 2016, Spring Hill College

EDU 501 Strategies for Creative Classroom Management (online)

Spring 2016, Spring Hill College

EDU 328 Diagnosis and Adjustment of Reading Instruction
EDU 450 Strategies and Research: Teaching in the Secondary School
EDU 495/496/499 Internship
EDU 526 Research Methodology and Evaluation in Education

Fall 2015, Spring Hill College

EDU 280 Literature and Creative Drama for Children
EDU 326 Foundations of Reading Instruction
EDU 331 Instructional Media and Technology
EDU 495/496/499 Internship

Summer 2015, Spring Hill College

EDU 501 Strategies for Creative Classroom Management (online)

Spring 2015, Spring Hill College

EDU 328 Diagnosis and Adjustment of Reading Instruction
EDU 450 Strategies and Research: Teaching in the Secondary School
EDU 495/496/499 Internship
EDU 503 Curriculum, Instruction, and Teaching Methods in the Secondary School
EDU 526 Research Methodology and Evaluation in Education

Fall 2014, Spring Hill College

EDU 280 Literature and Creative Drama for Children
EDU 326 Foundations of Reading Instruction
EDU 331 Instructional Media and Technology
EDU 495/496/499 Internship

Summer 2014, Spring Hill College

EDU 501 Strategies for Creative Classroom Management (online)

Spring 2014, Spring Hill College

EDU 328 Diagnosis and Adjustment of Reading Instruction
EDU 450 Strategies and Research: Teaching in the Secondary School
EDU 495/496/499 Internship
EDU 503 Curriculum, Instruction, and Teaching Methods in the Secondary School

Fall 2013, Spring Hill College

EDU 280 Literature and Creative Drama for Children
EDU 326 Foundations of Reading Instruction
EDU 495/496/499 Internship
EDU 565 Reading in the Content Area

Spring 2013, The University of North Texas

EDRE 4860 Reading and the Language Arts in Grades EC-8

Fall 2012, The University of North Texas

EDRE 4860 Reading and the Language Arts in Grades EC-8

Summer 2012, The University of North Texas

EDRE 4840 Linguistically Diverse Learners
EDRE 4870 Cross-Curricular (Content Area) Literacy Materials and Resources

Spring 2012, The University of North Texas

EDRE 4860 Reading and the Language Arts in Grades EC-8

Fall 2011, The University of North Texas

EDRE 4860 Reading and the Language Arts in Grades EC-8

Spring 2011, The University of North Texas

EDSE 4060 Content Area Reading in Secondary Schools

Fall 2010, The University of North Texas

EDRE 4860 Reading and the Language Arts in Grades EC-8

GRADUATE STUDENT SUPPORT

Dissertation Committee Membership, Texas A&M University Commerce

2021, Dissertation Out of Department Committee Member, Preston Woo, Educational Leadership, Narrowing the Literacy Gap: The relationship between the reading motivations of secondary Black and Hispanic students and self-selected independent reading.

Dissertation Committee Membership, University of South Alabama

(Administrative Faculty Appointment from University of South Alabama)

2015-2017, Dissertation Committee Member, Amanda Criswell Jones, Educational Leadership, Leading the Charge in Changing Times: 21st century learning and leading.

SERVICE

National:

2018, Conference Volunteer for Registration & Exhibits Area, National Conference for Teachers of English, Houston, Texas.

State:

2020-2021, ELA Curriculum Task Force Higher Education Member, Alabama State Department of Education, Montgomery, Alabama

2019-2020, Planning Committee Member, Literacy Reimagined - Literacy conference in March 2020 for Alabama K-12 Teachers

2015-2017, Member and Chair, Statewide Literacy Initiative Committee, Alabama Reading Association, Chair for 2016-2017.

University

Texas A&M University Commerce

2021-2022, Pride Pathway Competency Based Education Program Design Committee

Spring Hill College

2014-2017, (Elected) Academic Standards Committee

2014-2015, Faculty Advisor to Sigma Kappa Sorority

College/Department

Texas A&M University Commerce

2021-2022, Interim Department Head

2021, Assistant Department Head

2021-2022, Department Curriculum Committee

2021-2022, Department Policies and Appeals Committee

2021-2022, US PREP Leadership Committee

2021-2022, Raise Your Hand Texas Leadership Committee

2021-2022, Collin College Early Childhood Advisory Board, TAMUC Member

2021-2022, edTPA© Coordinator

2021, Field Supervisor, Secondary Center

2021, Mane Event

2019, Member of Graduate Program Review Committee, External Reviewer, Curriculum & Instruction Department, Texas A&M Commerce

Spring Hill College

2019-2020, Division of Education Chair

2014-2019, edTPA© Coordinator

2013-2019, Secondary Program Coordinator

2013-2019: Academic Advising

2018, Spring Hill College Internal Program Review Committee Member, Reviewed Program Proposal from English Department

2017, Member of Evaluation Committee for Choosing Online SRI

2014-2016, Faculty Representative, Committee of Student Affairs for the Board of Trustees

2016-2019, Department Representative and Chair, Educational Technology Committee, Chair for 2016-2017.

2014-2017, Member and Secretary, Academic Standards Committee, Secretary for 2015-16.

2018-2021, Department Representative, College Curriculum Committee

2017-2018, Division of Education Faculty Search Committee

2015-2018, Department Representative, Faculty Development and Compensation Committee, Secretary for 2015-16.

2014, Instructional Design Specialist Search Committee

2014-2015, Biochemistry Faculty Search Committee, Outside Department Member

Community:

2018, 2019, 2020, Volunteer, Mobile Literacy Festival, Hosted by Metro Mobile Reading Council for area K-12 students.

Spring 2015, Professional Development, Presented at Mary B. Austin Elementary in Mobile County Public School District. Presentation: Integration of Mobile Apps in the Elementary Classroom.

Spring 2014, Professional Development, Presented at Forest Hill Elementary in Mobile County School District, Presentation: Use of Twitter as Professional Development for Educators.

Fall 2014, Professional Development, Presented at Dawes Intermediate School in Mobile County Public School District. Presentation: Using Tech Smackdowns for Professional Development.

Fall 2014, Professional Development, Presented at Mary B. Austin Elementary in Mobile County Public School District. Presentation: Tech Tuesday: Using EdPuzzle to Flip Your Classroom.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- American Educational Research Association, Division B: Curriculum Studies
- International Literacy Association
- Alabama Reading Association
- National Council of Teachers of English Language Arts
- North Texas Council of Teachers of English Language Arts
- Literacy Research Association
- Texas Council of Teachers of English Language Arts
- Texas Statewide Network of Assessment Professionals
- Texas Association of School Administrators
- Association of Teacher Educators
- American Association of Teaching and Curriculum