

Amber Dethlefs

Education and Licenses

Licensed Psychologist

Washington State, License Number: PY70044007

Licensed School Psychologist

Washington State, License Number: 622372A

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Doctor of Philosophy Candidate

School Psychology

*APA-accredited and NASP-approved program

August 2025

Cumulative GPA: 4.0

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Certificate in Grief, Loss, and Trauma

August 2025

Cumulative GPA: 4.0

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Master of Science

Applied Behavior Analysis

*Included Verified Course Sequence (VCS)

*Approved by the BACB

December 2022

Cumulative GPA: 4.0

Kent State University

Bachelor of Science

Major: Psychology

Minor: Human Development and Family Studies

May 2018

Cumulative GPA: 3.63

Cum Laude

Professional Experience

Marysville School District: October 2025 – Current

Marysville School District – Marysville, WA

- Title: School Psychologist
- Assessment and Evaluation: Administer and interpret psychological, behavioral, and cognitive assessments to determine eligibility for special education.

- Intervention and Counseling: Provide evidence-based individual and group counseling, as well as behavior intervention plans (BIPs)
- Collaboration and Consultation: Partner with teachers, parents, and administrators to develop IEPs, classroom accommodations, and classroom management strategies.
- Compliance and Reporting: Write detailed, comprehensive psychoeducational reports and ensure all documentation adheres to federal and state regulations.
- Crisis management: Serve on school crisis teams to provide immediate support to students and staff during emergencies.

Supervisor: Ginger Merkel

Office of Professional Licensure: February 2023 – July 2024

The University of Tennessee - Knoxville, TN

- Title: Graduate Research Assistant
- Collect, record, and verify data related to systems involved in teacher licensing.
- Assist in committee work and assist the team with writing grants.
- Maintain and update records using Google Suite, Banner, Canvas, and Microsoft Suite.
- Quantitative and qualitative data analysis.

Supervisor: Amelia Brown, PhD

Graduate Admissions Office: July 2021 – January 2023

The University of Tennessee - Knoxville, TN

- Title: Graduate Research Assistant
- Assisting secretary with answering phones, answering emails, and processing transcripts. Collaborating with other team members to assist in various tasks that need completed.
- Collect and analyze data, maintain databases, and disseminate data to appropriate staff.

Supervisor: Yvonne Kilpatrick

eVOLve Mentor Thornton Athletic Center: August 2022 – May 2023

The University of Tennessee - Knoxville, TN

- Title: Graduate Mentor
- Fostered approximately 5 student-athletes' long-term academic progress through the development of goal setting, time management, organization, professionalism, and responsibility each semester.
- Provided explicit instruction in test-taking, note-taking, and study strategies.
- Provided weekly academic updates to the athletes' academic counselors.

Supervisor: Dr. Muriel Ledbetter and Matt Kinnick

Tennessee Behavior Supports Project: August 2020 – July 2021

The University of Tennessee - Knoxville, TN

- Title: Graduate Research Assistant
- Assisting consultants with data entry and training.
- Collaborating with the team to develop ideas and train schools effectively.

Supervisor: Dr. Tara Moore, TBSP Project

Safe Children Coalition: April 2019 – June 2020

YMCA - Sarasota, FL

- Title: Child Welfare Case Manager
- Engage families in their communities and cultures while networking with the family to strengthen their capacity to ensure their children are safe and flourish.
- Case management works closely with families to help identify solutions, develop family goals, and link clients to appropriate resources.
- In situations where a child cannot be safely reunified with their parent, case managers help develop and find permanent homes and relationships for the children.
- Case managers work closely with attorneys to develop case plans, safety plans, court reviews, and several assessments.
- Certification obtained: Child Welfare Case Manager (CWCM) certification

Supervisor: Blair Jablonski

Coastal Behavioral Healthcare Incorporation: November 2018 – April 2019

Sarasota, FL

- Title: Care Coordinator
- Complete home visits with clients, complete psychosocial assessments, link clients with appropriate resources to help create a stable living environment, complete discharge for high-need/high-utilizer clients, and engage clients in services.

Helen Arnold Community Learning Center: August 2017 – May 2018

Akron Public Schools – Akron, OH

- Title: Intern
- Taught small group interventions, aided teachers with students, helped students work through emotional difficulties/adjustments, and aided teachers and counselors with identifying and helping these students.

Practicum Experience

Pre-Doctoral Psychology Intern: August 2024 – July 2025

Tennessee Internship Consortium: KCLASS Center, Jefferson County Schools

Duties:

- Conduct interviews with parents, students, mental health professionals, and educators to complete diagnostic evaluations and school-based evaluations.
- Administer cognitive, achievement, developmental, and autism-specific assessments (ADOS-2, ADI-R), as well as socio-emotional, adaptive, and behavioral rating scales to clients/students of various ages.
- Complete integrative reports summarizing evaluation findings and present results, DSM-5 diagnoses when applicable, and recommendations in the clinic setting.
- Complete integrative reports and present results within the framework of the Tennessee Department of Education Special Education guidelines in the school setting.
- Facilitate special education meetings
- Collaborate with other school psychologists and district administration to improve the RTI referral process and increase appropriate referrals for special education services
- Complete early childhood and preschool evaluations in the clinic and school setting.

- Provide one-on-one academic and behavioral intervention services in the clinic and school setting.
- Participate in weekly supervision meetings regarding client cases.
- Supervise graduate clinicians in assessment, report writing, and interventions.

Supervisors: Carolyn Blondin, PhD; Julia Mayer, PhD; Emily Rowlette, PhD; Brian Wilhoit, PhD

*APA and APPIC Accredited

Advanced Professional Practice in School Psychology: August 2022 – May 2025

Sequoyah Elementary and Farragut High School, - Knoxville, TN

Duties:

- Administered, scored, and interpreted results from a variety of cognitive, achievement, and behavior assessment batteries in a school setting.
- Wrote psychoeducational reports.
- Completed structured academic and behavioral observations.
- Participated in IEP, 504, and S-Team meetings; completed re-evaluation packets.
- Consulted with teachers to implement behavioral and academic interventions in a classroom setting.
- Created and maintained community resource handouts.
- Consulted with students, parents, educators, and professional staff.
- Participated in weekly supervision meetings regarding client cases.

Supervisors: Peter Ignacio, PhD; Carolyn Blondin, PhD; Kai Shum, PhD

Practicum in Grief Support: August 2022 – December 2022

West Hills Elementary School - Knoxville, TN

Duties:

- Created and conducted weekly one-on-one meetings with a 7-year-old boy experiencing grief following the loss of a parent.
- Set goals and measured the extent to which goals were achieved.
- Developed a mutually beneficial mentor-mentee relationship.
- Attended supervision sessions to receive feedback and direction.
- Recorded weekly case notes to be turned into a supervisor.

Supervisors: Laura Wheat, PhD

Professional Practice in School Psychology Clinic: September 2021 – May 2024

The University of Tennessee - Knoxville, TN

Korn Learning, Assessment, and Social Skills (KLASS) Center

Duties:

- Administered, scored, and interpreted results from a variety of cognitive, achievement, and behavior assessment batteries in a clinic setting (ABAS-3, ADOS-2, BAI, BASC-3, Beery VMI, BDI, Brown ADD Scales, CAARS, CDI-2, Conners' ADHD Rating Scales, CTOPP-2, GORT-5, KABC-2, KTEA-3, MASC, RAADS, SCAARED, SRS-2, Stanford-Binet Intelligence Scales – V, MASC, TOMM, UNIT-2, Vineland-3, Wechsler Scales, Woodcock-Johnson Tests, Y-BOCS).
- Facilitated comprehensive, Autism Spectrum Disorder, and brief evaluations.

- Conducted clinical intake interviews, integrated findings, wrote comprehensive reports, and presented results to clients.
- Designed and implemented interventions for individual clients and small groups, ages ranging from 10-25 (academic skills, social skills, study skills).
- Provided consultation and designed and implemented interventions with parents and guardians to address behavior concerns.
- Supervised graduate clinicians in assessment, report writing, and interventions.

Supervisors: Brian Wilhoit, Ph.D.; Carolyn Blondin, Ph.D.; Julia Mayer, Ph.D.

Practicum in Consultation and Intervention: December 2021 – May 2022

Newport Grammar School - Newport, TN

Duties:

- Interviewed and collaborated with teachers to identify and remedy individual students' and class-wide presenting problems.
- Collected and analyzed data using data-based problem-solving model.
- Designed, implemented, and evaluated academic and behavioral interventions.
- Worked one-on-one with one student completing a reading intervention.
- Worked with a teacher to implement a class-wide intervention to reduce one student's off-task behavior.
- Administered, scored, and interpreted cognitive and academic assessments.
- Participated in IEP team meetings.
- Assisted with the day-to-day functions in CDC classrooms for students with intellectual disabilities, developmental delays, and significant medical needs.
- Collaborated with staff, parents, and families to help meet the needs of students.

Supervisors: Carolyn Blondin, PhD and Christopher Skinner, PhD

Practicum in Psychoeducational Assessment: August 2020 – May 2021

The University of Tennessee - Knoxville, TN

Duties:

- Administered, scored, and interpreted various cognitive, behavioral, and achievement assessments (ABAS-3, BASC-3, WIAT-3, KABC-2, Stanford-Binet Intelligence Scales – V, UNIT-2, Wechsler Scales, Woodcock-Johnson Tests) to individuals ages 7-77.
- Conducted interviews with parents and students to obtain correct and current background information.
- Integrated cognitive, behavioral, and achievement scores, background information, and information obtained from testing observations into a comprehensive psychoeducational report.

Supervisors: Brian Wilhoit, PhD

Introduction to Professional Practice in School Psychology Practicum: August 2020 – December 2020

Sweetwater City School District - Sweetwater, TN

Duties:

- Shadowed and assisted a school psychology intern in a public school district in 4 school buildings (primary, secondary, intermediate, and junior high).

- Communicated with other educational professionals regarding their roles and functions within the school system.
- Conducted observations of general and special education classrooms.
- Assisted with the day-to-day functions in CDC and Resource classrooms for students with disabilities.

Supervisors: Mary Ware, MS and R. Steve McCallum, PhD

Honors and Awards

Poster selected for NASP Virtual Poster Series Website: September 2022

Cole, C., Welch, A., Price, C., Shuster, A., Richardson, R., & Skinner, C. H., (Feb, 2022).

Timeline of emerging behavioral and reading difficulties in young children. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the National Association of School Psychologists, Boston, MA.

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Graduated Cum Laude: May 2018

Kent State University

Dean's List: Spring 2016-Spring 2018

Kent State University

Trustee Scholarship: Fall 2015 – Fall 2017

Kent State University

- Awarded to full-time students with a 2.5 minimum GPA.

Medina Hospital Scholarship: Fall 2015 – Spring 2016

- One student is selected each year for community and academic excellence.

Other Related Experience

Counseling Skills (Person-Centered Approach) Training: August 2023 – December 2023

The University of Tennessee - Knoxville, TN

- Participated in group discussions about counseling skills and applications of the Person-Centered Approach in professional settings.

- Acted as a counselor in counseling sessions with college students to practice the application of learned skills.
- Provided feedback to the group.

Supervisor: Kristen Carlosh PhD

Child-Centered Play Therapy (CCPT) Training: June 2023 – August 2023

The University of Tennessee - Knoxville, TN

- Participated in group discussions about CCPT and applications of the skills in professional settings.
- Practiced application of CCPT skills with college students to practice application for 6 sessions.
- Provide feedback to partner.

Supervisors: Jeff Cochran, PhD & Nancy Cochran, MA

Volunteer at University-Assisted Community School Project: October 2020 – July 2021; March 2023 – May 2023

Inskip Elementary School and Pond Gap Elementary School - Knoxville, Tennessee

- Volunteered weekly assistance at a grant-funded, after-school program for children considered at-risk enrolled in a Full-Service School.
- Assisted with classroom management.
- Taught whole group, social-emotional learning classes.
- Taught small group and one-on-one academic interventions.

Supervisor: Robert Richardson, PhD & Merilee McCurdy, PhD

Bridge to Kindergarten Program: Summer 2017

Akron Public Schools – Akron, OH

- Assisted in planning and implementing a two-week literacy-based program designed to increase school readiness and parent involvement to help acclimate upcoming kindergartners to a routine classroom experience.
- Helped develop lesson plans and teach classes.

Research Experience

Student Researcher

Department of Educational Psychology and Counseling

The University of Tennessee - Knoxville, TN

- Aided in the development and implementation of empirical methods for conducting parent tutoring interventions, reading interventions, and writing interventions.
- Aided in the development and implementation of interventions to improve the effectiveness of parent-implemented interventions and reading skills.
- Evaluated and presented findings to professionals in the field of school psychology at conferences.
- Scored parent tutoring, reading assessment, and intervention data.

- Completed data analysis.
- Communicated progress at weekly meetings with the research group.
- Aided in editing manuscripts submitted to peer-reviewed journals.
- Conducted literature reviews.
- Created and submitted research proposals and supporting documents to UTK's IRB.

Supervisors: Merilee McCurdy, PhD & Christopher Skinner, PhD

Undergraduate Research Assistant: January 2018 – May 2018; September 2019 – June 2020

KSU Cognitive Development Lab

Department of Psychological Sciences

Kent State University - Kent, OH

- Administered mathematical assessments to students.
- Collected, coded, and analyzed participant data.
- Communicated progress at weekly research group meetings.

Supervisors: Clarissa Thompson, PhD (PI), Pooja Sidney, PhD, and Charles Fitzsimmons, BS

Peer-Reviewed Conference Presentations

Shuster, A., Coleman, H.M., Hart, F.R., Marlin, T.C., McCurdy, M. (2025, February 18-21). *Effectiveness of two variations of repeated reading intervention for fluency* [Poster Presentation]. National Association of School Psychologists Annual Convention, Seattle, WA.

Coleman, H.M., **Shuster, A.**, McCurdy, M. (2025, February 18-21). *Effectiveness of two variations of repeated reading intervention for fluency* [Poster Presentation]. National Association of School Psychologists Annual Convention, Seattle, WA.

Shine, D.M., Coleman, H.M., Kotik, J.D., **Shuster, A.**, McCurdy, M. (2023, February 7-10). *The role of faculty self-efficacy in creating inclusive higher education* [Poster Presentation]. National Association of School Psychologists Annual Convention, Denver, CO.

Price, C.N., Cole, C., Welch, A.L., **Shuster, A.**, Skinner, C.H., Richardson, R.D. (2023, February 7-10). *Where to start: Addressing comorbid reading and behavioral difficulties* [Poster Presentation]. National Association of School Psychologists Annual Convention, Denver, CO.

Kotik, J. D., Wilson, C. S., Persaud, J. I., **Shuster, A.**, Shine, D. M., Coleman, H. M., Skinner, C. H., & Hogan-Sandi, V. E. (2022, February 15-18). *Comparing interventions that increase active responding for students with disabilities* [Poster Presentation]. National Association of School Psychologists Annual Convention, Boston, MA.

Cole, C., Welch, A.L., Price, C.H., **Shuster, A.**, Skinner, C.H., Richardson, R.D. (2022, February 15-18). *Timeline of emerging behavioral and reading difficulties in young children* [Poster Presentation]. National Association of School Psychologists Annual Convention, Boston, MA.

Memberships/Affiliations

American Psychological Association: 2025-Present

Washington State Psychological Association: 2025-Present

National Association of School Psychologists: 2020 – 2025

Peer Mentor Program: Spring 2017 – Spring 2018

Kent State University – Kent, OH

- Program within the psychology department where underclassmen are paired with upperclassmen to help answer any questions, give advice, and help ease any concerns.

The National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Kent State Chapter

Service and Leadership Roles

Community Outreach Chair: July 2021 – May 2024

Student Affiliates in School Psychology (SASP)

- Mission: To keep graduated students apprised of issues pertaining to school psychology and encourage participation in activities that will further strengthen the discipline in the future.
- Coordinating fundraisers and volunteer opportunities for the student organization.
- Collaborate with community providers to provide diverse experiences.

(Revised April 2026)