

Curriculum Vitae

Laura Dozier Boltz

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EDUCATION

PhD in Social Work University of Alabama	2020
Master of Public Health University of Alabama at Birmingham Concentration: Maternal and Child Health	2009
Master of Social Work University of Alabama Concentration: Social Work with Children and Families	2009
Bachelor of Arts Samford University Majors: Psychology and Journalism/Mass Communication	2007

HONORS/AWARDS

2023: Mississippi Center for Clinical and Translational Research (MCCTR) Community-Engaged Research (CEnR) Summer Institute participant
2021-2022: Mississippi State University Community-Engaged Learning Fellow (Included \$1000 faculty development award)
2013-2014: University of Alabama Doctoral Student Organization Secretary
2013-2014: University of Alabama National Alumni Association Graduate Fellow
2009: Golden Key Honor Society
2007 - Present: Phi Alpha Honor Society

GRANTS

Mississippi Academic Pathways (MAP)
Open-entitlement project
Co-Investigator
Fall 2023 - Present

Child Advocacy Centers of Mississippi (CACM)
\$75,000
Child Advocacy Studies Interdisciplinary Expansion Project (CAST IEP)
Primary Investigator
October 2022 – August 2024

Mississippi State University Center for Community Engaged Learning
Community Engaged Learning Fellow

\$1000

Funding used to support the SW 3523 – Social Work Practice II – A CEL Designated Course
community engagement activities.

TEACHING

Experience

Assistant Professor

Department of Sociology, Social Work Program, Mississippi State University

Current Courses

August 2025 – December 2025

SW 3213 – Research Methods in Social Work

SW 4533 – Substance Abuse in Social Work Services

SW 4613 – Child Welfare Services

Courses Taught

January 2025 – May 2025

SW 2023 – Trauma-Informed Social Work Practice

SW 3213 – Research Methods in Social Work

SW 4613 – Child Welfare Services

August 2024 – December 2024

SW 2023 – Trauma-Informed Social Work Practice

SW 3213 – Research Methods in Social Work

SW 4613 – Child Welfare Services.

January 2024 – May 2024

SW 3213 – Research Methods in Social Work

SW 4613 – Child Welfare Services

August 2023 – December 2023

HON 4093 – Honors Directed Study

SW 3213 – Research Methods in Social Work

SW 4533 – Substance Abuse in Social Work Services

SW 4613 – Child Welfare Services

January 2023-May 2023

SW 4613 – Child Welfare Services

August 2022-December 2022

SW 3213 – Research Methods in Social Work

SW 2323 – Social Welfare Policy II

SW 4613 – Child Welfare

January 2022 – April 2022

SW 2303 – Social Welfare Policy I

SW 3213 – Research Methods in Social Work

SW 4613 – Child Welfare

August 2021-December 2021

SW 3213 – Research Methods in Social Work
SW 3523 – Social Work Practice II – A CEL Designated Course
SW 4613 – Child Welfare
January 2021-April 2021
SW 2323 – Welfare Policy II
SW 3523 – Social Work Practice II
SW 4613 – Child Welfare Services
August 2020 – December 2020
SW 2303 – Welfare Policy I
SW 3013 – Human Behavior in the Social Environment I
SW 4613 – Child Welfare Services

Assistant Professor and Director of Field Education

Department of Social Work, Judson College

Responsible for Field Education experiences of students in the Social Work Program.

Courses Taught

May 2020 - June 2020

SWK 323 – Social Work Practice in Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment Settings

January 2019 – April 2019

SWK 312 – Social Work Practice II

SWK 312 Lab – Social Work Practice II Lab

SWK 361 – Preparation for Field Experience

SWK 415 – Child Welfare and Protective Services: A Critical Thinking Course

SWK 464 – Field Experience II

August 2019 – December 2019

SWK 311 – Social Work Practice I

SWK 311 Lab – Social Work Practice I Lab

SWK 313 – Social Work Practice with Aging Populations

SWK 463 – Field Experience I

June 2019

Judson in June – Math Essentials

Program offered to conditionally-admitted students during the summer before their freshman year of college. The math essentials portion of the program took place for 1.5 hours each day for two weeks and focused on reviewing math concepts and skills to prepare students for college-level math courses.

January 2019 – April 2019

SWK 312 – Social Work Practice II

SWK 312 Lab – Social Work Practice II Lab

SWK 361 – Preparation for Field Experience

SWK 415 – Child Welfare and Protective Services: A Critical Thinking Course

SWK 464 – Field Experience II

August 2018 – December 2018

SWK 311 – Social Work Practice I

SWK 311 Lab – Social Work Practice I Lab

SWK 313 – Social Work with Aging Populations

SWK 414 – Practice III
SWK 463 - Field Experience I

Adjunct Faculty

Department of Social Work, Judson College

Courses Taught

January 2018 – April 2018

SWK 312 – Social Work with Families and Groups

SWK 415 – Child Welfare and Protective Services: A Critical Thinking Course

August 2017 – December 2017

SWK 313 – Social Work with Aging Populations

SWK 414 – Social Work Practice III

January 2017 – April 2017

SWK 312 – Social Work with Families and Groups

SWK 415 – Child Welfare and Protective Services

SWK 201 – Introduction to Social Work on the Lovelady Center campus

August 2016-December 2016

SWK 414 – Social Work Practice III

January 2016-April 2016

SWK 312 – Social Work with Families and Groups

SWK 415 – Child Welfare and Protective Services

Field Liaison

School of Social Work, University of Alabama

January 2016 – May 2016

Participated in regular meetings, completed necessary paperwork, and provided support for 10 BSW students who were placed in various field placement assignments across central Alabama.

Graduate Teaching Assistant

School of Social Work, University of Alabama

August 2015 – December 2015

Taught SW 210 – Family and Child Welfare

School of Social Work, University of Alabama

August 2014-December 2014

Taught SW 100 – Introduction to Social Work - online via BlackBoard Learn.

Course/Program Development

Development of SW/HDFS/PSY 4123 – CAST Capstone Experience – Fall 2023 - Present

Developed course (SW/HDFS/PSY 4123 – CAST Capstone Experience) by combining requirements for multiple schools/programs at Mississippi State University to be added as part of the CAST minor.

Creation of Foster Care Case Simulation – Fall 2023 – Present

With the guidance from Project ASSIST at the University of Missouri St. Louis, I worked with a team of social workers from Louisiana to create a four-module case simulation about foster care. I was chosen for this project based on my previous work with Project ASSIST, FORECAST, and CAST.

Collaboration Discussions – October 2022

Met with Chadwick Graham (Dean of Transfer Education at Meridian Community College), Kim Coward (Instructor at Meridian Community College), and Andrea Germany (Field Director at MSU Meridian) to discuss possible collaborations and view the MCC mock house used in their CAST courses

Development of SW 2023 – Sept 2022

As part of the expansion of the CAST curriculum at MSU, I created the SW 2023 – Trauma-Informed Social Work Practice – course as a complement to the HDFS 2023 – Trauma-Informed Practice course. Creating and teaching this course expands the interdisciplinary aspect of the CAST program by offering another perspective of trauma-informed practice. This course can be taken by students of any major.

Interdisciplinary Minor Degree Program Development – Summer 2019

Worked with faculty from other departments and divisions to develop a new minor option for students at Judson College. Researched and prepared proposal to academic counsel and faculty. *Equine-facilitated mental health* minor approved at Judson College for students majoring in social work or psychology.

Trainings

Continual Improvement: A Teacher's Quest – September 2024 – May 2025

Online training through the Mississippi State University's Center for Teaching and Learning

CAST Responsive Education Training Engagement (CREATE) – Train the trainer funded by Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention for Post-Secondary Education for Child Protection Professionals – September 2024

ChildFIRST Forensic Interviewer Training – August 2023

FORECAST Facilitator Training – August 2022 - Present

New Faculty Teaching Academy – August 2020

Online Teaching 101 – August-November 2020

RESEARCH

Publications

- Cheatham, L.P., Randolph, K.A., & **Boltz, L.D.** (2020). Youth with disabilities transitioning from foster care: Examining prevalence and predicting positive outcomes. *Children and Youth Services Review*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2020.104777>
- Yang, F., Maynard, Q., Young, S.R., Kenney, J.L., Barber, B., **Boltz, L.**, Womack, B., Young, T., Nelson-Gardell, D., Zhang, X. (2019). Qualitative research skills acquisition within social work doctoral education using project-based learning. *Qualitative Social Work*.
- Young, T.L., Womack, B., Maynard, Q., Yang, F., **Boltz, L.**, Brazeal, M., Barber, B., Young, S.R., & Nelson-Gardell, D. (2019) A qualitative data analysis: family victim advocates in child advocacy centers, *Journal of Family Social Work*, DOI: 10.1080/10522158.2019.1616239
- Boltz, L.**, & Vandiver, V. (2017). Mental health promotion. *Oxford Bibliographies in Public Health*. doi: 10.1093/obo/9780199756797-0113
- Smith, B. D., Prichard, C., & **Boltz, L. D.** (2016). Do child welfare job preview videos reflect evidence on retention and turnover? *Children & Youth Services Review*, 71210-216. doi:10.1016/j.childyouth.2016.11.015
- Boltz, L.** (2016). Mental health and aging. *Best Practices in Mental Health*, 12(2), 113-114.
- Boltz, L.** (2015). Immigration and mental health: Just because it's said on the web doesn't make it so. *Best Practices in Mental Health*, 11(2), 103-104.
- Boltz, L.** (2015). Website review: Trauma. *Best Practices in Mental Health*, 11(1), 95-96.

Manuscripts Under Review/In Progress

- Boltz, L.D.**, Knowles, V., & Cooper, A. (2025). Utilizing Personal Stories of Race in Child Welfare Education.
- Boltz, L.D.** & Phillips, M.Y. (2025). Importance of relationships and communication when making health care decisions for children in foster care.

Peer Reviewed Presentations

- Boltz, L.** & V. Knowles. (2023). Using personal stories to discuss race in child welfare. Interactive workshop presented at the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Annual Program Meeting, Atlanta, GA.

Lile, T.* & **Boltz, L.** (2023). Preparing Students for Child Welfare Work Using Case Simulations. Panel presentation for the Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors Annual Conference, Birmingham, AL. *BSW student at MSU

Bellais, M.*, Knowles, V. & **Boltz, L.** (2023). The Use of Child Welfare Simulations in an Inter-Disciplinary Setting. Panel presentation for the Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors Annual Conference, Birmingham, AL. *BSW student at MSU

Boltz, L. & Germany, A. Grace, S.* (2022). Experiential Learning in Child Welfare Using Case Simulations. Workshop Presentation for the Alabama-Mississippi Social Work Conference, Meridian, MS. *BSW student at MSU Meridian

Boltz, L., & Smith, B. (2018). Sense of responsibility: Roles of caseworkers and foster parents in health care. Panel presentation for the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Annual Program Meeting, Orlando, FL.

Smith, B. & **Boltz, L.** (2018). Is County-Level Social Support Associated with Child Maltreatment Report Rates? Symposium presentation at the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Annual Conference, Washington, DC.

Boltz, L. (2017). Offering College Courses to Women in a Drug Rehabilitation Program. Poster presented at the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Annual Program Meeting, Dallas, TX.

Invited Presentations

Boltz, L., Knowles, V., Cooper, A., & Bellais, M. (November 2023). Preparing students for child welfare work using case simulation: Experiences of faculty and students. Invited speakers at the One Loud Voice Conference, Biloxi, MS. (Presented with 2 current BSW students)

Boltz, L. & Knowles, V. (November 2023). Preparing students for child welfare work using case simulations. Invited speakers at the Mississippi State University Sociology Department Brown Bag.

Boltz, L. (April 29, 2022). Connecting research, policy, and practice for child welfare systems. Invited speaker at the Mississippi State University Psychology Department Brown Bag Series.

Boltz, L. (February 2021) Whose job is it? Role confusion in child welfare. Invited speaker at the Field Instructor Training for Mississippi State University's Social Work Program

Academic Experience

Graduate Administrative Assistant
School of Social Work, University of Alabama
December 2014 – May 2017

Assisted in administrative duties in the production of a peer-reviewed journal, *Best Practices in Mental Health*. Compiled recent literature for use in publications. Wrote brief descriptions of literature for publication.

Graduate Research Assistant

School of Social Work, University of Alabama

August 2016 – May 2017

Assisted in reviewing literature for upcoming publications.

August 2014 – May 2015

Assisted in reviewing literature for upcoming publications. Helped develop data collection instrument. Collaborated to collect data, code data, and enter data into SPSS program.

Data Analyst

August 2016

Analyzed data that was presented in an executive summary to the Policy Subcommittee of the Board of Alabama Children First

Trainings

Two Week Writing Bootcamp – National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity –

March 2025 and April 2025

IGNITE: Health Research and Public Health presented by the MSU Office of Research Development – September 2024

Mississippi Center for Clinical and Translational Research (MCCTR) Community-Engaged Research (CEnR) Summer Institute – July 2023

Virtual Reality Exploration Series – March 2023

Office of Research Education and Development (ORED) Public Health and Health Science Research Symposium – March 2023

SERVICE

University Service

Linking Internationals in the Community (LINC) Program mentor – February 2025 – Present

Connect with international students at MSU to provide support and information about American culture and traditions

Institutional Effectiveness – MSU Standing Committee – October 2024 - Present

Student Success Carnival volunteer – August 2024

Child Advocacy Studies (CAST) Faculty – August 2022 - Present

Collaborate with CAST Faculty across Mississippi and MSU to develop courses and trainings to prepare students to advocate for and work with children

Arts and Sciences Mentoring Program – 2020 – 2022

Participated in monthly meetings with mentor in the School of Arts and Sciences

Departmental Service

Social Science Symposium Committee – *August 2024 – Present*

Worked with faculty across the department to develop a symposium event for prospective students

Undergraduate Curriculum and Policies Committee – *Fall 2022 – Spring 2023*

Evaluate and recommend changes to curriculum

Sociology Mentoring – *Spring 2021 - Present*

Participated in regular mentor meetings

Social Work Program Service

Search Committee – *Spring 2022 & Fall 2024*

Participated in the committee to fill open positions within the social work program

Association of Students in Social Work (ASSW) Faculty Advisor – *2021 – Present*

Assist social work students in facilitating meetings

Participate in regular association meetings and activities

Association of Students in Social Work Faculty Co-Advisor – *August 2020 – 2021*

Assisted social work students in facilitating meetings

Participated in regular association meetings and activities

CSWE Reaffirmation – *2022 – 2024*

Assisted Mississippi State University Social Work Program in completing the CSWE reaffirmation

Curriculum Committee – *Fall 2020 – Present*

Review potential changes to social work curriculum and report to the Undergraduate Curriculum and Policies Committee

Scholarship Committee – *Fall 2020 – Present*

Assess and recommend scholarship recipients

Admissions Committee – *Fall 2020 – Present*

Assess, interview, and approve applications for students applying to the social work program

CSWE Reaffirmation – 2017 – June 2020

Assisted Judson College in completing the CSWE reaffirmation of the Social Work program.

Trainings

MSU Student Organization Faculty Advisor Training – September 2024

Safe Zone Ally – March 2021

Completed trainings in Safe Zone Ally Awareness, Safe Zone Ally: QTPOC, and Safe Zone Ally: Building Allies and Supportive Environments

Community Service

Lessons and Carols Ensemble Member – December 2024

Sang as part of the ensemble at the Lessons and Carols event at the Chapel of Memories. This event included singing carols, selected readings, and a speech from Dr. Keenum.

Starkville Oktibbeha Unity League (SOUL) Racial Dialogue Group Participant – March 2023 – 2024

Consultant for Peer-Facilitated Victim Support Group – September 2022 - 2024

Partnership with ASSW and Theater MSU – September 2022

Faculty and students in these organizations provided dinner and a play free of charge to children in foster care and their foster parents/caregivers

Co-Facilitator of Child Welfare Training for Child and Family Services Department of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians – August 2022

Child Welfare Expert for WLBT News – July 2022

Advocate for Needmore Community Members – July 2022 – Present

Met with Starkville community leaders and Needmore community leaders/members to advocate for community member involvement in the decision making of renovations to the Needmore Community Center.

Presented at a Starkville, MS Board of Aldermen meeting to advocate for the community members impacted by the park development.

Strengthening Families Group Facilitator/Assistant – January 2019 – June 2020

Assist social work students in leading weekly group sessions with parents from the Perry County community. Prepare activities related to the topics for group sessions. Debrief with social work students about their experiences during the group sessions.

Perry County Community Coalition Member – October 2018 – June 2020

Network with community partnerships to address drug and alcohol use among teens in Perry County, AL. Work with community members to plan events to help families in Perry County, AL.

DC Fly-In Participant – March 2018

Participated in advocacy activities in Washington DC. Met with staff members of Senators and Representatives to advocate for HR 2512 – The Foster Youth and Driving Act. Attended meetings to learn about ways to advocate for social work issues at the federal, state, and local levels.

Professional Service

American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare Mentoring Program – Fall 2024 – Present

Collaborate with a social work faculty member to network and research

Peer Reviewer – August 2016 – Present

Child and Family Social Work
Child Welfare
Journal of Public Child Welfare
Social Work & Christianity
Trauma, Violence, & Abuse

Editorial Board Member – December 2014 – May 2017

Best Practices in Mental Health

Invited Presentations

University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Public Health – March 2025

Panel speaker for Alumni Week Webinar Series: Public Health and Communities

Foster Parent support group meeting - January 2025

Presented at the foster parent monthly meeting at First Baptist Church Starkville.

Foster Parent support group meeting – August 2022

Presented at the Foster Parent monthly meeting at First Baptist Church Starkville.

University of Alabama School of Social Work Faculty Exchange – May 2018

Spoke on my experience with the Washington DC Fly-In advocacy experience

Women's Group – February 2017

Spoke to a group at The Church at Clanton, Clanton, AL on the topics of foster care and adoption

PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

Senior Social Worker

Jefferson County Department of Human Resources (JCDHR), Bessemer Division – Bessemer, AL

February 2010 – July 2013

Full-time - Provided case management for children and teenagers who were in the custody of the state of Alabama. Worked cooperatively with service providers to allow clients access to needed resources. Monitored children and teenagers in their out-of-home placements. Taught teenagers independent living skills so that they could be self-sufficient after leaving state custody. Completed documentation required by JCDHR, Jefferson County Family Court, and other service providers.

Social Work/Public Health Field Placement (Intern)

Children's Harbor Family Center at Children's Hospital, Birmingham, AL

May 2009 – August 2009

Full-time - Worked as part of a multi-disciplinary team to provide care to children diagnosed with a chronic illness. Contacted community resources to find ways to meet the needs of patients at Children's Hospital. Researched the use of social media for the top ten children's hospitals in the United States in order to present the findings to the Children's Harbor Family Center staff.

Social Work Field Placement (Intern)

Tuscaloosa County Office of the Public Defender, Tuscaloosa, AL

January 2008 – May 2008

Full-time - Co-led a 10-week anger-management group in Tuscaloosa County Jail. Worked together with lawyers, clients, and clients' families to set up appointments and organize clients' treatment options. Completed drug and alcohol assessments to determine the rehabilitation needs of clients.

PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS & AFFILIATIONS

Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW)

October 2013 – Present

License Number: 3594C

The State of Alabama Board of Social Work Examiners

Private Independent Practice (PIP)

August 2018 – Present

License Number: 1429-3594C

Licensed in Social Case Work

The State of Alabama Board of Social Work Examiners

Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW)

August 2025 – Present

License Number: C11595

The Mississippi Board of Examiners for Social Worker and Marriage and Family Therapists

Member

Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)

National Association of Social Workers (NASW)