Cheryl A. Burris

cburris2@gmu.edu | https://www.cherylanneburris.com/

EDUCATION

PhD Studies (in progress) George Mason University, Fairfax, VA • *expected* May 2029
Primary Specialization: Learning Technologies Design Research
Secondary Specialization: Educational Psychology and AI-Assisted Neuro-Informed Instructional Design
Research Focus: AI-assisted cognitive accessibility in digital learning environments for neurodivergent students, particularly those with ADHD and/or autism

Pennsylvania State University University Park, PA • 2019
Master of Education—Learning, Design, & Technology

Pennsylvania State University University Park, PA • 2014
Master of Education—Adult Education

- Certificate in Educational Technology Integration
- Certificate in Distance Education

Fayetteville State University Fayetteville, NC • 2000
Bachelor of Science—Elementary Education & History

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

Facilitation Consultant George Mason University, Fairfax, VA • 2026–Present
Summit on Open-Source Ecosystems (SOSE): creating opportunities and supporting subject matter experts as they facilitate sessions where participants learn from one another and explore open-source ecosystems through different track perspectives, for the inaugural event scheduled for 02-03 December 2026.

Graduate Research Assistant George Mason University, Fairfax, VA • 2026–Present
GMU Research (SEED) Grant: supporting a design-based research study to revalidate and reimagine the Online Learning Quality Model (OLQM) and Inventory (OLQI) in a post-pandemic, AI-enabled higher education context.

Instructional Designer Assistant George Mason University, Fairfax, VA • 2026
Department of the Navy, Financial Management Training Course: authored a four-day suite of program execution guides to translate foundational accounting, budgeting, fiscal law, and Navy Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) content into delivery-ready instruction.

Graduate Research Assistant George Mason University, Fairfax, VA • 2025–Present
Interdisciplinary Center for Research and Development in Teacher Education (RITE Center) Grant: conducting a systematic review examining the use of AI in teacher preparation programs.

Graduate Research Assistant George Mason University, Fairfax, VA • 2024–2025
Virginia Department of Education Training and Technical Assistance Center (TTAC) Grant: supported a grant studying high-leverage practices in teacher education for the CEEDAR Center.

RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

Research Assistantship Projects
2026—Present: Revalidate and reimagine the Online Learning Quality Model and Inventory (SEED Grant)
2025—Present: Scoping review examining AI and teacher preparation (RITE Center)
2024—2025: High-leverage practices in teacher education (VDOE TTAC grant; CEEDAR Center)

PRESENTATIONS

Teacher Education Division (TED) Conference Denver, CO • November 2026

- Integrating AI into Teacher Preparation: A Descriptive Literature Review
- From Evidence to Enactment: A Doctoral Research-to-Practice Internship (SPARC/ CIDDL) in Artificial Intelligence and Simulation for Teacher Preparation

Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Conference Columbus, OH • November 2027
Upcoming Opportunity: Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Teacher Preparation Programs (TPP): Current Models of Curriculum Integration

ACADEMIC TEACHING

No academic teaching experience

GRANTS

No grants awarded

SERVICE

Doctoral Student Council George Mason University, Fairfax, VA • 2025–Present
Representative, Learning Technology Design Research (LTDR) Specialization

UAT Tester George Mason University, Fairfax, VA • 2025
Student User Acceptance Testing (UAT) for GMU Patriot Connect

UX Tester Neurodiversity Design System • 2023
User Experience (UX) Tester for the Neurodiversity Design System (https://www.neurodiversity.design) by Will Soward, linkedin.com/in/willsoward.

AFFILIATIONS

Member Ness Labs (https://nesslabs.com/) • 2025–Present
Research-based Metacognition Community

Member George Mason University, Fairfax, VA • 2025–Present
Disability and Neurodivergence Alliance (DNA) Faculty/Staff Affinity Group

PRIOR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (SELECTED)

Program Director of Education Challenger Center, Washington, DC • 2019–2023

- Directed education program, curriculum, and evaluation development for national programs: ensured compliance and reporting accuracy.
- Acted as VP of Education (April 2022–March 2023), led strategic initiatives, including system redesign, professional development, and partner engagement.

Transition Assistance Counselor Serco, Fort Bragg, NC • 2015–2016

Provided transition counseling and instruction for service members and families through the Soldier for Life Transition Assistance Program (SFL-TAP).

Fifth Grade Teacher Vanstory Hills Elementary School, Fayetteville, NC • 2006–2008

Developed instruction and assessment aligned to national, state, and local requirements.

Curriculum & Instruction Specialist STARBASE Alaska, Anchorage, AK • 2002–2003

Established a STEM program, grew the customer base, and developed instruction aligned to national and state requirements.

Fourth Grade Teacher E.E. Miller Elementary School, Fayetteville, NC • 2000–2001

Developed instruction and assessment aligned to national, state, and local requirements.