

# Skylar Davidson

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## Education

- 2018: Ph.D., Sociology, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- 2016: M.A., Sociology, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- 2012: B.A., Political Science, Stockton University
- 2009: A.A., History, Atlantic Cape Community College

## Work Experience

- 2022 – present: Associate Professor of Sociology, Chattanooga State
- 2018 – 2022: Assistant Professor of Sociology, Chattanooga State
- 2014 – present: Part-Time Instructor, UMass

## Teaching Experience

- Chattanooga State
  - 200-level
    - Race and Ethnicity
    - Sociology of Aging
  - 100-level
    - Introduction to Sociology
- UMass
  - 300-level
    - Writing in Sociology
    - Sociology of Childhood
    - Sociology of Education
    - Sociology of Law
    - Sociology of Medicine
    - Juvenile Delinquency
  - 200-level
    - Social Class and Inequality
    - Age and Society
    - Race and Society
    - Sexuality and Society
    - Sociology of American Culture
  - 100-level
    - Race, Class, Gender, and Ethnicity
    - First-Year Seminar: Connecting Self and Society
- Independent Studies Supervised
  - One-credit honors independent study added to the Sexuality and Society course, for a junior sociology and political science student (UMass; 2022)
  - One-credit honors independent study added to the Race, Class, Gender, and Ethnicity course, for a sophomore psychology student (UMass; 2014)

### **Presentations (Interactive Workshop Format)**

- “AI Essentials for Students” (co-presented with Patrick Ward)
  - 2025; Chattanooga State; audience of students
- “AI Essentials for Educators” (co-presented with Patrick Ward and William Taylor)
  - 2025; Chattanooga State; audience of faculty and staff
- “Protect Yourself: How You Can Combat Social Engineering Attacks” (co-presented with Patrick Ward)
  - 2024; Chattanooga State; audience of students, faculty, and staff
- “Automation Technologies and the Future of Work: How Open Access at Community Colleges Sets Students up for Success”
  - 2024; Chattanooga State; audience of faculty and staff
- “Photo, Video, and Voice Recordings: Safety at Community Colleges and Beyond”
  - 2024; Chattanooga State; audience of faculty and staff
- “Closing the Gap” (co-presented with William Taylor)
  - 2021; Chattanooga State; audience of faculty and staff
  - This workshop pertained to strategies for creating an equitable classroom environment during the COVID-19 pandemic
- “Teaching Portfolios”
  - 2020; UMass; audience of graduate students
- “Teaching the Future: Solution-Oriented Activities for the Classroom”
  - 2018 and 2019; Chattanooga State; audience of faculty
  - 2017; UMass; audience of faculty and graduate students
- “Introduction to Causal Layered Analysis”
  - 2019; Chattanooga State; audience of faculty and staff
- “Introduction to Backcasting”
  - 2019; Chattanooga State; audience of Equity Committee members
- “Hacking Without a Computer: Preventing Social Engineering Attacks at Chattanooga State”
  - 2019; Chattanooga State; audience of faculty and staff
- “How to Engage Students”
  - 2017; UMass; audience of graduate students
- “Effective Teaching Strategies”
  - 2015; UMass; audience of graduate students

### **Presentations (Lecture Format)**

- “Using Data to Scale Shortened Academic Terms and Untangle Barriers to Course Success” (co-presented with Leeann Cline-Burris, Lindsay J. Holland, William Taylor, and Traci Williams)
  - Presented in 2026 at Achieving the Dream's 2026 Annual Meeting
- “Reimagining the Future of Writing: Strategies and Implementation of Writing-Intensive High-Impact Practices” (co-presented with William Taylor)
  - Presented in 2019 at the IUPUI Assessment Institute's High Impact Practices (HIPs) in the States Conference
- “Nonbinary People and Gender-Nonconforming People in the Workplace”
  - Presented in 2018 at the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) Panel on

- Gender-Nonconformity/Fluidity in the Workplace
- “Future-Oriented Roleplaying Exercises in the College Classroom”
  - Presented in 2016 at Evidence-Based Teaching at UMass: A CIRTL Practitioner Symposium
- “Segregation and Pay”
  - Presented in 2014 by Donald Tomaskovic-Devey, Karen Brummond, and Skylar Davidson at the *EEODATANET conference*
- “The Political Sources of Income Inequality in the American States”
  - Presented in 2012 by James Avery and Skylar Davidson at the *Midwest Political Science Association conference*

## Publications

- Peer-Reviewed Articles
  - Davidson, Skylar. 2026. “Whole-Class and Small-Group Speaking Skills: How Does Total Class Size Matter?” *InSight: A Journal of Scholarly Teaching* 21:1-9.
  - Davidson, Skylar. 2020. “Intersectionality: A Tool for Using Causal Layered Analysis in Education.” *Journal of Futures Studies* 25(2):49-60.
  - Davidson, Skylar. 2019. “Nothing Is Set in Stone!: Incorporating Futures Studies into College Courses.” *Journal of Effective Teaching in Higher Education* 2(1):136-152.
  - Davidson, Skylar. 2018. “Artistic Classroom Activities: What Skills Can Students Learn?” *Journal for Learning Through the Arts* 14(1).
  - Davidson, Skylar. 2017. “Futurology in the College Classroom.” *InSight: A Journal of Scholarly Teaching* 12:51-63.
- Peer-Reviewed Teaching Tools
  - Davidson, Skylar. 2023. “Bringing Roleplays into the Online Course Environment by Writing Scripts.” In the *Teaching Online Pedagogical Repository*, edited by A. deNoyelles, S. Bauer, and S. Wyatt. Orlando, FL: University of Central Florida Center for Distributed Learning.  
<https://topr.online.ucf.edu/bringing-roleplays-into-the-online-course-environment-by-writing-scripts/>
  - Davidson, Skylar. 2021. “Why Should Faculty Make a Future-Oriented Mindset Explicit?” *NEFDC Exchange* 35.
- Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters
  - Davidson, Skylar. “Backcasting: Engaging with Course Content via Future Planning.” Forthcoming in *TILTed Pedagogy: A Collection of Evidence-Based Assignments to Inspire Learning in Higher Education*, edited by S.M. Sipes, J. Friberg, and M. Frake-Mistak. Elon University Open Access Book Series.  
<https://www.centerforengagedlearning.org/publications/open-access-book-series/forthcoming-books/>
- Blogs and Newsletters
  - Davidson, Skylar. 2022. “Midsemester Evaluations of Teaching: Strengthening Faculty Development in Rapidly Changing Times.” *NISOD Innovation Abstracts* 44(4).
  - Davidson, Skylar. 2020. “Problem Solving for the Future: Teaching Using Scenarios and Backcasting.” *NISOD Innovation Abstracts* 42(32).
  - Davidson, Skylar. 2019. “Futures Within Reach: Using Scenarios to Consider

- Solutions to Social Problems.” *Teaching and Learning Matters* 48(3):5.
- Davidson, Skylar. 2019. “Causal Layered Analysis: A Tool for Combating Political Incivility.” *Teaching and Learning Matters* 48(1):4-5.
  - Tomaskovic-Devey, Donald, Karen Brummond, Skylar Davidson, and Stephanie Tsamasiros. 2014. “Collect Pay Data and Rank Employers.” *Gender & Society Blog* (<http://gendersociety.wordpress.com/2014/04/28/collect-pay-data-and-rank-employers/>).
  - Reports
    - Tomaskovic-Devey, Donald, Karen Brummond, JooHee Han, and Skylar Davidson. 2014. “Private Sector Industry Disparities: A Report on Evidence of Systemic Disparities for Women, African Americans, Hispanics, Asians and Native Americans.” Report prepared for the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. (<https://www.umass.edu/eeodatanet/industry-ranking>).
    - Tomaskovic-Devey, Donald, Karen Brummond, and Skylar Davidson. 2014. “Firm Grades for Gender Disparities.” Report prepared for the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

## **Professional Service**

- Peer-Reviewed Journals
  - 2024-present: Editor of the *Journal of Student Success and Retention*
  - 2023-present: Member of the peer review board at *InSight: A Journal of Scholarly Teaching*
  - 2022-2024: Associate Editor at the *Journal of Student Success and Retention*
  - Reviewer for *Current Sociology*; *Sociological Theory*; *Psychology and Sexuality*; *Gender, Work & Organization*; *PLOS ONE*; and *Journal of Homosexuality*
- Conferences
  - 2025-2026: Grading Conference proposal reviewer
  - 2022-2025: Open Education Conference program selection committee member
  - 2021-2022: Open Education Conference proposal reviewer

## **Institutional Service (Chattanooga State)**

- 2024-present: Member of the Green Team
- 2024-present: Member of the Financial Literacy Committee
- 2023-present: Member of the Scholarship Committee
- 2022-present: Member of the Advising Center Advisory Board
- 2022-present: Member of the Curriculum Committee
- 2022-present: Member of the Policy Review Committee
- 2024-2025: Member of the Ben G. Care Team, which identifies students in need of support and coordinates campus services
- 2018-2022: Member of the Supportive Services Strategy Team
- 2019-2021: Member of the Student Research and Creative Showcase Committee
- 2020-2021: Faculty Senate parliamentarian
- 2020: Member of the Safe Reintegration Committee, which developed plans for in-person and virtual instruction to mitigate COVID-19 hazards
- 2019-2021: Member of the Faculty Handbook Committee

## **Grants and Awards**

- 2024: Tennessee Board of Regents Course Revitalization Grant (with William Taylor), to redesign the Introduction to Sociology course at Chattanooga State to incorporate more activities focused on communication skills, particularly writing
- 2024: Chattanooga State Academic Resources grant (with William Taylor), to incorporate open access materials into the Social Problems course
- 2023: UMass ADVANCE Equitable Practices in Collaboration Award, as a member of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Artificial Intelligence Team (with Anne Bello, Christina DiMarco-Crook, Colleen Kuusinen, Anna LaChance, Erica Light, Siobhan Mei, Becky Miller, Julia McDougal Ronconi, Nick Tooker, and Torrey Trust)
- 2022: Chattanooga State Faculty Fellows award, to do research about the role of open source technologies in shaping automation usage in work settings
- 2022: Tennessee Board of Regents Open Educational Practices grant (with William Taylor), to redesign the Introduction to Sociology course to incorporate greater student input into active learning coursework design
- 2021: Tennessee Board of Regents Open Educational Resources grant (with William Taylor), to redesign the Sociology of Aging course to incorporate open access readings and active learning activities
- 2020: Chattanooga State Faculty Fellows award, to do research on best practices in student evaluations of faculty
- 2019: Tennessee Board of Regents Course Revitalization Grant (with William Taylor), to redesign the Introduction to Sociology course at Chattanooga State to incorporate more active learning
- 2018: Chattanooga State Faculty Fellows award, to do research on how the futures method Causal Layered Analysis can be used in the classroom
- 2016: UMass Social and Behavioral Sciences Online Fellows Award, to redesign the Social Class and Inequality course to incorporate writing-intensive activities and peer feedback

## **Teacher Training**

- 2017: Obtained Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning (CIRTL) scholar status. This status reflects completion of my evidence-based teaching project “Futurology in the College Classroom,” and publication in a peer-reviewed outlet.
- 2016: Obtained Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning (CIRTL) practitioner status. This status reflects completion of my evidence-based teaching project “Future-Oriented Roleplaying Exercises in the College Classroom” and presentation to the UMass CIRTL community.
- 2015: Obtained Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning (CIRTL) associate status. This status reflects participation in a series of workshops covering the CIRTL core ideas of learning communities, evidence-based teaching, and learning through diversity.
- 2012: Completed the three-credit Teaching Sociology course (UMass).

### **Research Projects in Progress**

- I am analyzing survey data comparing the viewpoints of college students and faculty on active learning and on planning for the future.
- I am writing a conceptual article about the role of open source technologies in shaping automation usage in work settings.
- I am writing a conceptual article about supporting college students and faculty in becoming more aware of digital privacy issues.

### **Portfolio**

A portfolio of my publications and syllabi can be found at <https://sites.google.com/view/skylardavidson/home>.