

AMBER D. ALSTON

*Graduate Teaching Assistant | Writing & Communication Consultant
The University of Memphis*

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I. ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

A. Name: Ms. Amber D. Alston (*she/her*) Title: Graduate Teaching Assistant

B. Educational Background

Doctor of Philosophy – Spring 2027

Communication | University of Memphis | Memphis, TN

Master of Arts – Spring 2023

Communication Studies | Texas State University | San Marcos, TX

Bachelor of Arts – Spring 2020

Communication Studies | Texas State University | San Marcos, TX

Minor in Mass Communication

C. Other Professional Credentials (licensure, certification, etc.)

Teaching Learning Academy Certification (August 2021 – June 2023)

College Reading and Learning Association Certification (January 2017 – May 2020)

Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative Certification – Social and Behavioral

Research (September 2023 – September 2025)

Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative Certification – Conflict of Interest

(September 2023 – September 2027)

II. TEACHING EXPERIENCE

A. Courses Taught:

Texas State University:

Fall 2021:

COMM 1310.001 (L03, L07, L11) – FUNDAMENTALS OF COMMUNICATION

Spring 2022:

COMM 1310.255 (L64, L65, L66) – FUNDAMENTALS OF COMMUNICATION

Summer 2022:

COMM 1310.751 (L54) – FUNDAMENTALS OF COMMUNICATION

Fall 2022:

COMM 1310.068 – FUNDAMENTALS OF COMMUNICATION

Spring 2023:

COMM 1310.289 – FUNDAMENTALS OF COMMUNICATION

University of Memphis:

Fall 2023:

COMM 2381.002 – ORAL COMMUNICATION

COMM 2381.004 – ORAL COMMUNICATION

Spring 2024:

COMM 2381.007 – ORAL COMMUNICATION

COMM 2381.008 – ORAL COMMUNICATION

Summer 2024:

COMM 2381.M57 – ORAL COMMUNICATION [SUMMER - ONLINE]

Fall 2024:

COMM 2381.020 – ORAL COMMUNICATION

COMM 2381.M57 – ORAL COMMUNICATION [FALL - ONLINE]

Spring 2025:

COMM 2381.011 – ORAL COMMUNICATION

COMM 2381.M57 – ORAL COMMUNICATION [SPRING – ONLINE]

B. Courses Prepared and Curriculum Development:

COMM 5313 Relational Communication, Curriculum Development: 2022.

COMM 1310 Fundamentals of Communication, Curriculum Development, Basic Course Administrator: 2021, 2022.

COMM 2381 Oral Communication, Curriculum Development, 2023.

COMM 2381 Oral Communication, Curriculum Development, 2024.

III. SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

A. Works in Print:

- a. Alston, A. D. & Austin, J. T. (2023). #BlackCommunicationMatters: Creating Equitable Spaces for Black Communication and Language through a Womanist Rhetorical Lens. *Communication Teacher*.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/17404622.2023.2236687>

IV. CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Top Student Papers marked with an asterisk ()*

Alston, A. (Presenter). Southern States Communication Association Conference, "The Uphill Battle: Rhetorical Constructions of a States United in Amanda Gorman's 2021 Inaugural Poem *The Hill We Climb*" (April 2023 – St. Petersburg, FL).

Alston, A. (Panelist). Southern States Communication Association Conference, "An Intersectional Approach and Expanding the Critical Lens to Communicating Belonging through a Diversity of Scholarship" (April 2024 – Frisco, TX).

Presentation: "*Difficulties with the Doctor: Black Women's Communicative Tensions Surrounding Equitable Healthcare*"

Alston, A. (Presenter). 16th Annual Ida B. Wells Conference, "Body Positivity or Body Politics? Rhetorical Hurdles about Black Women's Size Inclusivity" (November 2024 – Memphis, TN).

Alston, A. (Presenter/Co-Author). National Communication Association Conference, "Communication for Greater Regard: Practical Tools for Fostering Community in the Classroom" (November 2024 – New Orleans, LA).

Presentation: *"Regarding Womanist Teaching: Themes of Voice, Vulnerability, Community, and Humanness"*

Alston, A. (Presenter). Southern States Communication Association Conference, "'Hey Auntie!': A Close Reading on Looking for Zora in Alice Walker's In Search of our Mother's Gardens" (April 2025 – Norfolk, VA).

Alston, A. (Presenter). Southern States Communication Association Conference, "'Still Over It, But Never Over God': Analyzing the Sacred Anchoring in Ciara's Prayer on Summer Walker's Still Over It" (April 2025 – Norfolk, VA).*

Alston, A. (Panelist). Southern States Communication Association Conference, "Anchoring Black Feminism and Womanist Thought: A Critical Discussion of the Centering of Black Girls and Womens' Perspectives"

Presentation: *Extending the Womanist Diaspora by Anchoring Womanist Organizational Theory* (April 2025 – Norfolk, VA).

Alston, A. (Panelist). Southern States Communication Association Conference, "World Premiere of Documentary about HBCU PhD Pipeline Program" (April 2025 – Norfolk, VA).

V. GRANTS & FUNDING

University of Memphis, "Department of Communication and Film Research/Creative Work Grant", \$150.00 (2023-2024).

VI. INVITED RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

"Difficulties with the Doctor: Black Women's Communicative Tensions Surrounding Equitable Healthcare", Department of Communication and Film, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN. (November 2023).

VII. INVITED GUEST LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

"Communication Theory Publishing Process: Discussions on How to Publish in *Communication Teacher*". Guest Lecture prepared for Texas State University. University of Memphis. (February 2024).

Center for Writing and Communication Informational Presentation. Prepared for the Hooks African American Male Initiative/A Seat at the Table. Guest Presentation prepared for the Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change. University of Memphis. (March 2024).

"Building an Instructional Unit for Work, Identity, and Difference in Communication Studies". Guest Lecture prepared for Texas State University. University of Memphis. (February 2025).

"Pitch Outlining Workshop". Guest Training co-prepared for The University of Memphis. University of Memphis (February 2025).

“Storytelling Workshop”. Guest Training co-prepared for The University of Memphis. University of Memphis (March 2025).

“Proposing and Delivering your Product Pitch”. Guest Workshop co-prepared for The University of Memphis. University of Memphis (April 2025).

VIII. SERVICE

A. INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

1. University:

Lantana Hall Council President, Department of Housing and Residential Life. Community Enhancement (2017-2018).

Secretary, Foster Care Alumni Creating Educational Success (FACES) of Texas State University (2018-2019).

Undergraduate Lead Consultant, University Writing Center, Texas State University (2018-2020).

Vice-President, Foster Care Alumni Creating Educational Success (FACES) of Texas State University (2019-2020).

Bobcat Day Volunteer & Representative, Foster Care Alumni Creating Educational Success (FACES) of Texas State University (February 2022).

Rehearsal Volunteer, TEDx – Texas State University (February 2022).

Archive Administrator, University of Memphis (July-August 2023).

Writing & Presentation Consultant, Center for Writing and Communication, University of Memphis (January-May 2024).

Writing & Presentation Consultant/Desk Lead, Center for Writing and Communication, University of Memphis (September-December 2024).

Organizational Planning Committee – Marketing, Center for Writing and Communication, University of Memphis (October 2024).

Organizational Program Planning Committee, CREWS and CWC Program Merger – Center for Writing and Communication, University of Memphis (October 2024).

Writing & Presentation Consultant/Desk Lead, Center for Writing and Communication, University of Memphis (January-May 2025).

2. Department/School:

Representative, Graduate College, Communication Studies Department. (TXST). (2022).

Tigers Speak Volunteer, Department of Communication and Film, University of Memphis. (September 2023).

Recruitment Volunteer, Department of Communication and Film, University of Memphis. (August 2024).

Tigers Speak Volunteer, Department of Communication and Film, University of Memphis. (September 2024).

3. College:

Texas State University San Marcos – Graduate College, Invited Talks, “Letters to Ourselves From Grad School”, Graduate College, San Marcos, TX, United States. (April 6, 2022).

B. DISCIPLINARY SERVICE

Peer Mentor. HBCU Communication Pipeline Program. Sponsored by the National Communication Association & the University of Cincinnati (June 2023 – May 2024).

Womanism Panel Chair. Rhetoric and Religious Traditions Conference: An Interdisciplinary Conference (October 2023).

Peer Mentor. HBCU Communication Pipeline Program. Sponsored by the National Communication Association & the University of Cincinnati (June 2024 – May 2025).

Paper & Panel Reviewer. Southern States Communication Association – Language and Social Interaction Interest Group (September 2024).

Nomination & Elections Committee Member. National Communication Association – Activism and Social Justice Division (October 2024).

C. COMMUNITY SERVICE

Praise and Worship Department. Abyssinian Baptist Church. (December 2023).

Vacation Bible School Teacher. Rising Star Baptist Church. (June 2023).

Social Media Liaison and Community Enhancement Missionary. New Birth Evangelical Church of Houston, TX. (August 2021; June 2022).

Volunteer. Keep San Marcos Beautiful. Junkyard Cleanup. (April 2019).

Volunteer. Keep San Marcos Beautiful. Big Texas River Cleanup. (March 2019).

IX. ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., Gamma Phi Sigma Chapter. Women’s Wellness Committee & Historian Assistant. (2021).

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., Mu Phi Chapter. Treasurer, Parliamentarian, Recording Secretary, & Historian. (TXST). (2019-2020).

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., Mu Phi Chapter. Recording Secretary (TXST). (2019).

X. SERVICE & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

Workshop, “Local Activism: Experiences From A Bobcat Alum,” Texas State Communication Studies Graduate Association. (March 2022).

Workshop, “Communication 1310 Diversity Event,” Texas State Communication Studies Graduate Association. (October 2021).

Workshop, “Leveling Up: (Re)Envisioning Success In Graduate School,” Texas State Communication Studies Graduate Association. (August 2021).

Information Session, “Finding Success in Graduate School”, Texas State Graduate College (Fall 2022).

Workshop, “Going Beyond the Classroom: Conferences & Publications”, Texas State Communication Studies Graduate Association. (September 2022).

Workshop, “Interviewing Bootcamp with Justin Garcia”, Texas State Career Readiness Event. (November 2022).

Seminar, “Benefits of a Ph.D. & Marketing Yourself”, Dr. Ronald Jackson & Dr. Robin Means-Coleman, HBCU Communication Pipeline Program. (October 2023).

Seminar, “The Writing Process & Imposter Syndrome”, Dr. Ronald Jackson, Dr. Toniesha Taylor, Dr. Kimberly Johnson, Dr. Andre Johnson, Dr. Tina Harris, & Dr. Jayne Cubbage. HBCU Communication Pipeline Program. (October 2023).

Workshop, “Mental Health in Graduate School”, Dr. Kellie Carstensen, University of Memphis. (August 2024).