

**Rachel Steckler**  
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**Education:**

M.A. **University of Kentucky** (August 2012)

Communication

Thesis defended and approved by committee

Advisor: Deanna Sellnow, Ph.D.

Thesis Topic: Instructional Communication of COMFORT curriculum: Teaching Nursing Students Effective Communication Skills for Delivering Bad News to Patients and Caregivers.

B.A. **University of Kentucky** (2002)

Communication

Thesis: **Improving Communication Skills Among Nursing Students: Assessing the**

**COMFORT Curriculum as an Intervention**

The study employed the COMFORT curriculum as a tool to teach nursing students how to break bad news (BBN) using a social cognitive theory approach. To clarify, when individuals feel confident about their abilities (self-efficacy), they are more likely to reach their goals (Bandura, 1986). Hence, this study posited that nursing students would become more confident about their communication knowledge and skills through the modeling and interactive adaptive learning exercises taught in the COMFORT curriculum.

**Teaching:**

**University of Kentucky** (additional information available upon request)

**CIS 110**

**CIS 111**

**COM 287 (2014-2016): Persuasive Public Speaking**

**ISC 261 (Summer 2014): Inter-Strategic Communication** (~80 students)

Integrated Strategic Communication focuses on curriculum that offers students professional preparation and development for careers in the fields of Advertising, Public Relations and Direct Response Communication.

**CIS 110: Composition and Communication**

This goal of the course was to engage students in reflective thinking and analysis by having them conduct primary research in the community and secondary research using Library resources, and teaching them how to write and speak effectively about their self-concept and a local community for their classmates and for audiences beyond the classroom.

**COM 314: Dark side of Interpersonal Communication**

This course was designed to cover seemingly productive types of communication that can be dysfunctional and teach students the ability to demonstrate communication competency to analyze human behavior.

**PPS 969: Patient Care Lab VI (~ 120 3rd Year Pharmacy Students)**

As an invited lecturer, I prepared a curriculum that focused on effective communication skills that should be used when working with interprofessional (IP) health care teams.

**Guest Trainer Phase I & II (new Pfizer employee training) 2008-2010**

As a guest trainer, I facilitated training classes of 60-80 new hires at the National training facility in White Plains, NY. The pedagogy focused on Pfizer's code of ethics, disease states, product education, direct and in-direct selling skills, time management, computer operations, and team work.

**Professional Experience:**

**Fall 2017-Current**      **Full Time Lecturer (University of Kentucky) 4:4**  
College of Communication and Information Science  
Department of Instructional Communication Research

**Fall 2012-Spring 2017** **Part time instructor (COM 287, 252, CIS 110, CIS 111)**  
College of Communication and Information Science

**Spring 2012**            **Co-Instructor (COM 314)**  
Department of Communication, University of Kentucky

**Fall 2011**              **Instructor of Record (CIS 110)**  
Department of Communication, University of Kentucky

**2010-2012**      **Graduate Teaching Assistant (ISC 261)**  
Department of Communication and Information Studies, University of Kentucky

**2004-2010**                    **Specialty Sales Representative, Lexington, KY**  
Pfizer Pharmaceuticals

**2001-2004**                    **American Cancer Society, Lexington, KY**  
Development Representative

**Professional Development:**

Fall 2011-2015 CIS 110-111 mentor group

Monthly meetings utilized to share ideas and encourage high standards of pedagogy in composition and communication pedagogy.

Fall 2011: CIS 110-111 Orientation and Training

Fall 2011: IGNITE workshops (presentation skills training)

Summer 2011: COM 584 Teaching Communication

Seminar course specifically designed to teach skills in pedagogy, course design, teaching skills, and teacher-student interaction.

Spring 2011: CJT 780 Teaching Composition and Communication

Seminar course specifically designed to teach skills sets for CIS 110 and CIS 111.

Course content focused on creating lesson plans, presentations, course activities and assignments, and creating quizzes and exams for students focused on interpersonal and intercultural communication as well as written and oral communication skills.

Fall 2010: University-wide TA Orientation with Microteaching

2006-2010: Thought Leader Development Committee:

Worked with local and national search committees to recruit physicians who were specialists in the fields of Cardiology, Neurology, Endocrinology, Urology, and Psychiatry. Trained candidates to become distinguished national speakers for Pfizer products specific to their practice and disease state knowledge.

**Service:**

2017-Present: Philanthropy Advisor for Alpha Delta Pi sorority (UK)

Fall 2011-Present: Interprofessional Health Care Team Work Video: College of  
Communication Representative and committee member

Fall 2011-2016: Standards Advisor for Alpha Delta PI sorority (UK)

Fall 2011- Volunteer: Girls on the Run (Lexington, KY)

Summer 2011: Patient Advocate, Refuge Clinic (Lexington, KY)