EDUCATION

2024 Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.), Special Education

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Advisor: Dr. Hedda Meadan

Thesis: *Pre-service special education teachers and functional behavioral*

*assessments: A randomized controlled study*

2014 Master of Education (Ed.M), Special Education

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

2011 Bachelor of Music (B.M.), Music Performance

Minor: Special Education

James Madison University

CERTIFICATIONS

2018 - Present Board Certified Behavior Analyst - Doctoral (BCBA-D)

#1-18-32736

Authorized Continuing Education Provider IP-23-10460

2014 - Present Illinois Professional Educator License: Learning Behavior Specialist - I

Endorsement: Learning Behavior Specialist I (Pre-K - 22)

License ID: 2283682

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Fall 2022 - Present Special Education Project Coordinator (Fall 2024 - )

*Project:* [*Training Qualified Interpreters for IEP Meetings*](https://tqii.education.illinois.edu/program-information/training-modules/special-education-training) *– Special Education Training (State of Illinois Public Act 101-0124)*

Principal Investigator: Dr. Hedda Meadan (in collaboration with the UIUC Department of Linguistics and the Illinois State Board of Education)

*Directed the development of four modules related to special education law and parts of the IEP meeting for the Illinois state-wide interpreter training.*

2021 - 2022 Co-Project Coordinator/Graduate Research Assistant

*Project: Effects of the Family Behavior Support App (FBSApp) on behavior intervention delivery for early childhood teachers: A single case design*

Principal Investigator: Dr. Hedda Meadan

Fall 2020 Graduate Research Assistant

*Project: Cross-cultural caregiver perceptions, preventative, and responsive interventions to challenging behavior*

Principal Investigator: Dr. Hedda Meadan

2019 - 2020 District Coordinator & Behavior Analyst

Office of Diverse Learner Supports + Services, Chicago Public Schools

Chicago, IL

*Consulted on Due Process cases within the district and collaborated with district attorneys. Designed and delivered professional development and coached school teams on classroom and behavior support, crisis management, and instructional strategies.*

2014 - 2019 Special Education Teacher, 9th-12th grade & Transition Services

Whitney M. Young Magnet High School, Chicago Public Schools

Chicago, IL

*Instructed students with extensive support needs and multiple disabilities, initiated school-based and site-based vocational and life skills opportunities, supervised practicum students*

2017 - 2018 Lead Behavior Therapist

Chicago ABA Therapy, Chicago, IL

2012 Dedicated Paraprofessional, Pre-K

McGaheysville Elementary School, Rockingham County Public Schools

McGaheysville, VA

2008 - 2011 Extended School Year and Substitute Paraprofessional, K-5th grade

Meadowood Program, Red Clay Consolidated School District

Wilmington, DE

UNIVERSITY TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Fall 2024 Instructor

SPED 510: *Legal Aspects of Disabilities*

Department of Special Education, University of Illinois

Fall 2024 Instructor

SPED 405: *The General Educator’s Role in Special Education*

Department of Special Education, University of Illinois

Spring 2024 Co-instructor

SPED 426: *Collaboration and Teaming*

Department of Special Education, University of Illinois

Co-instructor: Dr. Laurie Andrews

Fall 2023 Co-instructor

SPED 440: *Instructional Strategies I*

Department of Special Education, University of Illinois

Co-instructor: Dr. Amber Ray

Fall 2021, Practicum Supervisor

Spring 2022 EDPR250: *School and Community Experiences*

Department of Special Education, University of Illinois

Instructor: Laurie Andrews

Spring 2021 Graduate Teaching Assistant

SPED 322: *Introduction to Intellectual Disabilities*

Department of Special Education, University of Illinois

Instructor: Stacy McGuire

Fall 2020 Graduate Teaching Assistant

SPED 405: *The* *General Educator’s Role in Special Education*

Department of Special Education, University of Illinois

Instructors: Dr. Erica Mason and Julia Snider

DOCTORAL INTERNSHIPS

Summer 2023 Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Intern

Research to Practice Division

*Project: Dissemination of the Technical Guidance on Rights of Students with Disabilities Related to Discipline*

*Collaborated with employees across OSEP, attended sessions and meetings with multiple U.S. Department of Education offices, completed a guide for higher education faculty navigating the resources and guidance on student discipline*

Summer 2022 - Policy and Research Legislative Fellow

Spring 2023 Center for Social and Behavioral Science, University of Illinois

Representative Carol Ammons, IL District 103

[*Project: Investigating and improving the child welfare system in Illinois*](https://csbs.research.illinois.edu/an-interview-with-the-policy-research-legislative-fellows/)

*Conducted focus groups with subject matter experts and state legislators and developed fact sheets and brief literature reviews on desired topics, leading to drafting and filing three bills related to education and child welfare*

June 2022 - Present OSEP Scholars Steering Committee Co-Chair

*Co-led an inaugural group of doctoral students funded through 325K personnel preparation grants; disseminated resources from the Department of Education, collaborated regularly with employees from OSEP, hosted events with the director and employees of OSEP*

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

McGuire, S., **Folkerts, R.,** Richards, C., Meadan, H., Alquaysi, R., & Yoon, C. (2024).

Early childhood teachers’ use of an FBA iOS app to support students with challenging behavior: A pilot study. *Technology, Pedagogy, and Education.* https://doi.org/[10.1080/1475939X.2024.2405146](http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/1475939X.2024.2405146)

Price, R., Martin, M. R., **Folkerts, R.**, Haidar, B. S. (2024). Behavior analysis forums and the

ethical landscape of social media behaviors. *Behavior Analysis in Practice: Special Issue.*

<https://doi.org/10.1001/s40617-024-00921-5>

McGuire, S., Meadan, H., & **Folkerts, R.** (2024). Classroom and behavior

management training needs and perceptions: A systematic review of the literature. *Child and Youth Care Forum, 53,* 117-139*.* <https://doi.org/10/1007/s10566-023-09750-z>

McGuire, S., Martin, M. R., Meadan, H., Adams, N. B., Haidar, B. S., Griffin, C., &

**Folkerts, R.** (2022). Black, Mexican American, and White caregiver practices to

prevent challenging behavior, *51*, 1441-1454. *Early Childhood Education Journal.*

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10643-022-01403-5>

Johnson, H., Carpenter, M., Austin, A., & **Folkerts, R**. (2022). Including students with

significant support needs in the development of behavior support plans, *1*(3), 106-113. *Inclusive Practices.* [https://doi.org/10.1177/27324745221082953](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/doi.org/10.1177/27324745221082953__;!!DZ3fjg!-gwI3hEd7936VrU3ZalWe5xTykC-S0yuMq2XlAG67Pjtey4oQ4iZett1STpugth_P0aEevrHUah_tSMzNyVvhQ$)

McGuire, S., **Folkerts, R**., Meadan, H., Adams, N. B., Lee, J. D., & Kaza, M. (2021).

Cross cultural caregiver perceptions of challenging behavior and responses.

*Early Childhood Education Journal, 50*, 1343-1354*.*

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10643-021-01264-4>

ACCEPTED PUBLICATIONS

**Folkerts, R.,** & Meadan, H. (accepted with minor revisions). Preparation of pre-service special

education teachers on conducting functional behavioral assessments.

PUBLICATIONS UNDER REVIEW

PUBLICATIONS IN PREPARATION

**Folkerts, R.,** & Meadan, H., Xia, Y. (in preparation). The use of online modules to teach

functional behavioral assessments to pre-service special education teachers: A randomized controlled trial.

**Folkerts, R.,** & Meadan, H. (in preparation). Functional behavioral assessments: A survey on

pre-service special education teacher preparation.

UNPUBLISHED MANUSCRIPT

**Springer, R.** (2014). Meaningful participation in music classes for students with severe and

multiple disabilities. (Master’s Research Project)

AWARDS and GRANTS

2023 First Place Quantitative Research Poster Award

Kaleidoscope, Teacher Education Division (TED), Council for Exceptional Children

2023 - 2024 Student Research Grant, Association for Positive Behavior Support

2023 - 2024 Margaret Bansau Scholarship Award, College of Education

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

2023 Paper Presentation Award

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Graduate Student Conference

2022 - 2023 University Fellowship, Department of Special Education

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

2022 Best Research on Issues of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Purdue Autism Research Center (PARC) Conference Poster Session

2021 - 2022 Goldstick Family Doctoral Fellowship, College of Education

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

2022 Education Policy and Politics Doctoral Short Course Scholar

Higher Education Consortium of Special Education (HECSE)

*Attended a one-week course led by Dr. Jane West on the history and principles of special education law and tips for lobbying and translating research to practice*

2021 Outstanding Literature Review Award

Kaleidoscope, Teacher Education Division (TED), Council for Exceptional Children

2021 - 2022 University Fellowship, Department of Special Education

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

2020 - Present Doctoral Traineeship, Project Co-LEAD

Office of Special Education Programs, U.S. Department of Education

*Collaboration Across Universities to Prepare Leaders in Evidence Based Practices, Autism Spectrum Disorder, and Diversity*

Principal Investigator: Dr. Hedda Meadan

2012 - 2014 Master’s Traineeship, Project ACCESS

Office of Special Education Programs, U.S. Department of Education

*Innovative*Access*to Curriculum for Students with Severe Disabilities*

Principal Investigator: Dr. Stacy Dymond

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

**Folkerts, R**., &Borosh, A. (2024, March). *Building and refining district-wide behavior support*

*teams: Tips for equitably reaching the masses.* Session at the Association for Positive Behavior Support (APBS) Conference, Chicago, IL.

**Folkerts, R.,** & Meadan, H. (2024, March). *Preparing Pre-service special education teachers to*

*conduct FBAs: A multiple methods study.* Poster presentation at the Association for Positive Behavior Support (APBS) Conference, Chicago, IL.

McGuire, S., **Folkerts, R.** (2023, November). *Teaching Replacement Behaviors: A Guide for*

*Teachers.* Session presentation at the Teacher Educators for Children with Behavior Disorders (TECBD) Conference, virtual.

**Folkerts, R.,** Meadan, H. (2023, November). *Preparation of pre-service special education*

*teachers on conducting functional behavioral assessments.* Session presentation at the Teacher Educators for Children with Behavior Disorders (TECBD) Conference, virtual.

**Folkerts, R.** (2023, November). *Preparation of pre-service special education teachers on*

*conducting FBAs.* Poster presentation at the Teacher Education Division (TED) Conference, Long Beach, CA.

**Folkerts, R.** & McGuire, S (2023, November). *Five steps to replacing challenging behavior.*

Paper presentation at the Teacher Education Division (TED) Conference, Long Beach, CA.

**Folkerts, R.** (2023, July). *Preparation of pre-service special education teachers on*

*conducting FBAs.* Poster presentation at the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Leadership and Project Directors’ Conference, Arlington, VA.

**Folkerts, R.**, Long, A., Perez-Clark, P., & Kim, C. (2023, July). *Continuing the conversation:*

*Perspectives of OSEP Scholars.* Poster session at the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Leadership and Project Directors’ Conference, Arlington, VA.

**Folkerts, R.** (2023, March). *Pre-service preparation of special education teachers on*

*conducting functional behavioral assessments.* Paper presentation at the College of Education Graduate Student Conference, Champaign, IL.

**Folkerts, R.**, McGuire, S. N., Donnelly, N., Voorhis, C., Alquanysi, R., Yoon, C., & Meadan, H.

(2022, November). *Early childhood teacher use of the FBSApp: A single case design.* Presentation at the Teacher Education for Children with Behavior Disorders (TECBD) Annual Conference, virtual.

McGuire, S. N., **Folkerts, R**., Donnelly, N., Voorhis, C., Alqunaysi, R., Gilmartin, E., &

Meadan, H. (2022, September). *Early childhood teacher implementation of the FBSApp.* Poster presentation at the Division for Early Childhood (DEC) Annual Conference, Chicago, IL.

McGuire, S. N., **Folkerts, R**., Meadan, H. (2022 July). *Behavior management coursework for*

*elementary education majors.* Breakout session at the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Leadership and Project Directors’ Conference, Virtual.

Zepp, L., **Folkerts, R.**, Long, A., Whiddon, A., & Perez-Clark, P. (2022, July). *Collaborating to*

*address the impact of COVID-19 on doctoral students.* Poster session at the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Leadership and Project Directors’ Conference, Virtual.

**Folkerts, R.,** Meadan, H. (2022, April). *Functional Behavioral Assessments: A Scoping review*

*of special education teacher preparation.* Ignite presentation at the 19th International Conference on Positive Behavior Support (APBS), San Diego, CA.

**Folkerts, R.**, Martin, M. R., Haidar, B. S. (2022, April). *Cross-cultural caregivers’ perceptions*

*of and experiences with challenging behavior.* Purdue Autism Research Center (PARC) 2022 Conference, West Lafayette, IN.

**Folkerts, R.** &Austin, A.(2022, February). *Student voice in the FBA-BIP.* Concurrent session at

Council for Exceptional Children Convention and Expo (CEC), Virtual.

Carpenter, M., Johnson, H., Austin, A., & **Folkerts, R.** (2022, January). *Including students with*

*ESN in the FBA process.* 23rd International Conference on Autism, Intellectual Disability & Developmental Disabilities (DADD), Clearwater Beach, FL.

**Folkerts, R.** (2021, November). *A review of pre-service special education teacher preparation*

*on conducting functional behavioral assessments.* Kaleidoscope poster presentation at Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children Conference (TED), Fort Worth, TX.

McGuire, S. N., Meadan, H., & **Folkerts, R.** (2021, November). *Classroom and behavior*

*management training: A review of the literature.* Poster session at Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children Conference (TED), Fort Worth, TX.

Austin, A., **Folkerts, R.**, Sleiman Haidar, B., & Newson, A. (2021, May). *From practitioner to*

*PhD student: Transitioning from school-based professional to researcher.* Panel: Association for Behavior Analysis International Convention (ABAI), Virtual.

McGuire, S. N., **Folkerts, R.**, Adams, N. B., & Meadan, H. (2021, March).

*Culturally and ethnically diverse caregivers’ experiences with challenging behavior.* Ignite presentation at the 18th International Virtual Conference on Positive Behavior Support (APBS).

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & DISTRICT CONFERENCES

(developed and delivered)

**Folkerts, R.,** McGuire, S. (2022, March). *Choosing and Implementing Function-Based Behavior*

*Interventions.* Illinois New Teacher Collaborative Annual Leadership Conference (INTC), Champaign, IL.

**Folkerts, R**., McGuire, S. (2022, March). *Making Data-Driven Decisions for Challenging*

*Behavior.* Illinois New Teacher Collaborative Annual Leadership Conference (INTC), Champaign, IL.

**Folkerts, R.** (2021, Nov). *Social emotional learning & managing behavior at home,* Parent

Academy, Urbana School District 116.

**Folkerts, R**., & Austin, A. (2020, July). *Supporting stressed-out staff: Evidence-based strategies*

*for motivating staff to manage student behavior,* Summer Leadership Institute, Chicago

Public Schools.

**Folkerts, R***.* (2019-2020). *Addressing challenging behavior for students with emotional and*

*behavioral disorders in the classroom setting*, Chicago Public Schools - Recurring

Professional Development Series

Miller, E.*,* **Folkerts, R**., & Austin, A. (2019-2020). *Choosing function-based behavior*

*interventions & replacement behaviors*, Chicago Public Schools - Recurring

Professional Development Series

**Folkerts, R***.* (2019-2020). *Class-wide behavioral systems & supports*, Chicago Public Schools -

Recurring Professional Development Series

**Folkerts, R***.* (2020). *Establishing control in the classroom*, Chicago Public Schools - Recurring

Professional Development Series

**Folkerts, R**., & Austin, A., Auerbach, S., & Cramer, S (2019-2020). *Introduction to Applied*

*Behavior Analysis*, Chicago Public Schools - Recurring Professional Development Series

**Folkerts, R***.* (2020). *High incidence disabilities: Reinforcement systems*, Chicago Public

Schools - Recurring Professional Development Series

**Folkerts, R**., & Miller, E.(2020). *Responding to and de-escalating challenging behavior in the*

*classroom*, Chicago Public Schools - Recurring Professional Development Series

Miller, E., Austin, A., **Folkerts, R.** (2019, August). *Basics of functional behavioral assessments*

*and behavioral intervention plans*, Case Manager Kickoff Conference, Chicago Public Schools.

**Folkerts, R**., & Miller, E., (2019, July). *Positive behavior supports for the early childhood*

*classroom*, Early Childhood Summer Institute: Ready, Set…Teach! Chicago, IL.

SERVICE

2023 Proposal Reviewer: Teacher Education Division (TED) Conference;

Association for Positive Behavior Support (APBS) Conference

2022 Advocated on Capitol Hill for increasing appropriations for IDEA through

the CEC Special Education Leadership Summit (SELS)

2021-2022 OSEP Scholars Steering Committee Member

2021, 2022 Article Co-Reviewer with Dr. Hedda Meadan

Journals: *Research and Practice for Persons with Severe Disabilities;*

*Journal of Positive Behavior Interventions;*

*Early Childhood Development and Care*

2021- Present Specialized Foster Parent, Illinois

2021, 2022 Behavior Consultation and Coaching for Child Development Laboratory Teachers, University of Illinois

2019 - 2020 BCBA Supervisor

2018 - 2020 Mentor - Safe Families Plus, Chicago, IL

2017 - 2020 Peer Buddy - Best Buddies International Citizens Program, Chicago, IL

2015 - 2019 Best Buddies International Faculty Adviser, Chicago, IL

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI)

Association for Positive Behavior Support (APBS)

Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)

Member, *TED - Teacher Education Division*

Member, *CCBD - Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders*

Member, *Illinois Council for Exceptional Children*

Member, *DEC - Division for Early Childhood*