

Curriculum Vitae

Azalia E. Gonzalez, OTD, MS, OTR/L

EDUCATION

2022 PP-OTD Doctorate in Occupational Therapy (4.0 GPA), Shenandoah University
2019 M.S Master of Science in Occupational Therapy, Davenport University
2016 B.A Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, California State University, Los Angeles

PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS

National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy	# 436888
State of Michigan Occupational Therapy License	#5201011258
Lee Silverman Voice Treatment (LSVT) BIG	#BIGLIMI0819-11
Pregnancy and Post-Partum Corrective Exercise Specialist (PCES)	Certified; 09/2022
Herman and Wallace Pelvic Health Rehabilitation Training	approx. 85 hours
AOTA Fieldwork Educator Certificate Workshop	Certified; 02/2024
Mental Health First Aid	Certified; 06/2025

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Western Michigan University 08/2023-Present
Clinical Faculty Specialist I Grand Rapids, MI
Teaching adult and older adult assessment and intervention courses as well as lead the Kalamazoo Psychiatric Hospital and Bethany Christian Services Clinical rotations. Serve as a member of the DEI committee through CHHS and advisor for the Coalition of Occupational Therapy Advocates for Diversity (COTAD) group.

Teaching Load in Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo Campuses:
Instructor of Record: OT 6102, OT 6103, OT 6202, OT 6203, OT 6503 Level I FW KPH, OT 6503 BCS
Co-Instructor: OT 6001, OT 6303
Invited Presenter: OT 3202

Notable Teaching and Educational initiatives include:

- Development of new module: Cultural Humility (as part of OT 6202)
- Mental Health First Aid Certification in partnership with ISK Kalamazoo ~ 95 students/staff
- Pelvic Health Expert covering content in OTD/OTA curriculum (OT 6303 & OT 6203)
- Developed WMU x Bronson Healthfair Experiential Experience (as part of OT 6102)

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Bethany Christian Services 08/2024-Present
Occupational Therapy Level I Fieldwork Supervisor
Provide trauma-informed care to adolescents in residential treatment while supervising and mentoring fieldwork students who deliver one-on-one services.

Kalamazoo Psychiatric Hospital 08/2023-Present
Occupational Therapy Level I Fieldwork Supervisor
Provide recovery-oriented care to individuals in a psychiatric facility while supervising and mentoring fieldwork students who facilitate group therapy sessions.

Mission Point Healthcare <i>Occupational Therapist</i> Sub-acute, Skilled nursing, Long-term care, and CCU. Led Wheelchair, Seating, Mobility, and Assistive technology/device program.	12/2022-Present Greenville, MI
Renewal Rehab <i>Occupational Therapist, PRN</i> Skilled nursing.	05/2021-Present Grand Rapids, MI
The Care Team Home Health & Hospice <i>Occupational Therapist, PRN</i> Home Health.	05/2021-Present Grand Rapids, MI
Ivy Rehab <i>Occupational Therapist/Regional Clinical Coordinator of Education</i> Outpatient, Acute care, ICU, and Skilled nursing. Coordinated fieldwork student placements. Received specialized training in Hand Therapy, Pelvic Floor (Herman and Wallace), neurological diagnoses, movement disorders (LSVT BIG), Drivers Rehabilitation, orthopedic conditions, and chronic pain management.	08/2021-11/2022 Grand Haven, MI
Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital <i>Occupational Therapist, PRN</i> Inpatient Rehab Float	07/2021-02/2022 Grand Rapids, MI
Shirley Ryan Ability Lab <i>Occupational Therapist</i> Inpatient Rehab Float	08/2020-04/2021 Chicago, IL
Kindred Hospital <i>Occupational Therapist</i> LTACH, ICU	07/2020- 04/2021 Chicago, IL

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Los Angeles Department of Public Works <i>Claims/Litigation, "Professional Worker"</i> Supported high-profile litigation in Los Angeles County through administrative work and quality control.	03/2015- 08/2017 Los Angeles, CA
Top Shop, Arcadia Group <i>Sales Advisor</i> Provided excellent customer service and product knowledge that exceeded sales expectations, supported Personal Shopping department providing services to A-list and B-list celebrities, quality control.	03/2015- 08/2017 Los Angeles, CA

PRESENTATIONS

Gonzalez, A. E. (2022). *Increasing Competency and Advocacy in Pelvic Floor Occupational Therapy* [Doctoral Capstone, Presentation, PPT Slides]. Department of Occupational Therapy, Shenandoah University, Winchester, VA
Advisor: Dr. Alysha Skuthan, Ph.D., OTR/L, ASDCS

CAPSTONE OUTCOME

Gonzalez, A. (2022). *Introduction to Pelvic Floor Occupational Therapy Educational Manual*. Grand Rapids, MI; Unpublished.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

INTERNATIONAL

Gonzalez, A. (upcoming - 2026, February 10). *Exploring the role of burnout, trauma, and culture in minority caregiving: Implications for occupational therapy practice and education* [Lightning talk]. World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT), Bangkok, Thailand

NATIONAL

Gonzalez, A (upcoming – 2026, April 25). *A mixed-methods analysis of minority caregiver burden: Investigating burnout, trauma, and cultural impact on health and well-being* [Poster presentation]. AOTA INSPIRE Annual Conference & Expo, Anaheim, CA.

STATE

Gonzalez, A. (2025, January 22). *Pelvic health basics: A guide to function and wellness* [Conference session. Michigan Occupational Therapy Association (MIOTA), Grand Rapids, MI (virtual).

LOCAL

Gonzalez, A. (2025, December 13). Pelvic floor Workshop. Treetop Collectives, Grand Rapids, MI
Translation provided for Kinyarwanda, Dari, Pashto, and Spanish speakers to enhance accessibility.

Gonzalez, A. (2025, November 14). Navigating culture in ADL care: Practical skills for inclusive support
Conference session. Western Michigan University Barbara Rider Colloquium, Grand Rapids, MI

Gonzalez, A. (2024, March). Interprofessional Immersion Day: Exploring Careers in Health
Care. Synergy Center. Kalamazoo, MI

Gonzalez, A. (2024, March). All About Pelvic Health: All Stages of Life. Help! Pregnancy Aid Women's
Clinic. Grand Rapids, MI

Gonzalez, A. (2023, September). All About Pelvic Health: All Stages of Life. Help! Pregnancy Aid
Women's Clinic. Grand Rapids, MI

Gonzalez, A. (2018, October). Mental Health: Campus/Local Resources for Students and
Caregivers. National Alliance on Mental Illness Walk. Grand Rapids, MI; Davenport University.

GUEST LECTURES

Gonzalez, A. (2025, November 19). *Careers in Healthcare Exploration Event* [guest lecturer]. KIN 4305,
Texas Tech University. Lubbock, TX

Gonzalez, A., & Mekkes, M. (2021, February). *Careers in Healthcare. Diversity in Healthcare Youth
Program* [guest lecturer]. Grand Rapids, MI

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

LOCAL

Coalition of Occupational Therapy Advocates for Diversity (COTAD) Role: Advisor	2024 – Present
WMU CHHS Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee Role: Committee Member	2024 - Present
Oregon Health Authority Inter-Psychiatric Committee Role: Committee Member	2024 -Present
Barbara A. Rider Colloquium Planning Committee Role: Committee Member	2025 - Present
Hosted the National Alliance on Mental Illness Walk Role: Volunteer Coordinated 360+ participants. Spoke to participants and helped raise over \$42,000 for mental health.	10/2018
Active Minds Mental Health Chapter at Davenport University Role: President.	04/2018- 12/2019
Literacy Center of West Michigan Role: English Instructor	06/18 – 01/19

NATIONAL

National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) Role: 2023 OTR Certification Examination Standard Setting participant	08/2023
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MENTORSHIP

Mary Free Bed Neurological Fellow Role: Mentor; weekly meetings with Rachel Daley (Fall semester)	2025-Present
Terapia Ocupacional para Diversidad, Oportunidad y Solidaridad (TODOS) Role: Mentee; quarterly mentorship by Mental Health Expert Dr. Jaime Muñoz	2025 - Present
WMU Capstone Advisor Role: Primary Advisor Nguyen, Jade, "Integrating Cultural Competence and Humility into Occupational Therapy Doctoral Student Education" (2025). <i>Capstone Projects</i> . 114. https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/capstone_projects/114	2025- Present
WMU Richmond Institute for Design and Innovation Role: Thesis Project Healthcare Consultant for PDNN 4670 course Faculty: Dr. Michael Kahwaji	03/27/2025

AOTA: Academic Educators Special Interest Section (AESIS)
New Educators Mentoring Program (NEMP) – 1 year partnership
Role: Mentee; paired with retired program chair Dr. Christy Nelson

2024 - 2025

RESEARCH

ABSTRACTS

Gonzalez, A., Nguyen, J., Mickus, M., & Keefe, M. (Upcoming - 2026). *Exploring the role of burnout, trauma, and culture in minority caregiving: Implications for occupational therapy practice and education* [Abstract]. World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT), Bangkok, Thailand

Gonzalez, A., Nguyen, J., Mickus, M., & Keefe, M. (Upcoming -2026). *A mixed-methods analysis of minority caregiver burden: Investigating burnout, trauma, and cultural impact on health and well-being* [Abstract]. AOTA INSPIRE Annual Conference & Expo, Anaheim, CA.

University of Southern California

04/2016 – 09/2016

Research Assistant; unpaid internship

Los Angeles, CA

Examined cultural factors that influenced seeking clinical assistance following psychosis. Transcribed audio, entered data, statistical analysis, and worked with Microsoft Office.

GRANT AWARDS

Western Michigan University Experience Driven Learning Grant Recipient

08/2025

Project: You Belong Here: WMU x Bronson Medical Community Healthfair

Budget: \$36,132.63

Role: Principal requestor

Funded.

Sammons Center for Innovation and Research Recipient

11/2024

Project: Instructional Modules for Cultural Humility in Occupational Therapy.

Budget: \$750.00

Role: Co-principal requestor

Funded.

Sammons Center for Innovation and Research Recipient

02/2023

Project: Collapsible 3D Anatomical Model

Budget: \$527.42

Role: Principal requestor.

Funded.

AWARDS/SCHOLARSHIPS

2018, 2019, 2020 Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Scholarship Recipient (3 awards received)

2018-2019 Community Service Gold Award, Davenport University

2019 Student Leader of the Year Finalist, Davenport University

2018 Future Scientist in OT Award, American Occupational Therapy Association

LANGUAGES

English & Spanish; Native Speaker