

KAREN PETERSON

Principal Lecturer, Georgia Tech Language Institute

Education

- M.S., Applied Linguistics, Georgia State University
- B.S., World Missions, Toccoa Falls College

Professional Experience

Georgia Institute of Technology — Language Institute

Principal Lecturer (2023–Present)

- Instructor across multiple programs and proficiency levels, including Intensive ESL, professional communication, advanced writing, and specialized courses.
- Designing and developing a Healthcare Communications course series.
- Teach technical writing to CETL graduate students.
- Developed materials and taught Advanced Oral Communications and Presentation Skills for Emory University's Pre-MBA Program.
- Served on the Language Institute Curriculum Committee.
- Proctored and evaluate graduate academic assessments.

Senior Lecturer (2018–2023)

- Co-created Georgia Tech's first Coursera specialization, *Build Your Professional E-Portfolio in English*.
- Coordinated the German Fulbright Summer Program.
- Tutored nuclear engineering faculty, GT athletes, and a wide range of international graduate students.
- Taught courses across all GTLI programs, including Admissions 101, Team Leadership, Business Case Analyses, Job Search Communications, TOEFL Prep Plus, and multiple reading, writing, speaking, and grammar courses.
- Created new courses including GRE Writing, Job Search Communications, TOEFL Prep Plus 2, and a Service-Learning course for Fulbright Scholars.
- Accepted into GT's Center for Deliberate Innovation Change Accelerator, working on admissions navigation for international students.

Lecturer (1993–2018)

- Chaired the Senior Lecturer Committee.

- Created courses including Team Leadership, Business Case Analyses, QCF specialty course, University Life Individual Skills, and Introduction to U.S. Academic Life for SABIC students.
- Coordinated the Emory–Georgia Tech Pre-MBA program.
- Organized student activities including sports tournaments and leadership initiatives.

Rotating Acting Director (1998–1999)

- Represented the Language Institute at campus meetings.
- Supervised faculty and administrative staff.
- Provided academic advising and guidance to students.

Georgia State University, Instructor (1989–1992)

- Taught all ESL levels and skills.
- Graded GSTEP writing samples and proctored language examinations.

Honors and Awards

- Spring 2024 Honor Roll, Fall 2023–2024 CIOS Honor Roll
- Student Recognition of Excellence in Teaching, Summer 2021
- Three “Thank You Teacher” Awards
- Curriculum Innovation Award, 2013

Service

Service to Georgia Tech

- Faculty Executive Board (FEB) Representative, College of Lifetime Learning.
- NTT Promotion Committee, member.
- AI Steering Committee, member and liaison to the Academic Integrity Committee.
- Judged the Career, Research & Innovation Development Conference (CRIDC)
- Member, GT Student Honor Committee
- Provided feedback on student success metrics used in annual review processes.
- Mentored faculty, including in the School of Modern Languages seeking promotion.

Service to College of Lifetime Learning, Professional Education & GTLI

- Chaired College of Lifetime Learning Faculty Advisory Committee.
- Served on hiring committees for AI Flex Stack, Project Management Lecturers, and additional GTPE roles.
- Chaired GT Professional Education Faculty Advisory Committee.
- Chaired Professional Education Senior Lecturer Promotion Committee.

- Led performance review, committee work, and strategic planning within GTPE and GTLI.
- Organized sports tournaments and co-curricular events, including facilitating student participation in TEDx Atlanta.

Public & Community Service

- Member of the Planning Committee for Innov8@ga.org; participated in panel discussions on faculty and student support.
- Participant in IDEO's Teacher2Teacher Challenge, a precursor to The Teachers Guild.
- Facilitated discussions with TESOL administrators worldwide.
- Led fundraising campaign for international medical aid for Tajik friend's child.
- Significant international engagement including teaching, training, and humanitarian service in Tajikistan, Bosnia, Croatia, Haiti, Brazil, Japan, China, and Russia.

Research, Scholarship, & Creative Work

- Co-author: "A Summary Response" in *New Ways in Teaching Writing* (TESOL).
- Contributor to *Improving the Grammar of Written English* (Byrd & Benson).
- Presenter at Georgia TESOL and regional TESOL conferences.
- Senior Personnel on GT's Professional E-Portfolio Project (Provost-funded; \$25,000).

Professional Development

- Reviewed AI draft documents and provided feedback as part of the AI Steering Committee.
- Attended C21U AI sessions, including *Exploring AI-Powered Insights into Durable Skills* (Oct 2025) and *Reimagining Universities Through AI and Data* (Nov 2025).
- Viewed the C21U Symposium: Inventing the Future of Learning & Work (April 2025).
- Continued independent learning through Peter Senge's *The Fifth Discipline*, applying concepts of systems thinking and reflective openness.
- Attended TOEFL workshop updating its new launch.
- Participated in internal workshops, including assisting with the Embracing Technology Workshop (Jan 24, 2025), and attending sessions on Padlet (Oct 2, 2025) and Generative AI (Dec 4, 2025).
- Completed CETL leadership courses: *Relationship Building for Leaders* (Sept 9, 2025), *Leading from the Middle* (Nov 4, 2025), and *Leading for Introverts* (Dec 2, 2025).
- Completed UPCEA Program Planning and Oversight (2022).
- Earned two Instructional Design certificates through LinkedIn Learning (2021).
- Completed peer-review training with Elsevier and Publons (2021).

- Attended ETS training for updated TOEFL and GRE online assessment formats (2020).
- Completed Kaltura training for video-based teaching (2020).
- Attended Race, Class, and Campus Climate Forum (2020).
- Completed Implicit Bias Workshop for GT faculty and staff.
- Participated in Pivot Workshop through the Georgia Tech Library.