

Laurie Elizabeth Woods

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Academic Appointments

2024-present Director of Undergraduate Studies, Dept of Sociology

2025-present VU Cares Ambassador

2019-present Senior Lecturer in Sociology, Vanderbilt University. Courses taught: Introduction to Sociology, Criminology, Contemporary Social Issues, Deviance and Social Control, Policing in America, Juvenile Delinquency and Justice, Media, Crime and Justice, Poverty, Health, and Politics.

2015-present Faculty Member in Residence, McGill Project, Vanderbilt University

Spring 2022 Faculty Liaison, Bridging the Gap, Vanderbilt/Fisk/Belmont Universities

2008-2019 Lecturer, Department of Sociology, Vanderbilt University. Courses taught: Introduction to Sociology, Criminology, Contemporary Social Issues, Human Ecology, Men and Women in American Society.

2005-2008 Graduate Student Instructor, Department of Sociology, Vanderbilt University

2016/18/22 Osher Lifelong Learning instructor: American Gun Culture, Policing in America

2016-2017 Commons seminar instructor: Guns: An American Obsession

2012-2015 Commons seminar instructor: What is a Hate Crime?

2007-2019 Associate Professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice, Trevecca Nazarene University. Courses taught: Law Enforcement & Society, Theories of Deviance, Policing in Society, Criminology & Criminal Justice, Social Problems, General Sociology, Family in Society, Research Methods.

2011-Fall Visiting Professor, Distance Education Program, Nazarene Theological College, Honeydew, South Africa. Course taught: General Sociology.

2007-2011 Adjunct Professor, Department of Sociology, Belmont University. Courses taught: Criminology, Introduction to Sociology, Sociology of Media.

2010-present Academic Advisor, Vanderbilt Visions

2018-present Academic Advisor, student organization: Women in Government

2015-2017 Academic Advisor, student organization: Life's a Stitch.

2014-present Academic Advisor, student organization: Liberty in North Korea (LiNK)

2013-2014 Academic Advisor, Mayfield Living/Learning Project, "Rated VU"

2011-2012 Ingram Scholar project advisor, Vanderbilt University

2010-2011 Academic Advisor, Vanderbilt Interest Project, "Bridging the Gap"

2007-2009 Academic Advisor, Vanderbilt Relay for Life

2003-2004 Academic Advisor, Mayfield Living/Learning Project, "Learning through the eyes of America's veterans."

2001-2007 Adjunct Professor, Dept. of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Trevecca Nazarene University

2000-2005 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Sociology Department, Vanderbilt University

1998-2007 Researcher, First Amendment Center

1997-1999 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Mass Communication, Middle Tennessee State University

Other Campus Involvement

2024-present A&S Curriculum Committee, Vanderbilt

2022-present Member, Vanderbilt Women's Basketball Leadership Circle

2019-2024 Member, Continuing Track Faculty Advisory Council

Jan 2018 Faculty Director selections committee, E. Bronson Ingram Residential College

Nov 2017 PREVAIL conference panelist, Vanderbilt Women's Center

Feb 2017 Heads of House selection committee, Ingram Commons
2010-present Mayfield Living Learning selections committee
2010-present Student VUceptor interviews

Grants

2021-2024 Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Grant, Nashville Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency: Violent crime reduction in Napier-Sudekum Homes.

Other Employment

1979-1995 Special Agent in Charge (most recent title), California Department of Justice, Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement. Supervised 100 agents conducting a variety of investigations, including internal affairs, narcotics, confidential outside investigations for local and county law enforcement agencies.
1974-1979 Police Officer, City of Santa Ana, California

Education

Dec. 2008 Ph.D., Sociology with Criminology emphasis, Vanderbilt University
May 2002 Master of Art, Sociology, Vanderbilt University
May 2000 Master of Liberal Arts & Science, Vanderbilt University
Dec. 1999 Master of Science, Mass Communication, Middle Tennessee State University
Oct. 1997 Bachelor of Art, Management and Human Relations, Trevecca Nazarene University

Awards

Apr 2023 Faculty Member of the Year, Vanderbilt Residential Experience
Nov 2021 Dean's Distinguished VUceptor Award, Vanderbilt Visions
April 2016 Campus Partner of the Year, Office of Housing and Residential Education, Vanderbilt University.
April 2012 Faculty Appreciation Award, Office of Housing and Residential Education, Vanderbilt University
Jan 2009 Distinguished Professor, Vanderbilt Athletics
May 2008 Outstanding Graduate Student Teacher in Sociology, Vanderbilt University
2006 -2007 Center for Ethics Dissertation Fellow Facilitator, Vanderbilt University
2006 -2007 Dissertation Enhancement Grant, Graduate School, Vanderbilt University
2000 -2005 Five-year tuition waiver and graduate assistantship, Vanderbilt University
2003 Nominated for Outstanding Graduate Student Professor, Vanderbilt University
June 2004 Summer Research Grant, Vanderbilt University
June 2003 Summer Research Grant, Vanderbilt University
June 2001 Mellon Foundation Grant, Foundations of Social and Political Thought
1998-1999 Outstanding graduate student in Mass Communication, Middle Tennessee State University
1997-1999 Two-year tuition waiver and graduate assistantship, Middle Tennessee State University

Publications

Woods, Laurie (2021). Why police salaries are rising across the United States, *The Conversation*.
Woods, Laurie (2010). Adoption. *Encyclopedia of Motherhood*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage
Woods, Laurie (2010). Military Mothers. *Encyclopedia of Motherhood*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
Woods, Laurie (2010). Tennessee Mothers. *Encyclopedia of Motherhood*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage
Woods, Laurie (2010). Stillbirth. *Encyclopedia of Motherhood*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.