Laurie Elizabeth Woods

107 McGill Hall
Vanderbilt University
(615) 400-6747
laurie.woods@vanderbilt.edu

365 Garland Hall
Vanderbilt University
(615) 322-7626

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

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

Dec 2025 Harriet Gilliam Award for Excellent in Undergraduate Teaching, Vanderbilt A&S
Dec 2025 Faculty Advisor Award in Social Sciences, Vanderbilt A&S
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.