

## Leah P. Cheatham, PhD, JD, MSW

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The University of Alabama • School of Social Work  
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### EDUCATION

- 2010-2016      **Doctor of Philosophy, Florida State University**, Tallahassee, FL  
*Dissertation Title:* “Aging Out” of Foster Care with Disabilities:  
Predictors of Educational Attainment and Employment.  
*Dissertation Chair:* Karen Randolph, PhD
- 2005-2008      **Juris Doctor, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law**  
Yeshiva University, New York, NY  
Concentration: Human Rights & Constitutional Law
- 2003-2005      **Master of Social Work, Florida State University**, Tallahassee, FL  
Concentration: Social Policy & Administration
- 2001-2003      **Bachelor of Science, Florida State University**, Tallahassee, FL  
*Major:* Psychology (*Minor:* Sociology)

### CERTIFICATES, TRAININGS, & FELLOWSHIPS

- Spring 2022      **Quality Matters:** Teaching Online Certificate
- Summer 2019      **Summer Research Institute (SRI):** Selected Participant  
National Data Archive on Child Abuse & Neglect, Cornell University
- 2014-2016      **Doris Duke Fellowship for the Promotion of Child Well-being**  
Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago & Doris Duke Foundation
- Fall 2012      **Certificate in Measurement and Statistics**  
College of Education, Florida State University
- Summer 2012      **Certificate in Teaching from the Program for Instructional Excellence**  
The Graduate School, Florida State University

### AWARDS & HONORS

- 2021/2022      UA School of Social Work Doctoral Student Organization Faculty Appreciation Award
- 2018      CSWE – CDPD Disability Manuscript Award: *Honorable Mention*
- 2016      CSWE – CDPD Disability Manuscript Award: *Honorable Mention*
- 2016-Present      Phi Kappa Phi
- 2015      Nominee for The Florida State University Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award
- 2014-Present      Member of the Fellow’s Society, Florida State University
- 2014      Doctoral Student of the Year, College of Social Work, Florida State University
- 2005-2008      Cardozo Grant Recipient
- 2003-Present      Phi Beta Kappa
- 2001      Florida Bright Futures Scholar

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Educational Employment

- 2022-Present **Associate Professor**  
School of Social Work, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL
- 2016-2022 **Assistant Professor**  
School of Social Work, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL

### Other Employment

- 2013-2014 **Dept. of Children & Families Pre-service Training**, University of South Florida  
*Lead Instructional Designer, Children's Legal Services*
- 2007-2013 **System Solutions for Children**, Pensacola, FL  
*Child Welfare Program Data Analyst*
- 2009-2010 **Center for Entitlement Reform**, Emory University  
*Project Coordinator*
- 2007 **Fifteenth Judicial Circuit**, Palm Beach County, FL  
*Judicial Intern, Family Law*
- 2005 **Office of Community Services/Homeless Outreach**, Miami Beach, FL  
*Intern/Hired Case Manager*
- 2004 **Terrence Higgins Trust – Lighthouse West**, London, UK  
*Intern (Intake, Assessment & Administration)*
- 2002 **Buddy Dyer for Florida Attorney General**, Orlando, FL  
*Intern/Hired Campaign Field Manager*

## RESEARCH

### Funded Proposals

- 2022-2023 **Doris Duke Charitable Foundation: *Research to Action Grant*** (\$79,999)  
*Healthcare Access Among AL Youth Transitioning from Foster Care with Disabilities*  
(PI)
- 2019-2023 **Alabama Department of Corrections** (\$1,948,637)  
University of Alabama–Auburn University: *Women's Risk Needs Assessment*  
(Co-PI)
- 2017-2019 **University of Alabama Research Grants Committee** (\$6,000; UA + cost share)  
*Evaluation of Alabama REACH: A Campus-based Support Program for Foster Youth*  
(PI)

- 2014-2016 **Doris Duke Fellowship for the Promotion of Child Well-being** (\$56,666)  
Doris Duke Foundation and Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago  
(Dissertation funding)
- 2014-2016 **Mark and Lulu Hamilton DeGraff Scholarship** (\$2,000)  
College of Social Work, Florida State University (Dissertation funding)
- 2015 **Joyce Harper Laidlaw Scholarship** (\$1,000)  
College of Social Work, Florida State University (Dissertation funding)
- 2011 **Walter W. Hudson Doctoral Scholarship** (\$2,000)  
College of Social Work, Florida State University  
(Funding for continued doctoral research in the area of measurement)

### Unfunded Proposals

- 2024 **Institute for Research on Poverty Extramural Large Grants** (\$50,000)  
*Understanding Youth with Disabilities: The Intersection of Child Welfare and Healthcare System Involvement* (PI)
- 2022 **National Institute of Child Health and Human Development** (\$422,704)  
*A Mixed Methods Study of Childhood and Adolescent Disability-related Maltreatment Experiences in Transition-Aged Youth* (Co-PI)
- 2022 **Spencer Foundation** (\$87,102)  
*Sense of Belonging, Material and Social Support among College Students who have Experienced Homelessness and/or Foster Care* (Co-PI/sub-awardee)
- 2017 **Center for Rural and Minority Health Across the Life Course** (\$25,000)  
*Exploring Perceptions of Health Access for Older Youth with Disabilities in Rural Foster Care Settings* (PI: U-54 Submission)

### Research Experience

- 2022-2023 **Healthcare Access Among AL Youth w/Disabilities Transitioning from Care...**  
*Principle Investigator*
- Led exploratory, qualitative, applied study of child welfare professionals, caregivers, and foster youth's perceived facilitators and barriers of healthcare access across three sites in Alabama, partnering with Embrace AL Kids.
- 2022-present **Greens Hotel Project**, Sacramento State University & University of Alabama  
*Project Researcher*
- Contributed toward development of an in-depth, qualitative investigation of women's experiences during and after incarceration.

- 2019-present **Women's Risk Needs Assessment**, University of Alabama and Auburn University  
*Co-Principle Investigator*
- Co-led the collection, management, analysis and reporting of intake, reclassification and pre-release sample data (spanning 24 months from three prison sites).
- 2019-2022 **Tuscaloosa County Juvenile Court Evaluation**, University of Alabama  
*Community Collaborative Member*
- Facilitated cleaning and analysis of juvenile court, programing and re-offense data.
  - Led development of evaluation report for community partners.
- 2019 **NDACAN Summer Research Institute**, Cornell University  
*Selected Participant*
- Attended virtual sessions alongside select peers to refine existing analyses using NDACAN data holdings.
- 2017-2019 **Evaluation of Alabama REACH**, University of Alabama  
*Principal Investigator*
- Planned and implemented a mixed-methods evaluation of a campus-based support program for foster youth.
- 2015 **Able Trust Program Evaluation**, Florida State University  
*Co-Principal Investigator*
- Developed survey instrument and conducted phone interviews with recent graduates of an employment-preparedness program for young adults with disabilities.
- 2012-2014 **Fostering Achievement Fellowship Program Evaluation**, Florida State University  
*Project Researcher*
- Conducted interviews with key stakeholders in a program for former foster youth.
  - Analyzed qualitative data through Qualtrics software and structured writings.
- 2012-2013 **Volunteer FL Evaluation**, Florida State University  
*Project Manager*
- Managed a team conducting bi-annual data collection and reporting.
  - Organized focus groups with key stakeholders to update evaluation methods.
- 2010-2013 **College of Social Work**, Florida State University  
*Graduate Research Assistant*
- Assisted Dr. Melissa Radey with research, data analysis, and writing.
- 2003 **FCAT Study, Florida Center for Reading & Research**, Tallahassee, FL  
*Program Researcher*
- Conducted in-school interviews with Tallahassee-area middle-school students.
- 2002-2003 **Lonigan Literacy Project**, Florida State University  
*Program Researcher*
- Conducted interviews with pre-school students to support head-start research.

**SCHOLARSHIP** (\* indicates student co-author)

**Peer-reviewed Publications: Empirical**

26. Richardson, T. T.\*, **Cheatham, L. P.**, Cain, D., Dooley, V. R. (2026). Is Degree Attainment Associated with Serious Psychological Distress Among Black Men Aged 24 and Older? *Ethnicity & Health*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13557858.2026.2635129>
25. **Cheatham, L. P.**, Smith, N. L., & Gannon, B. S. (2026). Healthcare access among youth with disabilities leaving foster care: Exploring barriers in the Deep South. *Children and Youth Services Review*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2026.108791>
24. Kelly, B., Oterholm, I., Gimm, G., Venables, J., Baker, C., Bennwik, I. H. B., Ellem, K., Lee, J. L., & **Cheatham, L. P.** (2025). Disabled Youth Transitioning from Care: An International Policy Analysis. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*.
23. Richardson, T. T.\*, Mudathir, D.\*, Hossain, S.\*, & **Cheatham, L. P.** (2025). Intersectional predictors of mental health problems among Black college students: A multi-level analysis examining individual, institutional, and societal level factors. *Journal of Evidence-Based Social Work*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/26408066.2025.2543920>
22. Dewey, S., Kenney, J., **Cheatham, L. P.**, Barti, E.\* (2025). Culpability and fairness: Perspectives from a deep south women's prison. *Women & Criminal Justice*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08974454.2025.2520763>
21. Smith, N. L.\*, Adams, A.\*, Abshire, A.\*, & **Cheatham, L. P.** (2025). Barriers and facilitators to healthcare access among youth transitioning out of foster care: A scoping review. *Children and Youth Services Review*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2025.108317>
20. Richardson, T.T.\*, Cain, D.S., & **Cheatham, L. P.** (2025). Associations between moderately severe to severe depression and marijuana usage among Black male collegians: Results from the Healthy Minds Study. *Social Work and Public Health*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/19371918.2025.2475035>
19. Katz, C.C., Jackson, S., Dworsky, A., Okpych, N., **Cheatham, L. P.**, Geiger, J., Harty, J., Johnson, R., Munson, M., Powers, J., Salazar, A., Shpiegel, S., Taussig, H. & Courtney, M. (2025). The Transition-Age Youth Special Interest Group (TAY-SIG): The establishment and activities of a US-based network of child welfare researchers. *Families in Society*.  
† Awarded *Best Research Note* (2025) by *Families and Society*
18. Wilkes, S., Davis, C., **Cheatham, L. P.**, Trospen, P. (2024). One Click Away: Establishing a Virtual Platform to Amplify and Learn from Marginalized Voices during Crises. *Professional Development: The International Journal of Continuing Social Work Education*, 27(1), 44–57.
17. Luo, Y.\*, Li, Q.\*, Jeong, H.\*, & **Cheatham, L. P.** (2022). The Association between Social Determinants of Health and Psychological Distress during the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Secondary Analysis among Four Racial/Ethnic Groups. *BMC Public Health*, 22. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-022-14486-x>
16. Luo, Y.\*, Li, Q.\*, & **Cheatham, L.** (2022). Associated Factors with Electronic Personal Health Records Use among Older Cancer Survivors: An Application of Anderson's Behavioral Model of Health Services Use to eHealth Services. *Online Journal of Nursing Informatics*, 26(1).

15. Wang, K.\*, Yang, F., **Cheatham, L.**, & Kubanga, K.\* (2021). Physical activity guidelines adherence and self-rated health: The moderating roles of cancer history and age. *International Journal of Health Promotion and Education*. doi.org/10.1080/14635240.2021.2004438
14. Wang, K.\*, **Cheatham, L. P.**, Marbut, A. R.\*, & Chen, X.\* (2021). Longitudinal associations between cancer history and cognitive functioning among older adults. *Archives of Gerontology and Geriatrics*, 97. doi.org/10.1016/j.archger.2021.104521
13. **Cheatham, L. P.**, Luo, Y.\*, Hubbard, S., Jackson, M. S., Hasenbein, W.\*, & Bertram, J.\* (2021). Cultivating safe and stable spaces: Reflections on a campus-based support program for foster care alumni and youth experiencing homelessness. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 130. doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2021.106247
12. **Cheatham, L. P.**, Randolph, K., Boltz, L.\* (2020). Youth with disabilities transitioning from foster care: Examining prevalence and predicting positive outcomes. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 110, doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2020.104777
11. **Cheatham, L. P.**, & Randolph, K. (2020). Education and employment transitions among young adults with disabilities: Comparisons by disability status, type and severity. *International Journal of Disability, Development and Education*, doi.org/10.1080/1034912X.2020.1722073
10. Laklija, M., Milić-Babić, M., & **Cheatham, L. P.** (2020). Institutionalization of children with disabilities in Croatia: Social workers' perspectives. *Children & Youth Services*, 41, doi.org/10.1080/0145935X.2020.1752170
9. Shah, A., Jeffries, S., **Cheatham, L. P.**, Creel, M., Nelson-Gardell, D., ... Hasenbein, W. C.\* (2019). Partnering with parents: Reviewing the evidence for MI in child welfare. *Families in Society*, 100, 52–67.
8. Milić-Babić, M., Tkalec, S., & **Cheatham, L. P.** (2018). Right to education for children with disabilities from the earliest age. *Croatian Journal of Education*, 20, 233–263.
7. Schelbe, L., Randolph, K. A., Yelick, A., **Cheatham, L. P.**, Groton, D. B. (2018). Systems theory as a framework for examining a college campus-based support program for the former foster youth. *Journal of Evidence-Informed Social Work*, 15(3), 277–295.
6. Randolph, K. **Cheatham, L. P.**, Keller-Weiss, U., & Williams, J. M. (2018). Exposure to parent and peer alcohol use and the risk of drinking onset and escalation among adolescents. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*, 35(2), 97–106.
5. Kim, H., Abell, N., **Cheatham, L. P.**, & Paek, I. (2017). Development and initial validation of the Attitudes toward Education for Older Adults (AEOA) Scale. *Educational Gerontology*, 43, 341–355.
4. **Cheatham, L. P.**, Abell, N., & Kim, H. (2015). Development and validation of the social worker's attitudes toward disabilities scale. *Journal of Social Work Education*, 51, 379–397.  
 † Honorable Mention: *Best Quantitative Article* (2016) by *Journal of Social Work Education*
3. McPherson, J., & **Cheatham, L. P.** (2015). Evaluating human rights impact in social work education: The Million Bones example. *Journal of Social Work Education*, 51, 47–57.
2. Radey, M., & **Cheatham, L. P.** (2013). Do single mothers take their fair share? FAFSA completion among aid-eligible female students. *Journal of Diversity in Higher Education*, 6, 261–275.

1. **Cheatham, L. P.** (2012). Effects of Internet use on well-being among adults with physical disabilities: A review. *Disability & Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology*, 7, 181–188.

### **Peer-reviewed Publications: Professional/Pedagogical**

4. **Cheatham, L. P.**, & Smith, B. D. (2025). A Message from the New Co-Editors-in-Chief. *Child and Adolescent Social Work*.
3. Gimm, G., **Cheatham, L. P.**, Lee, J. L., Villodas, M. (2025). All transition-age foster youth, especially those with disabilities, need continuous Medicaid coverage, *Health Affairs Forefront*, DOI: 10.1377/forefront.20250122.417423
2. **Cheatham, L. P.**, Smith, S., Siler, M., Johnson, K., Turner, C., Wilkes, S., Shah, A., Johnson, L., Swails, P., Lopaczynski, L.\* (2020). “Own Your Vote”: A novel approach to teach social workers about voting rights. *Professional Development: The International Journal of Continuing Social Work Education*, 23(2), 55–60.
1. Beech, H. B.\*, Sutton, A.\*, & **Cheatham, L. P.** (2020). Parenting, privilege, and pandemic: From surviving to thriving as a mother in the academy. *Qualitative Social Work – Special Issue, Reflections on a Pandemic: Disruptions, Distractions & Discoveries*, 20(1-2), 625–631.

### **Manuscripts Under Review**

- Anderson, K. A., **Cheatham, L. P.**, Radey, M., & Rast, J. (*under review*). Maltreatment, placement, and permanency outcomes among children with Autism and intellectual disability.
- Cheatham, L. P.**, Baker, C., Bennwik, I. H. B., Ellem, K., Kelly, B., Oterholm, I., Venables, J., Villodas, M. (*under review*). Disability Counts: How well do countries track disability in their care-leaving population?
- Smith, N. L., **Cheatham, L. P.** (*under review*). Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare Experiences Among Youth Transitioning Out of Foster Care in Deep South: A Qualitative Study.

### **Technical Reports**

- Daquin, J., **Cheatham, L. P.**, Derzis, N., Dolliver, M., Kenney, Reid, L., Shippen, M. E. (2024). *Alabama Department of Corrections Women’s Risk Needs Assessment Validation Study: Final Report*. Tuscaloosa, AL: University of Alabama.
- Cheatham, L. P.**, Luo, Y\*., Dozier\*, K., Bertram, J.\*., Hasenbein, W.\*., & Jackson, M. S. (2019, December). *Preliminary program report: Alabama REACH Scholars Program*. Tuscaloosa, AL: University of Alabama.
- Randolph, K., **Cheatham, L. P.**, & Williams, J. M. (2015, July). *Evaluation of employment and other outcomes among Floridians with disabilities*. Tallahassee, FL: Florida State University.
- Randolph, K., Ross-Donaldson, S., Schelbe, L., **Cheatham, L. P.**, Groton, D., Millsap, K., & Yelick, A. (2015, January). *Stakeholder interview report: Fostering Achievement Fellowship Program*. Tallahassee, FL: Florida State University.

## Refereed Presentations

- Richardson, T.\*, **Cheatham, L. P.**, Cain, D. S., & Asamoah, P.\* (January 2026). *Campus Mental Health Climate and Structural Stressors: A Comparative Analysis of Internalizing Symptoms Among Black College Students in Predominately White Institutions and Minority-Serving Institutions*. Poster presented at the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington, D.C.
- Richardson, T.\*, **Cheatham, L. P.**, Peoples, J., & Haggard, B. (January 2026). *Depression and Degree Completion Beliefs in College-Enrolled Men: The Moderating Influence of Parental Education*. Poster presented at the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington, D.C.
- Son, E., **Cheatham, L. P.**, & Slayter, E. (2026, January). *Transforming Attitudes: Assessing the Impact of Disability-Focused Curriculum in Social Work Education*. Poster presented at the annual program meeting for the Society of Social Work and Research in Washington, D.C.
- Lee, E., Williams, J., **Cheatham, L. P.** (2026, January). *How does the Relationship between Social Technology Use and Mental Health Differ Among Older Adults with Varying Levels of Disability?* Poster presented at the Society of Social Work Research Annual Meeting in Washington, D. C.
- Smith, N. L. & **Cheatham, L. P.** (2025, October). *Disability Justice in the Context of Minor Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking: Rethinking Service Provision*. Paper presented at the annual program meeting for the Council for Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Denver, CO.
- Son, E. & **Cheatham, L. P.** (2025, October). *The Impact of Disability-specific Curricula on the Attitudes toward Disabilities among Social Work Students*. Paper presented at the annual program meeting for the Council for Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Denver, CO.
- Cheatham, L. P.**, Kenney, J. L., Reid, L.W., Daquin, J., Derzis, N., Dolliver, M. J., Shippen, M., & (2025, January). *Validation of the Women's Risk Needs Assessment within Alabama Prisons: Findings and Lessons Learned from an Agency-Academic Partnership*. Paper presented at the annual program meeting for the Society of Social Work and Research in Seattle, WA.
- Kenney, J. L. & **Cheatham, L. P.** (2025, January). *Research Collaboration with Experts: Women Impacted by the Legal System Impart their Views for Reform and Change*. Paper presented at the annual program meeting for the Society of Social Work and Research in Seattle, WA.
- Richardson, T.\*, **Cheatham, L. P.**, Cain, D. (2025, January). *Analyzing the Relationship between Educational Attainment and Serious Psychological Distress among Black Male Adults in the US: Evidence from National Survey of Drug Use and Health Data*. Paper presented at the annual program meeting for the Society of Social Work and Research in Seattle, WA.
- Okine, J.\*, **Cheatham, L. P.**, Ruggiano, N. (2025, January). *Exploring the Relationship between Caregiver's Perception of Stress, Living Arrangement, and Respite Care Utilization: Insights from the 2017 National Poll on Healthy Aging (NPHA)*. Paper presented at the annual program meeting for the Society of Social Work and Research in Seattle, WA.
- Adams, A.\*, Abshire, A.\*, Smith, N. L.\*, **Cheatham, L. P.** (2025, January). *Healthcare Access Barriers and Facilitators among Youth Leaving Foster Care: A Scoping Review*. Poster presented at the annual program meeting for the Society of Social Work and Research in Seattle, WA.

- Platt, M.\*, **Cheatham, L. P.**, Giorgio, L. (2025, January). *Perceived Racial Opportunity, Segregation, and Life Satisfaction: Exploring the Interplay between Individual Outlooks and Social Context for Black Americans*. Poster presented at the annual program meeting for the Society of Social Work and Research in Seattle, WA.
- Cheatham, L. P.**, Smith, N. L.\*, Jackson, M. S., Register, H., Rawls, J., Gannon, B. S., Fleckman, J. (2024, January). *Exploring Barriers to Healthcare Access Among AL Youth with Disabilities Leaving Foster Care: A Collaborative Research Approach*. Paper presented at the annual program meeting for the Society of Social Work and Research in Washington, DC.
- Meadows, J. T.\* & **Cheatham, L. P.** (2024, January). *Military Families in the Exceptional Family member Program: Attorney Understandings of Experiences and Policy*. Paper presented at the annual program meeting for the Society of Social Work and Research in Washington, DC.
- Cheatham, L. P.**, Smith, N. L.\* (2023, November). *Autonomy in Healthcare Access among Alabama Youth Aging Out of Foster Care with Disabilities*. Paper presented at the American Public Health Association Annual Program Meeting, Atlanta, GA.
- Cheatham, L. P.**, Smith, N. L.\* (2023, October). *Improving Healthcare Access for Youth “Aging Out” with Disabilities: Child Welfare Professionals’ Perspectives*. Paper presented at the annual program meeting for the Council for Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Atlanta, GA.
- Smith, N. L.\*, **Cheatham, L. P.** (2023, October). *Reproductive Healthcare Access among Alabama Youth Transitioning from Foster Care with Disabilities*. Poster presented at the annual program meeting for the Council for Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Atlanta, GA.
- Cheatham, L. P.**, Smith, N. L.\*, Jackson, M. S. (2023, September). *Promoting Health Equity through Healthcare Access among Youth Transitioning from Foster Care with Disabilities*. Paper presented at the EUSARF XVI International Conference, Brighton, UK.
- Katz, C. C., Jackson, M. S., **Cheatham, L. P.**, Dworsky, A., Geiger, J., Harty, J., Johnson, R., Okpych, N., Powers, J., Salazar, A., Shpiegel, S., Taussig, H., & Courtney, M. E. (2023, September). *The Transition-Age Youth Special Interest Group (TAY-SIG): The Establishment and Activities of a US-Based Network of Child Welfare Researchers*. Paper presented at the EUSARF International Conference, Brighton, UK.
- Luo, Y\*., Li, Q.Y\*., Jeong, H.\*., **Cheatham, L.** (2022, November). *The Association between Social Determinants of Health and Psychological Distress among US Adults during the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Secondary Analysis among Four Racial/Ethnic Groups*. Presented at the 2022 Annual Conference of the American Public Health Association (APHA), Boston, MA.
- Shah, A. & **Cheatham, L. P.** (2022, September). *The Ethel Hall Colloquium: An Annual Social Justice Engagement Model*. Roundtable conducted at the Engaged Scholars Consortium at University of Georgia, Athens, GA.
- Cheatham, L. P.**, Hopson, L., Leavell, H., Jordan, C. (2022, January). *Reducing Recidivism Among Justice-Involved Youth in the Deep South: The Role of Court-ordered Programs*. Paper presented virtually at the annual program meeting for the Society of Social Work and Research in Washington, DC.

- Cheatham, L. P.**, Kenney, J. L., Daquin, J., Dolliver, M. J., Hall, A., Derzis, N., Holder, A.\*, Mautz, K., Foster, D.\*, Roe, V.\*, Lambert, E.\*, Shippen, M., & Reid, L.W. (2021, January). *Assessing the reliability of the Women's Risk Needs Assessment within an Alabama state women's prison*. Paper presented at the annual program meeting for the Society of Social Work and Research (virtual conference).
- Wang, K.\*, **Cheatham, L. P.** (2020, November). *Will exercise benefit breast cancer survivors: the moderation role of residential setting?* Poster presented at the annual program meeting for the Council for Social Work Education (virtual conference).
- Cheatham, L. P.**, Bertram, J.\*, Luo, Y.\*, Dozier, K.\*, Jackson, S. (2020, January). *Supporting former foster youth in college: Lessons from students and stakeholders*. Paper presented at the annual program meeting for the Society for Social Work Research in Washington, DC.
- Ikenberg, C.\*, **Cheatham, L. P.**, Luo, Y.\*, Dozier, K.\*, Cardinale, J. (2020, January). *Measuring the impact of abuser role on chronic and severe physical and psychological abuse*. Poster presented at the annual program meeting for the Society for Social Work Research in Washington, DC.
- Cheatham, L. P.**, Luo, Y.\*, Dozier, K.\*, Jackson, S., Bertram, J.\* (2020, January). *Building capacity within a campus-based support program for former foster youth: A participant-engaged approach*. Poster presented at the annual program meeting for the Society for Social Work Research in Washington, DC.
- Wang, K.\*, & **Cheatham, L. P.** (2020, January). *Does residential setting (urban v. rural) moderate the effects of physical exercise and body mass index on self-rated health among breast cancer survivors?* Poster presented at the annual program meeting for the Society for Social Work Research in Washington, DC.
- Luo, Y.\*, **Cheatham, L. P.**, Ikenberg, C.\*, & Dozier, K.\* (2020, January). *Factors related to telemedical care receipt among older adults with medical conditions: A secondary data analysis across race/ethnicity*. Poster presented at the annual program meeting for the Society for Social Work Research in Washington, DC.
- Laklija, M., Milić-Babić, M., & **Cheatham, L. P.** (2020, January). *Institutionalization of children with disabilities in Croatia: Social workers' perspectives*. Poster presented at the annual program meeting for the Society for Social Work Research in Washington, DC.
- Luo, Y.\*, **Cheatham, L. P.**, Dozier, K.\*, Ikenberg, C.\* (2020, January). *Associated factors with electronic personal health records use (ePHRs): An application of Anderson's behavioral model of health services use to ehealth service*. Poster presented at the annual program meeting for the Society for Social Work Research in Washington, DC.
- Jones, C.\*, **Cheatham, L. P.**, Gibson, K., & Gold, A. (2019, October). *Education in ethics: Challenges and rewards of a field placement within a legal clinic*. Alabama–Mississippi Social Work Conference, Oxford, MS.
- Ellis, T.\*, **Cheatham, L. P.**, & Li, Q. (2018, November). *Trauma symptoms as predictors of health and behavior for girls in residential*. Poster presented at the annual program meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, Orlando, FL.

- Meadows, J.\*, & **Cheatham, L. P.** (2018, November). *Comparative health outcomes for military connected families with members with disabilities*. Poster presented at the annual program meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, Orlando, FL.
- Ellis, T.\*, Sawyer, M.\*, Bolton, A.\*, & **Cheatham, L. P.** (2018, October). *Predicting health and behavior outcomes using the Trauma Symptoms Checklist for Children*. Presentation at the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Social Work Conference, Tuscaloosa, AL.
- Jackson, M. S., & **Cheatham, L. P.** (2018, October). *U.S. college campus support programs for foster youth: Opportunities and challenges—Breaking down barriers to college: A report of two strategies for Alabama’s foster youth*. Paper presented at the EUSARF XV International Conference, Porto, Portugal.
- Cheatham, L. P.**, & Randolph, K. A. (2018, January). *Aging out of foster care with disabilities: Predictors of educational attainment and employment*. Poster presented at the annual program meeting of the Society for Social Work Research, Washington, DC.
- Meadows, J.\*, & **Cheatham, L. P.** (2018, January). *Military families with members with special health needs*. Poster presented at the annual program meeting of the Society for Social Work Research, Washington, DC.
- Li, Q.\*, & **Cheatham, L. P.** (2018, January). *Association between health risk factors and weapon carrying behaviors among school-aged children*. Poster presented at the annual program meeting of the Society for Social Work Research, Washington, DC.
- Boyd, C., Bullinger, L., **Cheatham, L. P.**, Feely, M., Fleckman, J., Lanier, P., McGuire Jack, K. L., Piel, M., Ross, A., Schelbe, L., Seay, K. D., (2017, November). *Prevention of Child Maltreatment: Multiple Approaches and Perspectives*. Roundtable presented at the American Association of Public Health Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.
- Meadows, J.\*, **Cheatham, L. P.**, & Bugella, N.\* (2017, November). *Development of a social work disability curriculum: A community-driven approach*. Poster presented at the annual program meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, Dallas, TX.
- Cheatham, L. P.** (2017, October). *Promoting well-being among youth aging out of foster care with disabilities: Using data to inform practice*. Presentation at the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Social Work Conference, Birmingham, AL.
- Ruggiano, N., **Cheatham, L. P.**, & Simon, C. E. (2017, April). *Finding our voice: Empowering effective social justice advocacy in social work*. Presentation at the National Association for Social Work – Alabama Chapter Annual Conference, Tuscaloosa, AL.
- Cheatham, L. P.**, & Randolph, K. A. (2017, January). *Youth aging out of foster care: A portrait of youth with disabilities*. Paper presented at the annual program meeting of the Society for Social Work Research, New Orleans, LA.
- Babcock, P., Wald, M., Sprang, G., Clark, J., **Cheatham, L. P.** (2017, January). *The Adoption and Safe Families Act 20th anniversary: Lessons learned and social work’s role in leaning forward*. Round table discussion at the annual program meeting of the Society for Social Work Research, New Orleans, LA.

- Cheatham, L. P., & Yelick, A.\*** (2016, November). *Attitudes toward disability in social work: Implications for education and practice*. Poster presented at the annual program meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, Atlanta, GA.
- Busso, D., **Cheatham, L. P.**, Gjertson, L., Marsh, E., & Matone, M. (2016, June). *Concurrence of disability and childbirth among women with a childhood history of maltreatment or foster care*. Poster presented at the 24<sup>th</sup> annual colloquium on the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children, New Orleans, LA.
- Yelick, A., **Cheatham, L. P.**, & Randolph, K. A. (2014, October). *Program evaluation of a community college support program for former foster youths*. Paper presented at the annual program meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, Tampa, FL.
- Groton, D., Yelick, A., & **Cheatham, L. P.** (2014, October). *Strategy for incorporating qualitative data analysis software into research studies*. Poster presented at the annual program meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, Tampa, FL.
- Cheatham, L. P.**, Randolph, K. (2014, January). *The impact of disability on young adults' transition to adulthood*. Paper presented at the annual program meeting of the Society for Social Work Research, San Antonio, TX.
- Cheatham, L. P.**, Radey, M. (2014, January). *Computer and internet technologies: Effects on well-being for young adults with physical disabilities*. Paper presented at the annual program meeting of the Society for Social Work Research, San Antonio, TX.
- Radey, M., **Cheatham, L. P.** (2014, January). *Do single mothers claim their share? FAFSA completion among aid-eligible female students*. Paper presented at the annual program meeting of the Society for Social Work Research, San Antonio, TX.
- Kim, H., Abell, N., & **Cheatham, L. P.** (2013, June). *Development and initial validation of the Attitudes toward Education for Older Adults (AEOA) Scale*. Paper presented at the 20<sup>th</sup> IAGG World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics, Seoul, Korea.
- Cheatham, L. P.**, Abell, N., & Kim, H. (2013, January). *Development and initial validation of the Attitudes Toward Disabilities in Social Work (ADSW) Scale*. Paper presented at the annual program meeting of the Society for Social Work Research, San Diego, CA.
- Randolph, K., **Cheatham, L. P.**, Williams, J., & Weiss, U. (2013, January). *Exposure to parent and peer alcohol use and the risk of drinking onset and escalation among adolescents*. Paper presented at the annual program meeting of the Society for Social Work Research, San Diego, CA.
- McPherson, J., **Cheatham, L. P.**, & Oswald, K. (2013, January). *Evaluating human rights impact in social work education: The Million Bones Example*. Paper presented at the annual program meeting of the Society for Social Work Research, San Diego, CA.
- Randolph, K., **Cheatham, L. P.**, & Weiss, U. (2012, November). *The relative risk of parent and peer alcohol use on underage drinking*. Paper presented at the annual program meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, Washington, D.C.

## **Invited Presentations**

- Cheatham, L. P.**, Smith, N. L.\* (2024, July). *The Well-being of Alabama's Older Foster Youth*. Paper presented at the Child Health & Welfare Summit, Tuscaloosa, AL.
- Cheatham, L. P.** & Smith, N. L.\* (2024, February). *Promoting Health Equity through Healthcare Access Among Alabama Youth Transitioning from Foster Care with Disabilities* [Webinar]. INTRAC Disability Thematic Interest Group.
- Cheatham, L. P.**, Smith, N. L.\*, Gannon, B. S. (2023, October). *Healthcare Access Among Alabama Youth Transitioning from Foster Care with Disabilities*. Project presented at the Research to Action (R2A) Summit, Child Wellbeing Research Network (University of Kentucky), Louisville, KY.
- Cheatham, L. P.** & Smith, N. L.\* (2022, April). *Healthcare Access Among Alabama Youth Transitioning from Foster Care with Disabilities* [Webinar]. INTRAC Disability Thematic Interest Group.
- Reid, L., **Cheatham, L. P.**, Kenney, J., Hall, A., Shippen, M. E., Dewey, S. (2020, November). *Validation of the Women's Risk Needs Assessment: Project overview and preliminary findings*. School of Social Work Research Rounds series, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL.
- Cheatham, L. P.**, Gusler, S., Srivastav, A., Zajac, L. (2019, November). *Doris Duke Quarterly Webinar: Innovative Dissemination Strategies*. Doris Duke Fellowship on Promotion of Child Well-being, Quarterly Fellow's Webinar Series.
- Cheatham, L. P.**, Hubbard, S., Jones, J.\* (2019, October). *Alabama REACH: Building capacity through a participatory program evaluation*. National Association of Foster Youth in Higher Education Monthly Webinar, <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iYJw4RSiVpR51iynN--UpUqzhBsk1mSU/view>.
- Ellis, T.\*, Jones, C.\*, **Cheatham, L. P.** (2019, March). *Social Work & Law: Overview of practice and ethical considerations in cases involving trauma*. Alabama REACTS conference, Tuscaloosa, AL.
- Jones, C.\*, & **Cheatham, L. P.** (2019, January). *Exploring the role of social work within a legal clinic setting*. University of Alabama School of Law, Legal Clinic Spring Orientation, Tuscaloosa, AL.
- Cheatham, L. P.** (2018, November). *"Aging out" of foster care with disabilities: Predictors of education and Employment*. Department of Criminology Colloquium Series, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL.
- Cheatham, L. P.** (2018, October). *Promoting well-being among youth aging out of foster care with disabilities: using data to inform practice*. Presentation at the Children's Rehabilitation Center (CEU Training), Birmingham, AL.
- Cheatham, L. P.** (2017, March). *Youth aging out with disabilities: National prevalence estimates and preliminary outcome data*. Center for the Prevention of Youth Behavior Problems, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL.

- Cheatham, L. P.** (2016, April). *Youth aging out with disabilities: Identifying state-level characteristics relevant to successful transitions*. Research presented at the Doris Duke Fellowship Mid-year Meeting, Duke University, Durham, NC.
- Cheatham, L. P.** (2015, March). *Youth aging out with disabilities: Identifying state-level characteristics relevant to successful transitions*. Research presented at the Doris Duke Fellowship Mid-year Meeting, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA.
- Cheatham, L. P., & Randolph, K.** (2012, March). *The Impact of Disability on Young Adults' Transitions to Adulthood*. Poster presented at the Florida State University College of Social Work Research Showcase, Tallahassee, FL.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **University of Alabama (2016 – present)**

- Fall 2024-2025      Conceptual Foundations of SW Practice & Research – *PhD Program* (in-person)
- Spring 2017-2026      Research Practicum – *PhD Program* (in-person)
- Fall 2020-2022; 2025      Research for Clinical & Community Practice I – *DSW Program* (online)
- Spring 2022      Social Welfare Policy – *PhD Program* (in-person)
- Spring 2019-2026      UA Law Clinics Field Supervisor – *BSW/MSW Program*
- Fall 2017-2021      Research Methods I – *PhD Program* (in-person)
- Spring 2018-2024      Advanced Social Welfare Policy – *MSW Program* (online)
- Fall 2016-2017      Social Welfare Policy – *MSW Program* (in-person & online)

### **Boston University (2024)**

- Summer 2024-2025      Economic & Political Factors that Influence Occupational Therapy Practice  
*College of Health & Rehabilitative Sciences* (online)

### **Florida State University (2013 – 2015)**

- Spring 2014      Intro to Social Work – *BSW Program* (in-person)
- Fall 2013      Social Policies & Programs – *BSW Program* (in-person)
- Summer 2013      Measurements – *BSW Program* (in-person)
- Spring 2013-2015      Practice Evaluation – *MSW Program* (online mentor), Professor Neil Abell  
\*Nominated for FSU's *Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award*

### **University of Alabama: Doctoral Committees (completed only)**

#### ***PhD Dissertation Committee Chair***

*A Qualitative Exploration of Interagency Collaboration and Transition Outcomes for High School Students with Disabilities*

Alauna Adams (May 2025)

*The Revolving Prison Door: A Retrospective Examination of the Relationship Between Mental Health and Recidivism Among a Group of incarcerated Women in the Deep South*  
Stefanie Binion (June 2024)

*Attorney Interpretations of Law and Policy Regarding Military Families with Dependents Experiencing Disabilities*  
James Meadows (June 2024)

*When Violence Thrives in Silence: Highlighting Narratives of Women Survivors of Obstetric Violence in Alabama*  
Haley Beech (May 2023)

***DSW Capstone Committee Chair***

*Social Workers' Attitudes Toward Abortion and Implications for Social Work Practice & Education in a Post-Roe Context: A Scoping Review Using a Reproductive Justice*  
Vanessa Gonzalez (Spring 2026)

*A Mixed-Methods Evaluation of the Implementation of The Washington Blue Band Initiative...*  
Shakima Tozay (Summer 2025)

*Supporting Clients Through Loss: Exploring Best Practices of Accredited Assistance Dog Organizations*  
Dena DeSantis (Spring 2025)

*Cervical Cancer Survivor Interviews to Inform Community Outreach Education*  
Vivian Schad (Spring 2025)

*Establishing a Foundation of Holistic Wellness: A Feasibility Study of Self-Care Practices and Self-Compassion among BSW Field Students*  
Rebecca Bohner (Spring 2025)

*A Systematic Review of Clinical Case Formulation Methods and Pedagogies*  
Jason Pearce (Spring 2025)

*Foster Parent Factors Associated with Placement Stability: An Umbrella Review*  
Jeanna Pixley (Fall 2023)

*Virtual Education Opportunities: A Study in the Accessibility of Public Education for Homeless Youth*  
Cara Creger (Fall 2022)

*Sexually Harmful Behaviors in Adolescents: A Comparative Assessment of Tools to Guide Comprehensive Intervention and Treatment*  
Caroline Baker (Fall 2022)

*What Happens in Social Workers' Implementation of Dialectical Behavior Therapy? An Exploratory Comparative Analysis of Training, Experience, Implementation Fidelity, and Knowledge*  
Christopher Conley (Summer 2022)

*A Case for Social Workers as Investigators in Public Defender's Offices*  
Amy Hurd (Summer 2022)

### ***PhD Dissertation Committee Member***

*Helping Professionals' Decision-making Practices with Intervening in Cases of Minor Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking: A Pragmatic Qualitative Inquiry*

Natalia Langner Smith (June 2025)

*A Mixed Methods Exploration of First-Generation College Students Resisting and Healing the Chains of Mass Incarceration*

Tish Warr (May 2025)

*Towards Developing a Framework: A Syndemic Approach to the Social Determinants of Educational Attainment*

Angela Pretz (March 2023)

*Health Information Technology Use for Dementia Care*

Yan Luo (October 2022)

*Bringing Our Sisters Out of the Shadows: Unmasking the Fatal Link Between COVID-19, Intimate Partner Violence, and Intimate Femicide for Women in Alabama*

Amber Sutton (May 2022)

*Information and Communication Technology Use among Older Adults: An Investigation of Underlying Mechanisms of Connections to Cognitive Function*

Kun Wang (May 2022)

*Poetry and Youth Adjudicated for Illegal Sexual Behaviors: A Mixed Methods Study*

Taylor Ellis (August 2020)

*Diffusion of Responsibility in Assuring Health Care for Foster Children*

Laura Boltz (July 2020)

*Health Care Payer Type and HIV Health: A Retrospective Analysis*

Emma Sophia Kay (November 2017)

### ***DSW Capstone Committee Member***

*Supporting a Successful Transition to Independence for Youth in Residential Care Programs*

Chad Parker (Fall 2023)

*Eating Disorder Rates and Body Image Dissatisfaction Among College Females*

Abby Blair (Spring 2023)

*Outside Looking In: An Autoethnography of One Woman's Experience of Visual Impairment*

Jeri Loranzen (Summer 2022)

### **University of Alabama: Master's Committees (completed only)**

#### ***Thesis Committee Member***

*'So many forms of loss': Cumulative grief among formerly incarcerated people*

Olivia Ward (outside member, Criminology & Criminal Justice, defended March 2024)

*Systematic Review of Federal Tax Credit Utilization to Reduce Employment Barriers for those Convicted of a Felony*

Larry Smith (outside member, Criminology & Criminal Justice, defended April 2023)

*Gendered Precarity in Women's Work & Educational Experiences: View from a Deep South Prison*  
Caitlin Bauer (outside member, Criminology & Criminal Justice, defended June 2022)

*Beyond the Meantime Fix: Understanding and Ameliorating Healthcare and Social Services Access and Barriers among Women in Sex Work*

Brooke Hume (outside member, Criminology & Criminal Justice, defended March 2022)

*Gendered Nature of Crime: Themes from the Deep South*

Hanna Benkhraba (outside member, Criminology & Criminal Justice, defended March 2022)

*Complex Criminalization: Understanding Sex Workers' Interactions with Law Enforcement*

Jada Vaughn (outside member, Criminology & Criminal Justice, defended February 2022)

*Effects of Prison Dog Training Programs on Prison Social Climate*

Erin McNeil (outside member, Criminology & Criminal Justice, defended January 2021)

## MEDIA/OP-ED CONTRIBUTIONS

**Cheatham, L. P.** (May 24, 2019). "College campuses must be redesigned with foster youth, those with disabilities in mind." *Youth Today* (op-ed): <https://youthtoday.org/2019/05/college-campuses-must-be-redesigned-with-foster-youth-those-with-disabilities-in-mind/>

Cason, M. (Oct. 1, 2022). "Alabama struggles to keep child welfare workers on the job: "We're treading water." *AL.com* (contributing quotes by **Cheatham, L. P.**):

<https://www.al.com/news/2022/10/alabama-struggles-to-keep-child-welfare-workers-on-job-were-treading-water.html>

## SERVICE

### Profession

2025-Present Co-Editor-in-Chief, *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*  
2023-2025 Reviewer, *Society for Social Work & Research* Annual Conference  
2024-2025 Reviewer (Special Emphasis Panel), National Institute of Mental Health  
2023-2024 Editorial Board Member, *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*  
2022-2024 Co-chair, *Parenting Affinity Group*, Child Well-being Research Network (CWRN)  
2020-2024 Member, *Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Justice Taskforce*, CWRN  
2016-2021 Mentor, Doris Duke Fellowship...  
2016-2018 Member, *Research Agenda/Sustainability Workgroup*, Doris Duke Fellowship...  
2023 Reviewer, *Child & Youth Care Forum*  
2022 Reviewer, *Child & Family Social Work*  
2019-2023 Reviewer, *Trauma, Violence & Abuse*  
2017-2024 Reviewer, *Children and Youth Services Review*  
2021 Reviewer, *Child and Adolescent Social Work*  
2021 Reviewer, *Disability and Health Journal*  
2021 Reviewer (book proposal), Springer Publishing  
2019 Reviewer, *American Psychology-Law Society Grants-in-Aid Program*  
2018-2020 Reviewer, *Disability & Rehabilitation*  
2017 Reviewer, *Sage Open*

## **University of Alabama**

- 2021-Present Non-Medical Institutional Review Board (IRB) Alternate Member
- 2021-2024 Student Health Committee (Faculty Senate Representative/member)
- 2018-2022 Faculty Senator
- 2019-2021 UA Faculty Senate's *Taskforce to Transform Campus Culture* (member/convener)
- 2019-2020 UA *Basic Needs Taskforce* (Student Food Insecurity & Homelessness; invited member)
- 2019 *We Are UA* Campaign – Social Work Faculty Representative
- 2019-2020 Student Life Committee Member (Faculty Senate)
- 2019-2020 Student and Campus Life Committee (Faculty Senate Representative)
- 2018-2019 Academic Affairs Committee Member (Faculty Senate)

## **University of Alabama – School of Social Work**

- 2025-2026 Tenure-track Assistant & Associate Professor Search (chair)
- 2025 *Howard B. Gundy Award* Selection Committee (member)
- 2024 PhD Program Director Search (member)
- 2023 BSW & DSW Program Director Searches (chair)
- 2023 SSW Academic Program Review, Curriculum Mapping (co-lead)
- 2021-2022 SSW Strategic Planning Initiative – Core Committee (member)
- 2021-2022 Tenure-track Assistant & Associate Professor Search Committee (member)
- 2021 *Lahoma Adams Buford Peace Award* Selection Committee (convener)
- 2021-2023 DSW Committee (member)
- 2020 Dean Search Committee (elected member)
- 2019-2020 DSW Assistant Professor Search Committee (member)
- 2017-2023 PhD Committee (member)
- 2016-2020 MSW Committee (member and delegate/alternate to the Executive Committee)
- 2017-2024 Diversity Committee (member/co-chair)
- 2019-2022 Dean's Advisory Committee (member)
- 2016-2019 President 4 Pillars, Pillar 3 Committee (member/convener)
- 2017-2018 Faculty and Staff Enrichment Committee (member)
- 2017 *Howard B. Gundy Award* Selection Committee (member)
- 2016-2017 Dean's Advisory Committee (member)

## **Florida State University – College of Social Work**

- 2012-2013 Grievance Officer, *Graduate Assistants United*
- 2012-2013 President, *Doctoral Student Organization*
- 2010-2012 Secretary, *Doctoral Student Organization*

## **Community Service**

- 2024-Present Florida's Children First, *Board of Directors* (Board Member)
- 2018-2019 Department of Education Technical Assistance Project, Tuscaloosa, AL
- 2008 Guardian ad Litem, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, Palm Beach County, FL

## **Professional Memberships**

- 2020-Present Child Well-being Research Network
- 2020-Present International Research Network on Transitions to Adulthood from Care
- 2017-Present American Public Health Association
- 2012-Present Society for Social Work Research
- 2012-Present Council on Social Work Education