

Gabriel (Gabe) L. Adkins- M.S., M.A.

About Me:

My educational philosophy stems from a learner-centered, adult-focused approach to learning. As such, I expect my students to approach courses seeking to be actively involved in creating their educational experience and outcomes. I believe in active course participation in which discussion is emphasized over lecture and peer-based learning as at least as prevalent as instructor-centered learning. I believe that all parties in the educational process share responsibility for the outcomes of that process, and learning is most interesting, exciting, and fun if everyone contributes.

With the exception of studies in acquiring my B.A., my time as a scholar has been spent balancing the responsibilities of family, work, and school. As such, I try to be fair and flexible with learners in terms of making the sometimes-conflicting responsibilities of school and life fit- as long as the overall goals for the learning experience are met exceptionally. Those who enroll in my courses can expect to work hard, be challenged, and (hopefully) enjoy the process of learning for its own sake.

My personal interests include music (I play several instrument and also sing), martial arts (I have been a student of several forms), fishing, camping, hiking, golf, and watching professional football (go Chiefs!). I also dabble in writing poetry and music composition when time allows and inspiration strikes. I am also a "parent" to various pets, and love spending time with Chief (my Boston Terrier), Sasha (my Siamese cat), several aquariums, leopard gecko, and 4 pet snakes (2 Ball Pythons, a California Kingsnake, and a Honduran Milksnake).

Research Interests:

My primary research interests include Public Relations Communication (specifically the area of crisis communication/organizational apologetics) and Organizational Communication (interests in leadership communication and development communication). To date, my research in PR communication has focused on exploring possible theoretical explanations and applicable models for the processes related to organizational efforts in preparing for, managing, and learning from crisis situations. My work in organizational communication has primarily focused on developing an understanding of how communication impacts organizations in the areas of training, development, and change management activities.

Degrees Earned:

May 1996: Bachelor of Arts from Ottawa University (Ottawa, KS); major in Speech/Rhetoric

December 2002: Master of Science from Pittsburg State University; major in Human Resource Development with an emphasis as an Organizational Development Practitioner

August 2005: Master of Arts in Communication Studies from Wichita State University; emphasis in Organizational Communication

Honors/Awards:

Earned *Special Distinction* status in Pi Kappa Delta at Ottawa University, competed in national tournaments for both forensics and debate (1996)

Inducted into Pi Kappa Pi at Pittsburg State University as a result of 4.0 GPA maintained throughout M.S. studies (2002).

Professional Experience:

5 years experience as a Recruiter/Academic Advisor for Southwestern College Professional Studies in Wichita, KS.

3 years experience as an adjunct instructor teaching upper-division courses (both classroom-based and online/blended courses) in

areas of business communication and business ethics for

Southwestern College Professional Studies in Wichita, KS.

Various other positions held in other companies related to marketing, sales, customer service, and office-management responsibilities