

Amber Petkus, Ph.D. (née Mandalari)

[OrCID](#) | [Google Scholar](#)

Contact Information

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Education

- 2023 **Doctor of Philosophy**, Criminal Justice
Concentration: Corrections
University of Cincinnati
 - 2017 **Master of Science**, Criminal Justice
Michigan State University
 - 2012 **Bachelor of Science**, Psychology
Michigan State University
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Research Interests

Corrections, Rehabilitation, Sentencing, Evaluation, Implementation, Criminal Justice Processes & System Improvements, Translational Criminology, Inequality, Collateral Consequences, Juvenile Justice, Family Violence, Child Welfare

Professional Appointments

- 2023 - Present **Postdoctoral Research Scholar**
Pennsylvania Department of Corrections
Criminal Justice Research Center
Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA
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Peer-Reviewed Publications

- Miller, W. T., D'Amato, C. J., **Petkus, A. A.**, Campbell, C. A., & Kiki, E. Examining Risk Factor and Recidivism Rate Differences Between Youth Adjudicated of Sex and Non-Sex Offenses: A Propensity Score Matching Approach. (Under Review). *Youth Violence & Juvenile Justice*.
- Northcutt Bohmert, M., Ruhland, E. L., Hanrath, L., Ying, M., **Petkus, A.**, O'Neil, M. M., Gaston, S., Hyatt, J., Link, N., & Powell, K. (Under Review). A multi-state study of probation officer attitudes and collection behavior regarding monetary sanctions. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*.

- Barnes-Lee, A. R., & **Petkus, A.** (2023). A scoping review of strengths-based risk and needs assessments for youth involved in the juvenile legal system. *Child and Youth Services Review*, 148. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chilyouth.2023.106878>
- Petkus, A.** & Ruhland, E. L., (2022). The outcomes of a pretrial diversion program in Texas. *Federal Probation*, 86(3), 50-54. https://www.uscourts.gov/sites/default/files/fedprobation-dec2022_508-2_0.pdf
- King, K. J. B., **Petkus, A. A.**, & Ruhland, E. L. (2022). Exploring how fines and fees finance community supervision. *Federal Sentencing Reporter*, 34(2-3), 139-144.
- Ruhland, E. L., Leigh, K., & **Petkus, A.** (2022). Probation officer viewpoints on the assessment, collection, and enforcement of fees. *Federal Sentencing Reporter*, 34(2-3), 206-208.
- Petkus, A. A.**, Sullivan, C. J., Lugo, M., & Newsome, J. (2022). The impact of risk assessment on juvenile justice decision-making and new adjudication: An analysis of usage and outcome. *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice*, 20(2), 139-163. DOI: 10.1177/15412040211061270
- Anderson, V. R., Rubino, L. L., Campbell, C.A., **Petkus, A. A.**, & Barnes-Lee, A. R. (2022). (In)Effectiveness of In-Home Detention Tethers to Reduce Recidivism for System-Involved Girls. *Justice Evaluation Journal*. DOI: 10.1080/24751979.2021.1933570
- Sullivan, C. J., McCafferty, J., Newsome, J., & **Mandalari, A.** (2021). Predictive validity and measurement invariance in juvenile risk assessment: Implications for racial and ethnic disparities in juvenile justice. *Journal of Crime and Justice*. DOI: 10.1080/0735648X.2021.1997788
- Ruhland, E. L., **Petkus, A. A.**, Link, N. W., Hyatt, J., Holmes, B., & Pate, S. (2021). Monetary sanctions in community corrections: Law, policy, and their alignment with correctional goals. *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice*, 37(1), 108-127. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1043986220971393>
- Wojcik, M. L. T., Rubenstein, B. Y., **Petkus, A. A.**, Racadio, M., Anderson, V. R., Fisher, B. S., Wilcox, P., & Bleser, A. (2021). Coming together in the fight against intimate partner violence: Lessons learned from a researcher practitioner collaboration evaluating Cincinnati's Domestic Violence Enhanced Response Team (DVERT). *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice*, 37(2), 221-243. DOI: 10.1177/1043986221999861
- Ruhland, E., Holmes, B., & **Petkus, A.** (2020). The role of fines and fees on probation outcomes. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 47(10), 1244-1263. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0093854820918877>
- Onifade, E., Barnes, A.R., Campbell, C., & **Mandalari, A.** (2019). Risk assessment as a mechanism for reducing differential treatment of minorities by a juvenile justice system. *Journal of Ethnicity in Criminal Justice*, 17(3), 203-227.
- Campbell, N., Barnes, A.R., **Mandalari, A.**, Onifade, E., Campbell, C., Anderson, V. R., Kashy, D., & Davidson, W.S. (2018). Disproportionate minority contact in the juvenile justice
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system: An investigation of racial disparities at program referral. *Journal of Ethnicity & Criminal Justice*, 16(2), 77-98.

Technical Reports

The Community Corrections Fines & Fees Study Team. (Forthcoming). *The Community Corrections Fines and Fees Study: Multi-State Findings*. Report Prepared for Arnold Ventures.

Ruhland, E. L., **Petkus, A.**, Miller, W. T., & Calogeras, I. (Forthcoming). *The Community Corrections Fines & Fees Study Part I: Analysis of Texas Community Supervision and Corrections (CSCD) Assessment, Collection, and Enforcement of Monetary Sanctions for Adult Probationers*. Report Prepared for Arnold Ventures.

The Community Corrections Fines & Fees Study Team. (2023). *The Community Corrections Fines & Fees Study Part II: Online Survey of Supervision Officers Final Report*. Report Prepared for Arnold Ventures.

Ruhland, E. L., Northcutt-Bohmert, M., Ying, M., **Petkus, A.** (2023). *The Community Corrections Fines & Fees Study Part III: Qualitative Findings on the Challenges of Paying Fines and Fees*. Report Prepared for Arnold Ventures.

Ruhland, E. L., Mitchell, K. L., **Petkus, A.**, Northcutt-Bohmert, M., Ying, M., & Laskorunsky, J. (2023). *The Community Corrections Fines and Fees Study: Policy and Research Recommendations*. Report Prepared for Arnold Ventures.

Ruhland, E. L., Holmes, B., **Petkus, A.**, & Scheibler, E. (2021). *Examination of Probation Conditions Across 50 States*. Report prepared for the American Probation and Parole Association.

Sullivan, C., Strange, C., Sullivan, C., Newsome, J., Lugo, M., Mueller, D., **Petkus, A.**, Holmes, B., Lonergan, H., & McCafferty, J. (2019). *Multi-Method Study on Risk Assessment Implementation and Youth Outcomes in the Juvenile Justice System*. (2014-MU-FX-0006). Report prepared for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/grants/252927.pdf>

Book Chapters

Rubino, L. L., **Petkus, A. A.**, & Anderson, V. R. (2020). Cognitive and Psychological Programming. In Gould, L.A. & Brent, J.J. (Eds.), *Routledge Handbook of American Prisons*. New York, NY: Taylor & Francis/Routledge

Blog Posts

Petkus, A. A. (2021). Translational Criminology and Criminal Justice Reform. *News and Views from Robina, The Robina Institute of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice at the University of Minnesota*. <https://robinainstitute.umn.edu/news-views>

Infographics

Petkus, A., Grant, T., & Ruhland, E. (2022). *Probation and parole officer beliefs about fines and fees* [Infographic]. The Community Corrections Fines & Fees Study.

Conference Presentations

(^Submission accepted, but event canceled due to COVID-19 pandemic)

Petkus, A. A., & Ruhland, E. (2022, November). *Investigating the influence of intervention fees on probation success*. Paper submitted to the American Society of Criminology (ASC) Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA. Presentation Sponsored by the ASC Division of Corrections and Sentencing.

Petkus, A. A., & Ruhland, E. (2021, November). *Exploring the impact of treatment fees on community supervision experiences and success*. Paper submitted to the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.

Ying, M. H., Diaz, C. L., Northcutt-Bohmert, M., **Petkus, A.**, & Ruhland, E. (2021, November). *Fairness of Fines & Fees: A Multi-State Supervision Study*. Paper submitted to the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.

Petkus, A. A. (2021, November). *Advocating for your (student) self: How departments can support Alt-Ac bound students*. Roundtable at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.

^**Petkus, A. A.**, Ruhland, E., & Holmes, B. (2020). *Formal assessment as a guide for monetary sanction decisions*. Paper submitted to the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.

Petkus, A. A., Holmes, B., & Ruhland, E. (2019, November). *Fines and Fees in Community Corrections: Policies and Practices Governing the Assessment, Waiver, and Collection of Fines and Fees in Seven US States*. Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.

Holmes, B., **Petkus, A. A.**, & Ruhland, E. (2019, November). *Assessing the Influence of Legal Financial Obligations on Revocation from Supervision*. Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.

Sullivan, C., Strange, C. C., **Petkus, A. A.**, & Sullivan, C. (2019, November). *Improving Risk and Need Assessment Implementation: Suggestions Grounded in Practice*. Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.

Sullivan, C. J., Strange, C. C., **Petkus, A. A.**, Holmes, B., & Newsome, J. (2019, June). *No Two Risk Scores Alike...? An Exploration of the Stories Created by Juvenile Justice Assessment and their Implications for Youth Outcomes*. Paper presented at the Society for Community Research and Action Biennial Meeting, Chicago, IL.

Holmes, B. M., **Petkus, A. A.**, & Ruhland, E. (2019, March). *Community Corrections Fines and Fees: A Multi-Site Study*. Poster presented at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD.

Mandalari, A., Sullivan, C., Newsome, J., Lugo, M., Strange, C., & Mueller, D.J. (2018, November). *Juvenile Risk and Needs Assessment, Case-Level Decisions, and Youth Outcomes: Assessing the Assumed Mediation Process*. Paper presented at The American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.

Newsome, J., McCafferty, J., **Mandalari, A.**, & Sullivan, C. (2018, November). *Juvenile Risk and Needs Assessment: Beyond Predictive Validity*. Paper presented at The American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.

Mandalari, A. & Maxwell, C. D., (2016, November). *Testing for the benefit of readiness for batterer intervention program treatment*. Poster presented at The American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.

Mandalari, A., Anderson, V. R., Barnes, A. R., & Davidson, W. S. (2013, November). *The Effects of Evening Reporting Court Programming Using Patterns of Criminogenic Risk and Need*. Paper presented at the Society for Community Research and Action's Midwestern Ecological-Community Psychology Annual Regional Conference, Chicago, IL.

Mandalari, A., Anderson, V. R., Barnes, A. R., Petersen, J. L., & Davidson, W. S. (2012, October). *Evaluating patterns of risk and need for youth in the juvenile justice system*. Poster presented at the Society for Community Research and Action's Midwestern Ecological-Community Psychology Annual Regional Conference, Hickory Corners, MI.

Mandalari, A., Anderson, V. R., Petersen, J. L., Campbell, C. A., Barnes, A. R., & Davidson, W. S. (2012, March). *A descriptive look at parents and youth involved with intensive neglect and family support services*. Poster presented at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting, New York City, NY

Student Mentorship

(*Denotes mentored undergraduate author)

*Crawley, J. L., **Petkus, A.**, & Ruhland, E. (2023, April). *The impact of changing probation officers on probation success*. Poster presented at the University of Cincinnati Undergraduate Scholarly Showcase, Cincinnati, OH.

*Burkhardt, E., **Petkus, A.**, & Ruhland, E. (2023, April). *The effect of social support on supervision violations*. Poster presented at the University of Cincinnati Undergraduate Scholarly Showcase, Cincinnati, OH.

- *Contessa, C., **Petkus, A.**, & Ruhland, E. (2023, April). *Examining the impact of race and ethnicity on total amount of fees assessed to individuals on probation*. Poster presented at the University of Cincinnati Undergraduate Scholarly Showcase, Cincinnati, OH.
- *Avery, J., **Petkus, A.**, & Ruhland, E. (2022). *Effects of supervision officers' employment history on attitudes towards supervisees*. Paper submitted to University of Cincinnati McNair Scholars Program. Cincinnati, OH.
- *Martin, M., **Petkus, A. A.**, & Ruhland, E. (2021, April). *Exploring the impact of social support satisfaction on probation extension in Hispanic individuals*. Poster presented at the University of Cincinnati Undergraduate Scholarly Showcase, Cincinnati, OH.
- *Bees, K., Rines, K., **Mandalari, A.**, Cavanagh, C., & Davidson, W.S. (2018, February). *Examining the Likelihood of Relapse Among Parents of Juvenile Offenders Recovering from a Substance Use Disorder*. Poster presented at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- *Machasic, A., Rines, K., **Mandalari, A.**, Cavanagh, C., & Davidson, W.S. (2018, February). *Family Criminogenic Risk Scores of Female Offenders who are Victims of Human Trafficking*. Poster presented at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- *Kus, D., **Mandalari, A.**, Barnes, A. R., & Davidson, W. S. (2017, March). *Exploring the Relationship Between Sexual Victimization, Official Recidivism, and Risk of Re-offending Among Juvenile Sex Offenders*. Poster presented at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting, Kansas City, MO.
- *Sinclair, A., **Mandalari, A.**, Barnes, A. R., & Davidson, W. S. (2017, March). *Examining the Impact of Parental Stress and Traumatic Experiences on Recidivism in Juvenile Offenders Involved with Intensive Neglect and Family Support Services*. Poster presented at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting, Kansas City, MO.
- *Bagnasco, S., Barnes, A. R., **Mandalari, A.**, & Davidson, W. S. (2017, March). *Examining Criminogenic Needs and Protective Factors in Substance-Abusing Juvenile Offenders*. Poster presented at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting, Kansas City, MO.
- *Rowles, S., Barnes, A. R., **Mandalari, A.**, & Davidson, W. S. (2017, March). *Trauma and Recidivism: Examining Gender Differences with Juvenile Offenders*. Poster presented at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting, Kansas City, MO.
- *Rios, J., **Mandalari, A.**, Barnes, A. R., Campbell, N., & Davidson, W. S. (2016, April). *Mental Health Needs and Criminogenic Risk Factors in the Juvenile Justice System*. Poster presented at the Michigan State University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum, East Lansing, MI
- *Farhat A., Campbell, N., **Mandalari A.**, Barnes, A. R., & Davidson, W.S. (2016, April). *Exploring the Relationship Between Traumatic Experiences and Juvenile Offenders' Risk of Re-*

offense. Poster Presented at the Michigan State University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum, East Lansing, MI.

*England, K., Barnes, A. R., Campbell N., **Mandalari, A.**, & Davidson, W. S. (2016, April). *Juvenile Risk Assessment: Do New Cut-Off Scores for Female Offenders Matter?* Poster Presented at the Michigan State University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum, East Lansing, MI.

Research Experience

2018-2023

Research Coordinator/Graduate Research Assistant

Community Corrections Fines and Fees Study (Funded by Arnold Ventures)

School of Criminal Justice, The University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH

- Communicate with probation staff to facilitate data collection efforts, answer questions, problem solve, encourage collaboration, and discuss study findings
- Develop study materials and policies, including data collection instructions and instruments
- Create, maintain, and facilitate maintain project infrastructure and logistics; including all file and folder structures, set-up, storage, and sharing
- Compose reports, articles, infographics, and presentations communicating study findings and study progress
- Develop presentations of study findings for practitioners, funders, and academics
- Assist with preparing legally-binding data sharing agreements
- Assist with new proposal developments
- Coordinate with design staff to maintain project website
- Management, cleaning, and analyses of complex criminal justice record data, online survey data, and qualitative interview transcripts, with SPSS, Stata, NVivo, and Microsoft Office
- Plan project meetings and coordinate with co-investigators and staff from 7 university teams
- Track completion of project benchmarks

2018-2020

Research Volunteer

Risk Assessment, Neighborhood, and Sentencing (Funded by the National Institute of Justice)

School of Criminal Justice, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH

- Prepare and edit manuscripts for publication as part of a research team
- Design potential research projects with existing data and carry out analyses

2017-2019

Graduate Research Assistant

Risk and Needs Assessment, Implementation, and Outcomes Study (Funded by the US Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention)

School of Criminal Justice, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH

- Data cleaning, data entry, and data management in SPSS Statistics
 - Establish contact with youth formerly on probation
 - Administer telephone surveys
 - Finalize, reconcile, and merge agency data records
 - Assist with report writing
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- 2016-2017 **Crime Analyst & Detroit Police Gang Intelligence Unit Liaison**
The Violence Reduction Network – Detroit Ceasefire Program (Funded by the US Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and US Bureau of Justice Statistics)
School of Criminal Justice, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI & Detroit Police Department, Detroit Michigan
- Conducted social network analyses of shooting and gang networks for the Detroit Police Department
 - Assisted Gang Intelligence Officers with data preparation and crime analysis
 - Attended Detroit Ceasefire Community Meetings
- 2016-2017 **Graduate Research Assistant**
Land Use and Spatial Decision-Making for Sustainable Community Development in Tanzania (Funded by the Michigan State University Center for Advanced Study of International Development)
School of Criminal Justice, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI
- Developed coding scheme from content analysis of qualitative data Coded interviews with African villagers about their sustainability practices, individual characteristics, and quality of life
- 2016-2017 **Research Volunteer**
East Lansing Veteran’s Treatment Court Evaluation
School of Criminal Justice, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI
- Collected data from a local veteran’s court as part of an ongoing evaluation
 - Attended court meetings and state implementation training
- 2015-2017 **Research Manager**
The Juvenile Risk Assessment Team
Department of Psychology, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI
- Supervised data entry by undergraduate research assistants
 - Co-managed bi-weekly meetings of court personnel and research staff
 - Facilitated trainings of juvenile justice practitioners on risk assessment and best practices in offender rehabilitation and treatment
 - Co-created interactive electronic dashboard materials, including data visualizations, summarizing juvenile court data for public and practitioner audiences
 - Summarized and presented data on court practices, outcomes, and programming for administrators and judges
 - Communicated with court personnel regarding project operations
- 2014-2015 **Data Processor**
National Archive of Criminal Justice Data
A division of the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) at The Institute for Social Research (ISR), at The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- Prepared datasets and documentation from the longitudinal multi-state, multi-site, Program of Research on the Causes and Correlates of Delinquency for permanent archiving and secondary analysis

- Communicated with staff from the original studies as needed
- Composed summaries describing study scope and methodology for release on the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data website

2012-2014

Video Coding Lab Manager & Assistant Data Collection Lab Manager

The Twin Study of Behavioral and Emotional Development in Children and Contextual, Proximal, and Individual Risks for Child Conduct Problems, (Funded by the National Institute of Health)

Department of Psychology, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

- Mentored and trained undergraduate research assistants to code video-taped interpersonal interactions and main acceptable inter-rater reliability
- Managed, tracked, and cleaned SPSS datasets

2011-2012

Undergraduate Research Assistant

The Juvenile Risk Assessment Team

Department of Psychology, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

- Entered the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI) risk and needs assessments for delinquent youths into SPSS
- Managed juvenile court officer concerns and generated weekly reports of late assessments for court administrators

2010-2012

Undergraduate Research Assistant

The Twin Study of Behavioral and Emotional Development in Children and Contextual, Proximal, and Individual Risks for Child Conduct Problems (Funded by the National Institute of Health)

- Facilitated the completion of 4-hour long assessments of 6-10-year-old twins and their parents, in both lab and home settings
- Reliably coded parent, child, and dyadic behaviors contained in video-taped interactions

Teaching Experience

2022 **Instructor**

(1 semester) Course: Criminal Justice Research Methods

This course is designed to provide an overview of methods used by scientists to advance our understanding of crime causation and "what works" to meet the goals of crime control and justice. All stages of the research process except for data analysis will be covered, from the development of research questions through the collection of data to answer these questions. To more fully understand the methods covered in this course, we will assess their applications in some of the more important criminal justice studies conducted to date. Ethical considerations that must be made when conducting related research will also be reviewed.

2017 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**

(1 semester) Course: Quantitative Methods in Criminal Justice Research

Descriptive and inferential statistics and computer use in criminal justice research.

2017
(1 semester) **Graduate Teaching Assistant**
Course: Design and Analysis in Criminal Justice Research
Scientific methods in criminal justice research. Design, data collection and analysis, interpretation of findings, and ethical concerns. Computer use in data analysis.

2016-2017
(3 semesters) **Graduate Teaching Assistant**
Course: Counterterrorism and Intelligence
Description: Meanings and concept of terrorism. Nature of both domestic and international terrorist threats. Integration of intelligence and terrorism to understand counterterrorism concepts.

2012
(2 semesters) **Undergraduate Teaching Assistant**
Courses: Psychological Innovations and Research I & II
Description: This course is a two-semester, community practicum course in which the first semester includes training in topics including empathy, crisis mediation, and strengths-based philosophies. Following training, students are assigned to work with a first-time juvenile offender (referred by the local court), and are responsible for developing a goal-driven intervention that will divert a young offender from the juvenile justice system.

Workshops and Professional Training

Manchak, S. & Brubaker, M. (2023, August). *Mental Health First Aid*. [Professional Development Course] The National Council for Behavioral Health and University of Cincinnati Assists.

Lawson, C. & Pomeroy, D. (2021, May). *Tools for Academic Engagement in Public Policy*. [Professional Development Course]. MITx. <https://www.edx.org/course/tools-for-academic-engagement-in-public-policy>

Ramaswamy, R. (2019, June). *Implementation Science for Researchers*. [Professional Development Workshop]. University of Cincinnati College of Medicine.

Liu, H. (2019, July). *Introduction to Longitudinal Data*. [Professional Development Course]. University of Cincinnati School of Criminal Justice.

Sullivan, C. J. (2019, July). *Management and Analysis of Administrative Record Data*. [Professional Development Course]. University of Cincinnati School of Criminal Justice.

American Society of Criminology Division of Women and Crime. (2018, November). *Journal Reviewer Training Workshop*. [Conference workshop]. American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.

University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute. (May 3-4, 2018). *Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS)*. [Certification Program]. University of Cincinnati.

Professional & Academic Memberships

- 2019-Present American Probation and Parole Association
- 2016-Present American Society of Criminology
 - *Division of Corrections and Sentencing (2018-Present)*
 - *Division of Feminist Criminology (2018-Present)*
- 2012-Present Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences
- 2016-2018 Alpha Phi Sigma - The National Criminal Justice Honor Society
- 2011-2016 Psi Chi – The National Honor Society in Psychology
- 2012-2013 Society for Community Research and Action