



Felicia N. York, PhD, MBA, MA

Adjunct Professor in Communication Studies

Dr. York obtained her Ph.D. in Communication with a focus on health communication from Texas A&M University. She currently works as the Learning Collaborative Manager and Program Coordinator II at Texas A&M University's School of Nursing, where she and her Partnerships & Opportunities for Adolescent Health Preparation, Support & Services (POPSS) team are responsible for improving the sexual and mental healthcare experiences of adolescents/teens in Chicago public schools, congregate care centers, and clinics. She also works on several other projects focused on improving adolescent sexual and mental health, including, but not limited to, an evidence-based and trauma-informed game, an interactive online teen gamulation, and personalized doctor appointment kits. She is also a Certified Mental Health First Aid instructor. Her reproductive research continues to span various areas of healthcare experiences, including her previous role as a postdoctoral fellow in the Jack J. Valenti School of Communication at the University of Houston, where she focused on communication and messaging centering on women's health issues (e.g., pelvic floor disorders, menopause, and maternal health).

Felicia's dissertation used a culture-centered framework and a community-engaged data collection tool called photovoice to visually capture the lived experiences of African American mothers seeking maternal healthcare in Texas. Her dissertation work speaks to her intersectional research on reproductive and mental health and culturally centered communication in healthcare. Overall, she studies the role that cultural factors (e.g., historical mistrust in the healthcare system, unhealthy diets, racial biases) play in marginalized communities' decisions to engage in preventive behaviors toward self-care.

Felicia passionately focuses on improving communication between doctors and their patients and how addressing barriers related to the social determinants of health, such as implicit bias in medical care, can mitigate increasing rates of health disparities. As an engaged communication scholar, she is dedicated to roles that center community engagement in nonprofit organizations and universities as a qualitative research consultant. Felicia also continues her passion for health disparities research as a member of several researcher network groups.

Felicia has taught communication courses at the collegiate level since 2010. She also holds an MA in Communication (Public Relations) from the University of Houston and a BBA and MBA in Accounting from Sam Houston State University State in Huntsville, Texas. She is a native Houstonian and continues to seek opportunities to engage communities toward healthy living. Felicia has two incredible daughters and four grand loves who affectionately call her BiBi (grandmother in Swahili). She loves to sing, create handmade jewelry, and binge-watch her favorite TV shows in her spare time.