TEXAS STATE VITA
(with Fine Arts components)

I. Academic/Professional Background

A. Name: Ashton Rios Title: Adjunct Professor

B. Educational Background

Degree	*Year*	*University*	*Major*
B.A.	2024	Texas State University	Communication Studies
M.A.	2026	Texas State University	Communication Studies

C. University Experience

Adjunct Professor
Department of Communication Studies
Texas State University
Fall 2026 – Present

As an Adjunct Professor, I am responsible for delivering curriculum content in manners that heighten engagement and persuade participation from students in Fundamentals of Human Communication. I create course materials for experiential learning, content delivery, and class collaboration to focus on deepening students' understanding of the foundational principles of communication and applying them to everyone's life. By fostering a welcoming and encouraging environment, I facilitate the betterment of students' public speaking skills, interpersonal communication techniques, listening methods, and more.

Graduate Assistant Coach
Department of Communication Studies, Texas State Speech and Debate
Texas State University
Fall 2024 – Spring 2026

As a Graduate Assistant Coach, I assisted students in their creative and research processes for competitive forensics. Tasks included gathering academic materials to support claims in introductions for pieces and speeches, reworking physical movement in performative pieces, weaving literature to convey an argument for pieces, and editing speech outlines and essays. I was responsible for conducting weekly coaching hours for students to attend and traveling with the team to tournaments at other institutions on the weekends.

Graduate Instructional Assistant
Department of Communication Studies
Texas State University
Fall 2024

As a Graduate Instructional Assistant, I instructed students within lab sections to focus on experiential learning and solidify understanding of the course's content in Fundamentals of Human Communication. While conducting weekly office hours to provide space for student support, I also acted as a liaison between students within my section and the large lecturer I was assigned to. I handled academic operations and data entry, such as grading, keeping attendance, and exam proctoring.

Teaching Assistant
Department of Communication Studies, Instructional Communication
Texas State University
Spring 2023

As an informal Teaching Assistant, I focused on understanding classroom processes and impacts of pedagogical choices and methods by simultaneously analyzing course operations and creating activities for experiential learning. Leaning closer into research, I kept an open line of communication with the professor teaching the Rhetoric of Diversity course I was chosen for to deepen my understanding of teaching.

D. Relevant Professional Experience

E. Other Professional Credentials (licensure, certification, etc.)

II. TEACHING

A. Teaching Honors and Awards:

Graduate Student of the Year Award
Texas Intercollegiate Forensics Association
Spring 2026

Members of the Texas Intercollegiate Forensics Association awarded me as the Graduate Student of the Year for my efforts within the competitive forensics community. They highlighted my potential for remaining within the community as a team coach, for completing my ballots with respect and awareness of students' capabilities, and for assisting students in finding their passion in research and advocacy.

Carol and Barbara Hickey Award
District III, American Forensics Association
Spring 2025

Students from District III of the American Forensics Association voted to honor me with the Carol and Barbara Hickey Award as a demonstration of gratitude. It highlighted my intent to foster a welcoming and inclusive environment in competitive forensics, to teach students from my institution and others equally, and for being able to assist students in their speeches and competitive pieces.

B. Courses Taught:

COMM 1310: Fundamentals of Human Communication
Department of Communication Studies, Texas State University
Graduate Instructional Assistant and Adjunct Professor
Fall 2024; Fall 2026

This course teaches the five foundational principles of communication and aims to instruct students on employing the principles within intrapersonal, interpersonal, public speaking, and small group contexts. With emphasis on conveying and interpreting verbal and nonverbal messages, students are able to understand the intentional and unintentional impacts of their messages on others. Students experience the small group dynamics and public speaking aspects of the course within the experiential learning and projects they complete.

III. SCHOLARLY/CREATIVE

A. Works Not in Print:

1. Papers Presented at Professional Meetings:

Southern States Communication Association
April 2023, St. Petersburg, FL., U.S.A.
"Neo-Colonialism and the Fight for Native Sovereignty in the NoDAPL Movement"

IV. SERVICE

A. Institutional

Competitive Forensics Tournament Judge
Department of Communication Studies, Texas State University
Fall 2023 – Present

B. Community:

Competitive Forensics Tournament Judge
Various high school tournaments, Texas
Fall 2019 – Present

D. Organization Memberships:

American Forensics Association
Member
Fall 2019 – Present

National Forensics Association
Member
Fall 2019 – Present

National Speech and Debate Association
Member

Fall 2015 – Present

Texas Education Agency
Licensed Member
Summer 2024 – Present

Texas State Teachers Aspiring Educators
Member
Spring 2023 – Fall 2024