TEXAS STATE CURRICULUM VITA

I. ACADEMIC/PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

A. Name: Katherine Pena **Title: Lecturer**

B. Educational Background

2025	Master of Fine Arts in Communication Design Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas Thesis: *Walking Into Mindfulness: Using Communication Design to Connect Us to the Present*
2016	Bachelor of Science in Family and Consumer Sciences, Nutrition and Foods, *Summa Cum Laude* Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas
2010	Associate of Applied Science, Multimedia Specialist Northwest Vista College, San Antonio, Texas

C. University Experience

2025–Present	Lecturer, BFA Communication Design, School of Art and Design Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas
2025	Graduate Teaching Assistant, School of Art and Design Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas
2024–2025	Graduate Instructional Assistant, School of Art and Design Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas
2022–2023	Graduate Assistant for the Multidisciplinary Innovation Lab, School of Art and Design, Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas

D. Relevant Professional Experience

2018–2020	Outpatient Clinical Dietitian, Texas Diabetes Institute San Antonio, Texas

II. TEACHING

B. Courses Taught

Fall 2025 Fall 2026	ARTC 1301: Intro to Communication Design / Foundations I *This course introduces the field of Communication Design including terminology, creative visual thinking/problem solving, layout design, tools, and materials.*
Spring 2025 Spring 2026	ARTC 1302: Imaging I / Foundations II *This course introduces digital graphic design, creative thinking, and visual problem-solving techniques with emphasis in research, development, concept, and the design process.*
Spring 2026	ARTC 3360: Communication Design for Non-Majors *This course introduces students to digital tools and basic principles of Communication Design in print and screen environments including typography, composition, hierarchy, and grid systems.*

D. Courses Prepared and Curriculum Development

Fall 2025	ARTC 1301: Intro to Communication Design, Revised Existing Course, Texas State University. Taught: 2025 *Co-developed curriculum for foundations course and launched during the Fall semester*

F. Other

1. Academic Courses Assisted

Fall 2024	ARTC 3320: Typography II (Tyler Rico) *This course introduces advanced issues in page structure and composition, content organization and management, typographic hierarchies, typeface selection, and typesetting.*

ARTC 4316: Book Design (Molly Sherman)

This course covers concept and content development, design, and execution of single edition and limited-edition books through lectures, demonstrations, and studio work. Emphasis is placed on creativity, problem solving, organizational ability, technical precision, and independent work ethic.

Spring 2024 — ARTC 2303: Typography I (Rosana Duran-Garibi)

This course introduces the evolution and development of alphabets, letter forms, and typography in relationship to visual expression and communication.

ARTC 4305: Typography III (Alice Lee)

This course continues the study of letter form, typography, image and concept relationships for effective communication.

2. Community Courses Taught

2018–2020 — Diabetes Self-Management Education (DSME)

Instructed individuals with diabetes and their caregivers self-care and management skills, emphasizing proper nutrition and exercise. The education program is nationally recognized and accredited by the American Diabetes Association (ADA).

2018–2020 — Diabetes Cooking Classes

Instructed individuals with diabetes on healthy meal planning and recipe preparation. Designed and developed curriculum, delivered cooking demonstrations, and created handout materials.

3. Student Accomplishments

November 2025 — Mentor. “What is a Woman?,” Exhibition. Wake the Dead Coffee House. (November 1–30, 2025).
Student: Sydney Tran, Undergraduate, BFA Communication Design.

Mentored BFA Communication Design student on designing promotional materials for her opening exhibition event, ‘What is a Woman?’, held at Wake the Dead Coffee House in San Marcos.

III. SCHOLARLY/CREATIVE

B. Works in Print

13. Other Works in Print

May 2025	Thesis: Pena, K. (2025). *Walking into Mindfulness: Using Communication Design to Connect Us to the Present.* San Marcos, TX: Texas State University. https://hdl.handle.net/10877/20773

B. Works Not in Print

2. Invited Talks, Lectures, and Presentations

June 2022	Presentation: Evolving Creative Coding, *Generative Design: Code as Creative Medium*, Panelist, sponsored by the Evolving Graphic Design Symposium, University of Wisconsin–Madison (Hybrid Format) Madison, Wisconsin, June 23rd

8. Exhibitions

April — May 2025	Designing Deeper Connections: An MFA Thesis Exhibition, *Walking Into Mindfulness: Using Design to Connect Us to the Present*, April 14 – May 9, 2025. Texas State Galleries' FLEX Space, Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas, 2-person. Curated. Scope: Regional.

12. Workshops

March 2026	Natural Artefact — Annual Communication Design Colloquium Workshop, Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas. Scope: Local *Assisted in a workshop promoting designing for human connection, utilizing RISO printing technology to undergraduate students in the Communication Design program.*
April 2025	Nature Journaling and Forest Bathing Workshop Texas Sate Galleries FLEX Space, Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas. Scope: Local *Facilitated and promoted a nature journaling workshop to Texas State students and faculty, successfully inviting Gina Ruiz, a certified forest therapy guide.*

October 2024	Reflecting Through Etching: A Laser Cutting Workshop Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas *Developed and delivered a laser cutting workshop for undergraduate students in the Book Design course. Introduced new tools for future book design projects, helped strengthened students' book production skills, and demonstrated proper equipment handling of laser cutting machine.*

13. Other Works Not in Print

September 2022	Contributed to *The People's Graphic Design Archive* Collection *Supported the expansion, diversification, and preservation of graphic design history by incorporating Corita Kent's 'I Am Blind Yet I See' serigraph piece into the crowd-sourced virtual archive, providing links and information.*

B. Scholarly Awards and Honors

April 2025	Circle of Achievement Outstanding Graduate Student 2025 College of Fine Arts and Communication, Texas State University *Awarded scholarship for academic excellence within the College of Fine Arts and Communication.* *Scope: Regional*
February 2025	Graphic Design USA Students to Watch 2025 *Recognized and featured by Graphic Design USA as one of the top students from America's leading art and design schools.* *Scope: National*
April 2024	The Friends of Fine Arts Maude Ogle Scholarship *Nominated by Texas State University faculty members* *Scope: Local*

B. Scholarly / Creative Professional Development Activities Attended

May 2025	Plan/t Workshop, Draw Down Books. Texas State University

IV. SERVICE

A. Institutional

3. Department/School

January 2025 – May 2026	BFA Communication Design Entrance Portfolio Review Committee Member School of Art and Design, Texas State University *Served as BFA Communication Design Entrance Portfolio Review for the Spring and Fall semesters*
August 2022	MFA Student Residency Committee Member School of Art and Design, Texas State University *Helped shape the MFA Communication Residency multi-day event by proposing guest designers, workshop ideas, and activities. Collected feedback regarding residency from all graduate students and assisted visitors during residency event.*

G. Service Professional Development Activities Attended

2022	Gato Essentials and Calico Training, Texas State University