Tiffany A. McDonald, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Instruction | Family & Consumer Sciences

Texas State University | San Marcos, TX

Professional Profile

Family & Consumer Sciences (FCS) and Human Development & Family Science (HDFS) educator with experience across K–12 and higher education. Strengths in curriculum design, online and hybrid instruction, student mentoring, and program coordination. Record of classroom innovation through competitive mini-grants and recognition for teaching excellence. Research centers on teachers' roles in adolescent development and family life education.

Research Interests

Family and consumer sciences education; adolescent development and sexual health education; family economics and resource management; equity-minded teaching and program design.

Education

Ph.D., Family Studies, Texas Woman's University, Denton, TX

Dissertation: *An Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis of the Roles Family and Consumer Sciences Teachers Play in Sexual Health Education in Texas*

M.A., Teaching (Family & Consumer Sciences Emphasis), Texas Woman's University, Denton, TX

B.S., Family Studies, Texas Woman's University, Denton, TX

Academic Appointments

Assistant Professor of Instruction, Texas State University — San Marcos, TX — Aug 2026–Present

Department of Family & Consumer Sciences

Adjunct Professor, Texas Woman's University — Denton, TX — Jun 2024–Present

Department of Human Development, Family Studies & Counseling

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Texas Woman's University — Denton, TX — Jan 2020–May 2024

Family Studies & Family and Consumer Sciences

Family & Consumer Sciences Teacher, Red Oak ISD — Red Oak, TX — Aug 2018–Present

Lead teacher for Education & Training pathway; courses include Human Growth & Development, Child Development, Human Services, Parenting, Instructional Practices, and Practicum in Education.

Courses Taught (Texas State University)

- HDFS 1351 Life Span
- CA 1347 Family & Personal Resource Management
- FCS 4343 Work-Based Learning in FCS

Courses Taught (TWU)

Undergraduate

- HDFS 3523 Care and Education of Children
- HDFS 3713 Family Housing
- HDFS 3733 Family Life and Consumer Education
- HDFS 4233 Applied Design for Home and Family
- HDFS 4543 Developmental Sexuality
- HDFS 4733 Family Financial Planning

- HDFS 4773 Family Resource Management

Graduate

- HDFS 5833 Family Economics

Teaching & Mentorship

Honors Projects (Supervising Faculty)

- Chi Tran (Spring 2025) — Comparisons of Western and Non-Western Childhood Experiences
- Abigail Kim (Spring 2025) — Factors that Influence Care in Western and Non-Western Countries

Publications & Scholarly Works

Manuscripts in Preparation

- McDonald, T. A. Roles of FCS Teachers in Adolescent Sexual Health Education in Texas: An Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis. (in preparation)

Conference Presentations

- McDonald, T. (April 2022). Re-exploring the Role of the Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher and Adolescent Sexual Health. Student Creative Arts & Research Symposium, Denton, TX.
- McDonald, T. (April 2020). Family Resiliency through Their Eyes. TWU Student Creative Arts & Research Symposium, Denton, TX. (Conference held virtually).
- McDonald, T. (April 2020). Family Resiliency: An Activity Representing Strength and Rebuilding. AAFCS-TX Spring Conference. (Conference held virtually).

Grants (Competitive Mini-Grants)

- PI. Baby Let's Think it Over — RealCare Simulators. Red Oak ISD Education Foundation, $4,857 (2021). Procured infant simulators for curriculum on family and infant development.
- PI. Let's Get Growing. Red Oak ISD Education Foundation, $2,877 (2022). Installed indoor vegetation stands to support nutrition and food systems units.
- PI. Blending a Balanced Diet. Red Oak ISD Education Foundation, $500 (2025). Purchased blenders to support hands-on healthy foods instruction.
- PI. Cooking with Convenience. Red Oak ISD Education Foundation, $500 (2025). Purchased air fryers to educate students on the option to provide healthy meals with convenience.
- PI. Covered in Red Oak. Red Oak ISD Education Foundation, $500 (2025). Student athletes provided with tents to ensure their safety from extreme weather during athletic performance.

Service

- Presentation Moderator, American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) Annual Conference (2021)
- School and community partnership development (Education & Training pathway), Red Oak ISD
- Tarleton Today Dual Enrollment Facilitator (EDUC Courses), Red Oak ISD

Awards & Honors

- Star Teacher, Red Oak High School (2023, 2025)
- Heart of a Teacher, Red Oak High School (2024)

Professional Certifications & Licensure

- Texas Standard Teaching Certification, Family & Consumer Sciences (Grades 8–12)

Professional Affiliations

- American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS)

- Family & Consumer Sciences Teachers Association of Texas (FCSTAT)
- Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE)
- National Council on Family Relations (NCFR)