



Each month we spotlight several College of Education Faculty Mentors for you to get to know better. Our wonderful professors and instructors in **Education, Psychology & Counseling**, and **Health & Kinesiology** are here for you!

### What is a Faculty Mentor?

A Faculty Mentor can be any NSU professor or instructor. Faculty mentors have in-depth knowledge of their field and are the best resource for expanding students' understanding of their discipline.

#### Faculty Mentors are your go-to for help with:

- Expanding knowledge within your major
- Career exploration and advice
- Internship opportunities
- Research opportunities
- Future academic pursuits
- Graduate programs

### How do I find a Faculty Mentor?

#### Assigned Faculty Mentor

All students are assigned a Faculty Mentor when you declare a major. You can find who your assigned mentor is at the top of your degree audit ([Degree Works](#)) in the section labeled "Advisors".

#### Faculty Mentor for Field of Interest

Any NSU professor or instructor can serve as your Faculty Mentor, even if they are not assigned to you. Each faculty has an area of expertise that may be better suited for helping you with your specific future goals. Talk with your professors, assigned Faculty Mentor, or [Academic Advisor](#) about finding the right Faculty Mentor for you.

**Need tips on how to connect with professors? Check out the tips & resources sections at the bottom!**

## EDUCATION

### SPECIAL EDUCATION

#### Dr. Min-Chi Yan

Assistant Professor  
Broken Arrow Education 147  
(918) 449-6400  
yan@nsuok.edu

#### EDUCATION

- \* B.A., *Soochow University, Taiwan*
- \* M.A. *University of Missouri-Kansas City*
- \* Ph.D., *University of Wisconsin-Madison*

#### Personal hobbies & interests

I love traveling with my families.

#### Favorite course to teach

I have enjoyed teaching all courses at the undergraduate and master's level in the Special Education program at NSU because they are all imperative and meaningful courses for my students who are pre-service teachers or in-service teachers.

#### Who had the biggest impact on your educational experience?

My faculty advisor at University of Wisconsin-Madison supported me with outstanding mentoring and advising during my doctoral training.

#### What drew you to your field?

When I worked as a part-time English teacher in a private educational institution in Taiwan, I had several students with disabilities in my classes. Those teaching experiences motivated me to pursue master's and doctoral degrees in the Special Education in the United States in order to empower students with disabilities.

#### Advice for students

I always advise my students: Please be proactive in the plan of study and feel free to contact your faculty mentor if you have any questions as a student at NSU.



Teaching → 14.5 years

At NSU → 4.5 year

#### Field Expertise

Emotional and Behavioral Disorders (EBD)  
Learning Disabilities (LD)  
Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)

#### Research Interests

1) Evidence-Based Practices for secondary students with EBD, LD, and ASD, particularly in the areas of reading, transition, and social skills; (2) special education provided to culturally and linguistically diverse students w/disabilities in light of inclusion and diversity; and (3) knowledge translation of EBPs.

## PSYCHOLOGY & COUNSELING

#### Dr. Ashalee Hurst

Assistant Professor  
Broken Arrow Education 257  
(918) 449-6540  
hurst13@nsuok.edu

#### EDUCATION

- \* B.A. Psychology, *University of Central Oklahoma*
- \* M.A. Experimental Psychology, *University of Central Oklahoma*
- \* Ph.D. Experimental-Social Psychology, *Texas Tech University*

**Personal hobbies & interests** → Travel and music. Especially traveling for music.

#### What drew you to your field?

I've always been interested in the reasons for people's judgments of other people.

#### Favorite course to teach

→ Psychology as a Career and Profession  
I love helping students find their path. When I teach that course, I get to be a mentor to an entire classroom of students.

#### Who had the biggest impact on your educational experience?

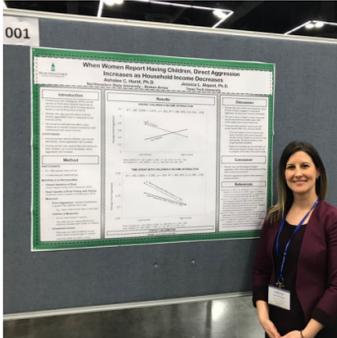
My mentors.

#### What do you tell students who don't know what to do with their major?

First of all, don't panic. It's okay that you're not sure. Second, start reaching out to professionals who are working in careers that interest you. Ask them about their daily tasks, what they like and don't like about their jobs, and ask if you can job shadow them. Hands-on experience will help you more than reading about different careers.

#### Advice for students

Find your family of mentors. It can be intimidating to talk to faculty, but they can and want to help you.



Teaching → 2 years

At NSU → 2 years

#### Field Expertise / Research Interests

Women's relationships with other women. I test how variables affect female aggression, mate guarding, and jealousy.



## HEALTH & KINESIOLOGY

#### Chad Stangl

Instructor  
Tahlequah RiverHawks Wellness Ctr 128  
(918) 444-3924  
stangl@nsuok.edu

#### EDUCATION

- \* B.S. and M.Ed. Parks and Recreation Management, *Southwestern Oklahoma State University*

#### Personal hobbies & interests

I enjoy the outdoors and spending time with my family. I have 3 kids, the oldest being 4 years so that keeps us busy!

#### What drew you to your field?

I love being outdoors and really enjoy experiential education.

#### Favorite course to teach

→ PED 2232 Outdoor Recreational Activities  
I love teaching this course because we have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of activities like canoeing, climbing, caving, and archery.

#### Who had the biggest impact on your educational experience?

My college instructors had a huge impact on me. They taught me how to safely participate in a ton of adventure activities.

#### What do you tell students who don't know what to do with their major?

I would recommend nailing down what type of work you think you would like, or where geographically you would like to live and take it from there. Keep an open mind, you may surprise yourself.

#### Advice for students

→ Don't be afraid to try.



Teaching → 4 years

At NSU → 4 years

#### Field Expertise / Research Interests

Outdoor Recreation  
Wilderness Medicine  
Aquatic Activities  
Ropes Course

### Tips on How to Connect with Professors

- ✓ **Introduce yourself** → Whether it's after class or via email, introducing yourself is a great first step to connecting with professors.
- ✓ **Attend their office hours** → It may seem intimidating to stop by a professor's office, but office hours are the time they set aside specifically to visit with them outside of class. Office hours are posted on their doors, in syllabi, or you can request via email.
- ✓ **Go to class** → **Always be prepared** → **Participate** → **Display respect**
- ✓ **Get involved** → Ask your professors about any organization/honor societies to join. Professors often sponsor these, so it is another great way to get more connected to them.
- ✓ **Ask them questions** → How did they get into their field? Were they ever lost college students? What can you do with your major? What can you do to prepare for life after graduation? The sky is the limit!

### NSU Resources

#### College of Education

- [Education Department](#)
- [Psychology & Counseling Department](#)
- [Health & Kinesiology Department](#)
- [Academic Advisors](#)

#### Career Services

- [Career & Major Advice](#)
- [What can I do with a major in...?](#)

#### Student Resources

- [MY NSU](#)
- [goNSU](#)
- [Degree Audit](#)

### Other Resources

#### YouTube

- [Top Mistakes Students Make - Not Visiting your Professor During Office Hours](#)
- [How to get to know your Professors better!](#)
- [How faculty mentors can help first-generation students succeed](#)
- [Developing Professor Relationships](#)

#### Articles

- [The Importance of Building Relationships with your Professors](#)
- [Guide to Communicating with Professors](#)
- [How to Build a Strong Relationship with your Professor](#)