

R. Jason LaTurner, Ph.D.

Research Associate, Shore Research, Inc.

EDUCATION

- 2002 Ph.D., Sociology, University of Texas at Austin.
- 1993 M.A., Higher Education and Student Affairs, Bowling Green State University.
- 1991 B.A., Sociology - with Distinction, Purdue University.

PRIMARY AREAS OF EXPERTISE

I have extensive training in quantitative methodology and have performed evaluation and assessment in a number of environments. My extensive studies in the sociology of education enhance my ability to conduct effective and context rich evaluation.

RESEARCH AND EVALUATION EXPERIENCE

- Current *Austin Independent School District*
-As Evaluation Analyst I am assessing the district's Positive Behavior Supports initiative and am charged with managing assessment for all external partners of the Safe School / Healthy Students program.
- Current *Shore Research, Inc.*
-As statistical consultant, I currently assist with statistical analyses and assessment development. From 2006-07, I headed the development of Shore Research Inc.'s statistical approaches and analyses for our clients.
- 2004-2006 *College of Natural Sciences, University of Texas, Austin.*
- I was the director of evaluation for the UTeach/Dell Center for New Teach Success a multi-million dollar project to support new teachers. In this role I supervised a team of seven researchers as we developed the evaluation methodology. I led a team of three researchers charged with carrying out the assessment. Assessment included large scale data analysis on teacher retention and student achievement involving ~ 16,000 records. This was possible through extensive collaboration with the school district we served. Ongoing assessment of program activities using electronic surveys we developed was carried out to give regular feedback to center staff.
- 2002-2005 - I evaluated various aspects of the University of Texas' "UTeach" program that prepares College of Natural Science students for teaching in grades 4-12. I administered course evaluations; directed the teacher candidate assessment system; and provided comprehensive data on program demographics, candidate performance, and certification operations. Additionally, I assisted in writing four grant applications (.5 to 5 million dollars) and kept the office abreast of policy that may impact their program.
- I directed the three member team charged with evaluation of the Hewlett-Packard laptop technology initiative that involves students in three middle schools and two UTeach courses. We collected data from teachers, administrators and students. Our survey mediums were all web based with an n of ~ 100 (finished 07/2004).
- 1999 *Department of Sociology, University of Texas, Austin.*
At the request of the Graduate Steering Committee, I co-evaluated the experience of the first year graduate student cohort. This included developing a questionnaire, organizing the interviews, and writing a report of the findings.

- 1998 *Department of Sociology, University of Texas, Austin.*
This research assistantship involved a comprehensive evaluation of the Department of Sociology. This included determining the “questions,” developing survey instruments (both verbal and written), collecting and analyzing the data, and preparing a report on our findings. With six others, we collected data on other Top 25 sociology programs, interviewed faculty, and surveyed both current and former students. Two of us were then charged as primary authors of the document reporting our findings. Results were also presented at a departmental meeting.
- 1996 *International Student Office, University of Texas, Austin.*
Developed an evaluation of the International Student Office’s student spouse program.
- 1993 *Center of International Programs, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH.*
Developed and administered new student adjustment survey (n=100).
- 1992 *College of Arts and Sciences, University of Toledo, Toledo, OH.*
Developed and administered evaluations of the College’s orientation program and Freshman Interest Group programs (n=300).

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

- 2002-2005 *College of Natural Sciences, University of Texas, Austin.*
Provided leadership on student policy issues, oversaw state certification requirements, performed academic advising for students in the UTeach program
- 2001-2002 *Project Manager, “Adolescent Health and Academic Achievement,” University of Texas - Austin*
Was responsible for administering various aspects of a 5.1 million-dollar grant that collected transcript data on participants in the Adolescent Health Study. Responsibilities included maintaining budgets, handling communications with grantors, co-investigators, and contractors, and monitoring status of deliverables. Also served as mentor and SAS instructor to four graduate students affiliated with the project.
- 1993-1995 *Assistant Director, International Student Services, Indiana State University, Terre Haute, IN.*
Responsible for individual and group advising, developed departmental budget, and served on a variety of university and community committees. Co-developed First-year Interest Groups (FIGs), was active in restructuring the General Education program, served as a member of the Affirmative Action Committee, and participated on the committee charged with reorganizing the Division of Student Affairs.
- 1991-1993 *Graduate Assistant, International Programs, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH.*
Advised the international student organizations and coordinated various social activities.