Michele Shanahan, Ph.D.
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Michele Shanahan earned her B.A. and M.A. in psychology and her Ph.D. in cognitive psychology from the University at Buffalo. She started her career as a faculty member at SUNY Geneseo and then moved to Ohio Northern University. She joined the UB faculty in 2003 as a member of the educational psychology program.

Dr. Shanahan has published in the areas of infant perception, child language learning, and college learning. Most recently, her research focus has been on systematically evaluating cognitive theories such as self-efficacy in the teacher education field. Specifically, she is a co-author of the first multivariate meta-analysis conducted in educational psychology (“Classroom Management Self-Efficacy and Burnout: A Multivariate Meta-Analysis”). Dr. Shanahan is currently contributing to another multivariate systematic review of the effects of teacher self-efficacy on students’ academic achievement in collaboration with colleagues and graduate students. Overall, her research calls for policies to prevent teacher burnout, which could aid in the prevention of teachers leaving the profession, and identifying teacher characteristics that predict student academic achievement.

Dr. Shanahan teaches courses across educational, cognitive, and developmental psychology. These courses help students develop an understanding of the core principles that underlie human behavior, learning, and growth. She also instructs the teaching practicum, which gives graduate students opportunities to learn and experience college teaching first hand.

In 2007, Dr. Shanahan started teaching online courses in the UB Singapore school counseling program. Since then, she has developed and implemented courses that are regularly taught online. She has been instrumental in helping other faculty members move to an online forum, and is assisting in the launch of the online education advanced graduate certificate. She has also supported the development of the advanced graduate certificate in applied statistical analysis.

Dr. Shanahan is a mentor and advisor to students in the educational psychology program. She supervises master’s degree original research projects, helping students develop research ideas and see them to completion. Over the years, her students have successfully presented their research projects at poster sessions and conferences.

Dr. Shanahan helps train UB students in classroom management principles and provides support for students that work with the Community as Classroom project at the Futures Academy in Buffalo, NY. The project uses community development and urban planning principles as a platform to teach K–8 students about ways they can change their neighborhood and the neighborhood where the school is located.

Service to the educational psychology program, students, and GSE is also important to Dr. Shanahan. She provides service in the areas of student recruitment and development, online program development and evaluation, the task force on superior teaching and learning, and the development of new and innovative teaching strategies and models.