

# Sara Kelm, MA

Adjunct Faculty

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I have a history with George Fox University. After receiving my bachelor's degree in English from the Newberg campus, I became the enrollment specialist and PLA coordinator for the Department of the Professional Studies (DPS) at the Portland campus. My job was evaluating transfer credit and overseeing the PLA evaluation process, as well as degree audits and conferral. I enjoyed working on the administrative side of DPS with its wonderful faculty, staff, and enrollment counselors. Working at graduation and watching hard-working DPS students get their diplomas was my favorite part of my job!



Then I moved to Waco, TX, to earn my master's degree in English from Baylor University. After completing my degree, I began teaching writing classes online for the DPS program. As a long-distance professor, I know first-hand the benefits of the flexibility and online community the online DPS program provides. I have enjoyed teaching all three of the writing classes DPS offers because each of them targets different writing skills that students need to complete both their cohort work and the writing they do in their present or future careers. Most importantly, though, I love getting to know students through their writing and hearing how they have made their way to GFU. I feel honored to be part of students' journeys toward their college degrees.

## Academic Background

- MA, English, Baylor University
- BA, English, George Fox University

## Expertise and Interests

I have taught a variety of writing classes, from research writing to business/technical writing to advanced composition. I have taught in face-to-face, online, and hybrid formats, and I have taught student populations from traditional undergraduates to adults. I wrote my master's thesis on the intersection of composition pedagogy, spiritual identity, and creative nonfiction/autobiography. I plan to continue researching the benefits of studying and writing personal narrative at the college level.

## Outside the Classroom

When not teaching, I am a full-time student. While I enjoy my program immensely, I do balance reading my rhetorical criticism with a novel or two. I also write for the George Fox Journal (the alumni magazine) and Reaching Your World with Luis Palau.

Other than that, I mitigate the Texas heat by spending time at the neighborhood pool, riding my bike along the Trinity River, and eating plenty of ice cream. Netflix and tea are often my cures for a long day, and tacos and guacamole are my cures for everything else. I also bake a mean chocolate chip cookie.

I often travel to see my family and friends, my most frequent destinations being Boston, Seattle, and Calgary. Video chatting is the next best thing, and I am grateful for technology making it possible for me to watch my two-year-old goddaughter dance in Boston while I sit on a college campus in Fort Worth.