

Lyndsey Pender, M.A. B.A. English Professional Writing, 2015

By Max Chambers

Research and Evaluation Specialist, The Works, Inc.

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Lyndsey Pender graduated from WKU in 2015 with bachelor’s degrees in Professional Writing and Cultural Anthropology. She later obtained her master’s degree in [Applied Medical Anthropology](#) from the University of Memphis in 2017. Pender is currently a Research and Evaluation Specialist at [The Works, Inc.](#), a community development corporation specializing in housing, economic development, and education, and advocacy.

Pender began her career at WKU as a Cultural Anthropology major. When she decided to add a second major, Professional Writing seemed like the perfect connection between her love of reading and her passion for public health. “I saw the usefulness in a concentration that focused on report writing and technical writing. I knew that an English degree would accompany almost any professional career, and it would also allow me to better my own writing.”

Many professors in the English and Anthropology departments equipped Pender with important technical and writing knowledge. Pender especially values Dr. Jeffrey Rice’s and Dr. Angela Jones’ Professional Writing courses. “My professors all provided amazing feedback and in-class instruction, as well as recommendation letters when applying to graduate school. I am incredibly grateful for their support as I would not be where I am now if it were not for these professors.”

At the University of Memphis, Pender worked as a research assistant studying a senior citizen successful aging curriculum called the [Aging Mastery Program](#). The Works, Inc. directed the program, and her work as a research assistant earned her a permanent

position with the organization, where she still participates in solving real-world public health problems.

As a Research Evaluation Specialist, Pender gathers and inputs data for various programs. She also composes reports on these projects using her Professional Writing training from WKU. “I spend so much time writing, whether it’s creating an evaluation plan, drafting a report, or creating questions for a survey or interview. My degree is extremely helpful, and I’m consistently looking for ways to practice and hone my skills.” She also oversees a state-wide public health initiative called [Healthier TN](#), which seeks to help Tennesseans make healthy lifestyle changes.

When she isn’t working, Pender enjoys yoga, spin class, knitting, bicycling, and reading sci/fi and fantasy novels.

Pender recommends that all students pursue career development while still in college, and that students recognize the worth they can provide to the workplace. “Internships and fellowships are so important, and they can really help to set you apart when entering the job market. Take advantage of as many of these opportunities as you can.”

