

Abigail A. Williams
Harvard Graduate School of Education
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Education

Harvard University - Ph.D. Human Development, Learning, and Teaching (Sept. 2026 - Present)

Research Advisor: Karen Brennan

University of Washington - B.A. Education Studies: Educational Research and Policy (Sept. 2022 - Dec. 2025)

Research Advisor: R. Benjamin Shapiro

Minors: Informatics, Data Science

Awards and Honors: Annual Dean's list (2022-2023), Quarterly Dean's list (Spring 2024), Annual Dean's List (2024 - 2025)

Research Experience

Undergraduate Research Assistant (Sept. 2024 - Present)

Center for Learning, Computing, and Imagination - R. Benjamin Shapiro

Exploration of teachers' desires for work-related technologies.

Undergraduate Design Facilitator (Jul. 2024 - Dec. 2024)

KidsTeam UW - Jason Yip

Curation and innovation of human-centered technologies in collaboration with youth.

Publications

Williams, A. A., Ross, S. H., & Shapiro, R. B. (2026). Teacher Agency in Learning Sciences Co-design: Dubious or Undocumented? International Conference of the Learning Sciences - ICLS 2026. International Society of the Learning Sciences.

Work Experience

Lead Undergraduate Teaching Assistant (Sept. 2023 – Aug. 2025)

Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering

- Taught weekly classes, facilitating student collaboration and engagement in computer programming assignments.
- Collaborated with faculty on key decisions regarding course logistics and the development of new curriculum material.
- Rooted instructional practices in relevant learning theories resulting in consistently positive teaching evaluations from students and instructors.

Teaching Team Lead (Jan. 2024 – Mar. 2024)

Riverways Rural & Tribal Programs

- Designed and taught culturally relevant engineering curriculum for fourth-grade students in rural indigenous communities in Washington state.

Student Data Engineer Intern (Jun. 2023 – Aug. 2023)

Semantic Web Company

- Designed knowledge graphs and website UI to be directly implemented by the Centre for Agricultural and Bioscience International (CABI).
- Employed the semantic AI software, PoolParty Semantic Suite, to enhance taxonomies, ontologies, and user personas, resulting in a more intuitive user experience.
- Developed best practices and skills surrounding data engineering and information architecture.

Service

- Session Chair, *International Society of the Learning Sciences (ISLS) 2026*
- Project management and tutoring, *The House of Wisdom (WA) 2026*