

John William Lynch, Ph.D.

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PERSONAL SUMMARY

Engineering education leader and researcher with a Ph.D. in Engineering and Computing Education and a decade of experience spanning curriculum design, research administration, and cross-institutional collaboration. Proven record leading graduate student governance, overseeing departmental grant budgets, securing external funding proposals, and building programs that connect faculty, students, and partner institutions across engineering and computing disciplines. Combines discipline-based educational research with hands-on program and team leadership to advance student success and reduce barriers in STEM education.

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Engineering and Computing Education, University of Cincinnati, 2026

Dissertation: An Exploratory Analysis of Technical Communication and Spatial Skills Among Engineering Students (Advisor: Dr. Sheryl Sorby)

M.S. & B.S., Computer Science and Software Development, DePaul University, 2020 / 2019

LEADERSHIP & ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

President, Graduate Student Association — Dept. of Engineering & Computing Education, University of Cincinnati, 2024 - 2026

- Represented ~40 graduate students in bi-monthly university governance meetings, voting on research funding, travel funding, resource access, and cross-college collaboration initiatives.
- Managed the department's grant budget lifecycle end-to-end (creation, submission, approval, and post-award reporting), funding external speaker visits and student engagement events.
- Approved and coordinated research travel and funding awards for graduate students to attend national conferences.
- Built cross-college programming with the Colleges of Engineering & Applied Sciences, Education, and Medicine; assisted in an inter-institutional seminar exchange program to expand research visibility and strengthen the field's standing across other U.S. engineering education programs.

President, ASEE Student Chapter, University of Cincinnati, 2024 – 2026

- Led chapter recruitment, elections, and succession planning to sustain membership across cohorts.
- Represented the chapter at national ASEE conferences, maintaining collaboration across student chapters nationwide and tracking emerging trends in engineering education.
- Organized outreach events at career and student fairs to introduce engineering education to K-12 students and undergraduates outside the field.

RESEARCH & GRANT LEADERSHIP

- Primary graduate researcher in a mixed-methods, n=90 dissertation study on spatial visualization and technical communication skills; assisted in rubric development and led data collection, all data analysis, and cross-disciplinary theoretical framing (cognitive science, gesture studies, engineering education).
- Directed a systematic literature review on mixed-methods research in computing education, informing methodological standards for the field; directed a narrative exploration study on computer science student experiences and attrition.
- Author of multiple peer-reviewed publications and conference proceedings in engineering and computing education (full list: lynchjohn98.com).
- Authored an Office of Naval Research (ONR) white paper grant proposal (with Dr. Sheryl Sorby) to establish a community of practice for Military and Naval computer science students.

CURRICULUM & TEACHING LEADERSHIP

- Designed and launched two computer science courses: Data Structures & Algorithms in Python for Non-CS Majors (Univ. of Cincinnati) and Application Development with Swift Playgrounds (Northwestern University).
- Delivered computer science and engineering instruction across 15+ courses at six institutions (University of Cincinnati, DePaul, Northwestern, Illinois Institute of Technology, San Diego Global Knowledge University, Computer Systems Institute), spanning middle school through graduate levels.
- Oversaw multi-section first-year engineering courses (~70 students/section) and supervised teams of undergraduate teaching assistants, including helping lead a 1,000-student capstone demonstration event at the University of Cincinnati.

HONORS & FELLOWSHIPS

- Graduate Community Award, University of Cincinnati, 2026
- Fellow, Center for Excellence in Computer Science Education, Northwestern University, 2021
- DePaul Admission Partnership Program (DAPP) Scholar, 2017
- Phi Theta Kappa Theta Omega Member, Wilbur Wright Community College, 2017