Curriculum Vitae

Marie Sakowicz

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I am a Ph.D. student in Human-Centered Computing at the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC). My research focuses on the use of AI-enabled technology in special education and the impact on accessibility for students with disabilities.

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

2024 Master of Science, Human-Centered Computing, University of Maryland, Baltimore County
2005 Master of Education, Educational Technology, Northern Arizona University
2001 Bachelor of Science, Management of Computer Information Systems, Park University
2000 Associates, Hospital Administration, Community College of the Air Force

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- AI in Education
- Special Education Technology
- Assistive Technology
- Universal Design for Learning
- Human-Computer Interaction
- Accessible Computing

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2006 – Current Information Technology Program Manager, Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA), Ft. Meade, MD, Information Technology Program Manager

CONFERNCE PRESENTATIONS

Presenter, “Generative AI Adoption in Special Education.” N-SEA 2025: National Symposium for Equitable AI 2025, Baltimore, MD. April 2025.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Selected Participant, RESPECT 2025 Doctoral Consortium, Newark, NJ. July 2025.

PUBLICATIONS

Erin Higgins, Marie E Sakowicz, and Foad Hamidi. 2024. An Ecosystem of Support: A U.S. State Government-Supported DIY-AT Program for Residents with Disabilities. In Proceedings of the 26th International ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (ASSETS '24). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, Article 52, 1–16. https://doi.org/10.1145/3663548.3675667

Submitted and under review

Lujie Karen Chen, LeaAnne Daughrity, Marie Sakowicz, Foad Hamidi, Karrie Godwin, and Lin Lin Lipsmeyer. 2025. ABii at School: Findings from a Long-Term In-School Field Study with a Commercial Robot-Assisted Learning System. Submitted for possible publication in Educational Technology Research and Development.

Marie Sakowicz and Foad Hamidi. 2025. Exploring the Role of Generative AI in Supporting Students with Disabilities, Through the Lens of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) - ASSETS 2025.

Amina El-Ashry, Marie Sakowicz, and Foad Hamidi. 2025. The (Un)Translated Discipline: The Perspectives of Middle Eastern and North African University Educators on Teaching HCI. AfriCHI 2025.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2025 Conducted interviews with educators and therapists from Kennedy Krieger High School on their experience creating learning environments for students with disabilities for the Space for All project. Advisor Dr. Foad Hamidi, DARE Lab.

2025 Conducted a co-design session with a special educator to review AI tool use and collaborate on a specific tool to help with student progress tracking. Advisor Dr. Foad Hamidi, DARE Lab.

2024 Conducted a focus group study to explore the role of AI-enhanced tools in supporting lesson planning for students with disabilities, such as Autism Spectrum Disorders, through the Lens of Universal Design for Learning (UDL). . University of Maryland, Baltimore County, MD. Advisor Dr. Foad Hamidi, DARE Lab.

2024 Conducted a preliminary research project on the use of AI-enabled applications in special education, focusing on assistive technologies for students with disabilities. University of Maryland, Baltimore County, MD. Advisor Dr. Foad Hamidi, DARE Lab.

2024 Assisted with data analysis for the ABii Study with Baltimore School. Dr. Karen Chen, UMBC.

2024 Assisted with the data analysis and writing for a Math Coaching Paper. Dr. Karen Chen, UMBC.

2024 Assisted with data collection for a study on teaching technology in a Therapeutic Rec class. University of Maryland, Baltimore County, MD. Advisor Dr. Foad Hamidi, DARE Lab.

2023 Assisted with data collection for a study on prototyping platforms for Do-it-Yourself (DIY) assistive technologies in partnership with the Maryland State using 3D printing. University of Maryland, Baltimore County, MD. Advisor Dr. Foad Hamidi, DARE Lab.

2023 Assisted with data collection for the Rec-to-Tech study: Understanding the Role of Rec Center Educators in Creating Maker-based Technology and Computer Science Learning Hubs for Urban Youth. University of Maryland, Baltimore County, MD. Advisor Dr. Foad Hamidi, DARE Lab.

2023 Conducted a survey pilot study on Artificial Intelligence (AI) Adoption in Local Schools to examine teacher use and understanding.