

Dr. Vanessa Fiaud is an associate professor in the Department of Sports and Exercise Science at West Texas A&M University (WTAMU) in Canyon, Texas. She completed undergraduate studies at La Sorbonne in Paris, France, earning a Deug and Licence in bilingual Business and Law. She pursued her academic training in the United States, earning a master's degree in education in Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance from Southwestern Oklahoma State University, and a PhD in Kinesiology from Texas Woman's University. Dr. Fiaud taught future professionals at Weatherford College in Texas and William Paterson University in New Jersey prior to her current position.

Dr. Fiaud has incorporated her eclectic background into her pedagogy as well as her research. Her various interests lead her to focus on clinical/sport performance balance, professional mentorship, as well as foreign students' integration in the US academic system. In her tenure at WTAMU, she mentored multiple students at the undergraduate level through the McNair Program, encouraging and preparing minority students to pursue graduate studies. She has been involved with the South-Central American Society of Biomechanics (SCASB) board since 2019 and is the current Program Chair for the 2024 conference.

Dr. Fiaud joined NAKHE in 2005 as a doctoral student, winning the Jody Davenport Graduate Poster Competition. Upon her first successful experience and a warm welcome from senior NAKHE members, she assisted the Vice-President with organizing the 2007 & 2008 NAKHE conferences. She continued her involvement in NAKHE through serving on various committees, from the nominations, membership, bylaws, and future directions among others, and chairing many of them. She also was a member of the second cohort of the Kinesiology Department Head Certification Program.