

Erin E. Shortlidge

Erin Shortlidge, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor of Biology and Biology Education and the Interim Vice Provost for Student Success at Portland State University. Shortlidge earned her Ph.D. in Biology from Portland State University in 2014, studying the reproductive success of mosses from an ecological and physiological perspective. She engaged in both laboratory and field-based research. Recognizing a growing significant interest in how science is taught, she continued to focus on Biology Education Research (BER) in her postdoctoral work at Arizona State University. She then returned to Portland State University to establish the Shortlidge BER Group. She has since dedicated her academic career to engaging in leadership, teaching, and research in ways that are both responsive and evidence based.

Shortlidge has developed and taught a range of courses, from a large-format introductory biology course and labs to a small graduate course on developing a research prospectus, to an undergraduate/graduate-level Scientific Teaching course, and various course-based undergraduate research experiences (CUREs).

She leads an active research group which leverages both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies to understand best practices in teaching and learning science, and to democratize quality education for all STEM students. She develops, hosts, and assesses professional development programs for graduate students and faculty to support them as they move towards integrating inclusive pedagogies and perspectives into their teaching and programming. Shortlidge works across disciplines, departments, colleges and universities on multiple grant funded projects, which largely aim to build training and capacity for STEM education.

In her Student Success role, Shortlidge leads six large units and works across campus constituents to center the student experience. Her work focuses on student success broadly as it relates to curricular and advising stewardship, career readiness, retention and graduation, and academic and social support. She holds leadership roles in various projects that plan and actualize strategic initiatives to improve the student, staff and faculty campus experience.