



Dar-Wei Chen, Ph.D.

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Short bio

I am a subject matter expert in learning science (psychology Ph.D., Georgia Tech 2018) interested in applying academic principles of skill acquisition, practice methods, and study techniques to basketball. Currently, I volunteer as an assistant coach for Fayetteville High School (Arkansas) and I'm looking for opportunities to apply my expertise more formally and at higher levels of basketball. Other previous basketball experience includes the 2019-2020 NBA season in which I advised the Orlando Magic on training methodologies in a volunteer capacity (reference available from current Osceola Magic G-League head coach Dylan Murphy). Outside of basketball, my expertise has been utilized by various federal agencies (IRS, FAA, Dept. of Defense, Health and Human Services) through my work at the MITRE Corporation where I served as a senior engineer for 5+ years.

Basketball experience

Fayetteville High School (2021-pres.)



Role: Assistant coach

Duties

- Designing, conducting practice (team, individual)
- Scouting opponents and evaluating own players
- In-game note-taking to advise head coach
- Sketching and annotating plays for team playbook
- Advising on study techniques (film, playbook)

Schools

- Fayetteville High School (2024-present)
- Ramay Junior High (2021-2024)

Orlando Magic (2019-2020 season)



Role: Subject matter expert on training methods (volunteer consulting)

Description: I advised the Magic analytics department and coaching staff on principles regarding practice variability, practice scheduling, transfer of learning to games, difficulty levels, learner engagement, mental models, self-generation effects, constructivist learning theory, and more (detailed slide deck with these notes and more is available)

Education

Ph.D., Learning science (psychology) Georgia Institute of Technology, 2018



- Dissertation topic: Effects of instructional guidance type ("productive failure" vs. direct instruction) and domain of study on task performance, retention, transfer, and workload
- Other areas of expertise: Research methods, statistics (SPSS), usability, user experience

B.S.E., Industrial engineering University of Michigan, 2012



Work experience

Senior cognitive engineer, MITRE Corporation

- Years: 2019-2025
- Relevant work: Training principles, interviews, task analysis, user experience, usability
- Domains of work: Taxpayer user experience, healthcare, aviation, defense

Research scientist, Soar Technology Intelligent Training division