Catherine Snyder is the chair of the Department of Education at Clarkson University in Schenectady, New York. In that role Dr. Snyder oversees the work of the Master of Arts in Teaching program, a nationally recognized teacher education program focused on secondary teaching in biology, chemistry, physics, geology, mathematics, technology, history, English, Chinese, French, German, Greek, Latin, Russian, and Spanish. Graduates from the program have achieved a 95% job placement rate for the last two years, and the program consistently surpasses other teacher education programs on the required New York State Certification exams by margins of more than 20%. Graduates teach across New York state and the United States.

In 2016 Dr. Snyder launched an innovative summer program to introduce new science and math doctoral students to the fundamentals of pedagogical practice. Unique in the United States, this five week program provides the foundational skills future professors need to be successful in their careers. Dr. Snyder also co-directs the Institute for STEM Education at Clarkson University, bringing together all of the teaching and learning initiatives of the university.

Dr. Snyder began her higher education career at Smith College, where she received a bachelor’s degree in economics and Chinese language. She then taught English in at Shaanxi Normal University for two years in the mid-1980s. She continued her formal education with two master’s degrees from Union College: a Master’s in Business Administration and a Master of Arts in Teaching. Dr. Snyder spent ten years as a public school history teacher and then pursued her Doctor of Philosophy degree in education at the State University of New York.

Her research interests include inquiry teaching models. Most recently, she and her colleagues published a book on a new inquiry learning model that is used by teachers across New York State. She has also published extensively on the transformative nature of professional graduate work, examining the transition her students undergo as they learn to become professional teachers.

Dr. Snyder lives with her husband, David, who is a history teacher and her poorly behaved housecat, Alice. Her wonderful daughter, Elizabeth, is pursuing a PhD in environmental biology at the University of Oklahoma.