GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Graduate School of Education

EDUC 675: Research in Middle/Secondary Education

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Textbook: (required)
Merrill / Prentice Hall

Course Description:

This course is required to complete the M.Ed. after licensure in the Middle/Secondary Program. The course is designed to help beginning teachers understand various research paradigms for the purpose of using the research literature and systematic evidence to improve practice. Emphasis is placed on linking research with practice and making informed instructional decisions. By the end of the course students will demonstrate their understanding of the process by conducting their own action research project and reflecting on the implications of this research on their practice.

Prerequisites: Completion of the licensure requirements for grades 6-12; EDUC674.

Course Topics: The Five-Step Process for Action Research

1. Problem formulation
2. Data collection
3. Data analysis
4. Reporting of results
5. Action Planning

Course Requirements:

This course requires active participation. Be prepared for class by completing the readings in advance of class, participate fully in discussions (in class and on line), complete reflections, and plan/implement/report about an action plan project that you conduct with students, teachers, administrators, and/or parents.
**Student Outcomes:** (grading criteria will be developed in class)

Upon successful completion of the course, students will:

1. articulate the role of educational research as it relates to professional practice.
2. describe the purpose for and process of action research.
3. use technology to assist in locating and conducting research.
4. identify research questions relevant to their own practice, conduct an action research project, and reflect on the implications of the project on practice.
5. read the current educational research literature and use as a basis for reflecting on their own practice.