

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
Counseling and Development**

**EDCD797.005 (1 credit)
Psychological Correlates of Obesity
Fall 2010**

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Special Topics course EDCD 797: This course focuses on the psychological correlates related to obesity in women. Students will learn about the specific psychological factors that can contribute to overweight and obesity status in women and children

NATURE OF COURSE DELIVERY:

Course delivery will include individual one-on-one discussions 3-5 times during the semester. Dates will be arranged with student at the beginning of the semester.

LEARNER OUTCOMES:

1. Understand the psychological factors related to overweight and obesity status in women.
 2. Gain an understanding of the current research perspectives in this area.
 3. Acquire comprehensive literature review skills in a specialized area.
- Develop research paper focused on psychological correlates of obesity in women.

Relationship to Course and Program Goals and Professional Organizations

EDCD 797 is a special topics course and meets the requirement that all masters students take 2-3 credits of special topics course work. This 2-credit course will contribute to counseling students' knowledge of a particular population of clients.

EDCD 797 fulfills the requirements of the following professional organizations:

- Virginia Department of Education requirement for school counseling licensure that candidates understand the knowledge, skills and processes of individual counseling.
- Virginia Department of Health Professions requirement that Licensed Professional Counselor candidates complete graduate study in theories and techniques of counseling and psychotherapy.
- Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) core requirement described in Section II.K.e: Helping relationships: An understanding of counseling and consultation processes.
- American Counseling Association Code of Ethics requirement that counselors establish counselor education and training programs that integrate academic study and supervised practice.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- 1. Selected articles assigned by instructor.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- **Active Participation** is expected in all class activities. Students are expected to attend all classes and come to class prepared having completed all reading and written assignments. Active participation is based on your presence in the class—one or more unexcused absence may result in course failure. [30 points].
- **Research Summary.** Student will summarize 5-10 articles based on psychological correlates of obesity in women and children. Summary will be written in APA format. [30 points].
- **Final Research Paper:** Paper should be 8-10 pages and focus on providing an introduction to the study of psychological correlates of obesity with and focus on specific issues related to women and children. [40 points].

Summary of Grading System & Course Requirements

Class Participation	30 points
Research Summary	30 points
<u>Final Research Paper</u>	<u>40 points</u>
TOTAL:	100 points

In accordance with the George Mason University Grading Policy, the following grades may be achieved:

A	97-100 points
A-	93-96 points
B+	88-92 points
B	84-87 points
C	75-83 points
F	74 points and below

Counseling & Development Program Professional Dispositions:

Professional Performance Criteria (Effective February 25, 2003).

The American Counseling Association (ACA) code of ethics requires counselors and counselor trainees to maintain standards of professional competence and possess good moral character. The Counseling and Development Program in the Graduate School of Education at George Mason University has adopted a set of professional performance criteria that is consistent with the ACA code of ethics. Please refer to the dispositions found on the C & D Homepage at:

http://gse.gmu.edu/programs/counseling/professional_performance.htm

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS:

All students must abide by the following:

Students are expected to exhibit professional behavior and dispositions. See <http://gse.gmu.edu/facultystaffres/profdisp.htm> for a listing of these dispositions.

Students must follow the guidelines of the University Honor Code. See <http://www.gmu.edu/catalog/apolicies/#Anchor12> for the full honor code.

Students must agree to abide by the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing. See <http://www.gmu.edu/facstaff/policy/newpolicy/1301gen.html>. Click on responsible Use of Computing Policy at the bottom of the screen.

Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the GMU Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform the instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester. See <http://www2.gmu.edu/dpt/unilife/ods/> or call 703-993-2474 to access the ODS.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Date	Topic/Learning Experiences	Readings and Assignments
10/18/10	Introduction to course/review of syllabus	
11/15/10	Discussion of readings and themes in the current literature	Provide research summary based on assigned readings; Choose final paper research topic
12/6/10	Discussion of final paper and future directions for research	Final Research Paper due