



Graduate School of Education

Program: Special Education

Summer Semester, 2012

Course title: EDSE 627, Assessment, Section B01 (CRN: 40408)
Meetings: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:30 – 7:10 PM, June 5 – July 26
Location: Innovation Hall, Rm. 129
Instructor: Bradley D. Platt, Ph.D.
Office: By appt. only

Virtual Office Hours: I am pleased to respond to questions by telephone or email.

Phone: 703 953-5844 (I prefer that you email.)

Email: bplatt@gmu.edu

Course Description

Offers knowledge and experiential learning activities related to assessment of students with mild disabilities. Includes statistical and psychometric concepts in assessment. Addresses norm-referenced, criterion-referenced, curriculum-based, and informal assessment for instructional and placement decisions.

Student Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Provide the definition of assessment and the purposes and assumptions regarding assessment of exceptional children.
- Compare and contrast the terms assessment and testing.
- Describe relevant ethical standards, litigation, and legislation related to assessment.
- Describe the characteristics of norm-referenced, criterion-referenced, curriculum-based and informal teacher-made tests, their similarities and differences, and their respective roles in the assessment process.
- Demonstrate knowledge of basic measurement concepts and evaluate the psychometric properties of individual tests.
- Create graphic displays of data in appropriate formats including: scatterplot, and line graph using a computer spreadsheet.
- Calculate descriptive statistics and correlation coefficients using a spreadsheet.
- Interpret test results, generate appropriate educational goals and objectives based upon these results, and report test results in a professional written format.

- Select, administer, and score of a variety of educational tests¹.
- Use assessment information in making eligibility, program, and placement decisions for individuals with exceptional learning needs, including those from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds.
- Write assessment reports of academic achievement tests.
- Conduct curriculum-based assessment to guide instructional decision-making.
- Explain the benefits and limits of different forms of assessment (e.g., individual, norm-referenced assessment vs. continuous progress measures).
- Explain the benefits and limits of different forms of data collected for assessment (e.g., standard scores vs. grade equivalents).
- Score and interpret behavior observation protocols from time sampling, event recording, and interval recording procedures.
- Describe the procedures and purposes of Response to Intervention (RTI).
- Critique assessment and instructional accommodations relative to specific learning characteristics.

Relationship of Courses to Program Goals and Professional Organizations

This course is part of the George Mason University, Graduate School of Education, Special Education Program for teacher licensure in the Commonwealth of Virginia in the special education areas of Emotional Disturbance and Learning Disabilities, and Mental Retardation. This program complies with the standards for teacher licensure established by the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). The CEC Standards are listed on the following web site:

http://www.cec.sped.org/ps/perf_based_stds/common_core_4-21-01.html

Standard 8 -Assessment

Knowledge:

- Basic terminology used in assessment.
- Legal provisions and ethical principles regarding assessment of individuals.
- Screening, pre-referral, referral, and classification procedures.
- Use and limitations of assessment instruments.
- National, state or provincial, and local accommodations and modifications.
- Gather relevant background information.
- Administer nonbiased formal and informal assessments.
- Use technology to conduct assessments.
- Develop or modify individualized assessment strategies.
- Interpret information from formal and informal assessments.
- Use assessment information in making eligibility, program, and placement decisions for individuals with exceptional learning needs, including those from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds.

¹ It is impossible to train individuals enrolled in this class to criterion on the large number of tests on the market. Consequently, the class will provide general training on the procedures for administering one example of an achievement test battery that is currently in wide use. Individuals needing training on specific instruments should arrange for such training through their schools or the test publisher. This class does not include training in the administration of tests of intelligence or projective measures. The class does include treatment of general interpretation of such measures.

- Report assessment results to stakeholders using effective communication skills.
- Evaluate instruction & monitor progress of individuals with exceptional learning needs.
- Develop or modify individualized assessment strategies.
- Create and maintain records.

Nature of Course Delivery

Learning activities include the following:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Class lecture and discussion. 2. Application activities using computer spreadsheets. 3. Application activities using assessment instruments | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Small group activities and assignments 5. Video presentations and/or guest speakers if available 6. In-class paper and pencil assessments |
|--|--|

Required Text

Overton, T. (2012). *Assessing learners with special needs: An applied approach* (7th ed.). Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Merrill/Pearson.

Other Readings

Other readings will be posted on the class blackboard site in the form of Adobe Acrobat (pdf) or Microsoft Word documents.

Evaluation

Assignment*	Range	Points
1. Attendance & Participation (class discussion and weekly assessments)	10 pts	10
2. Work sample with descriptive statistics	40 pts	40
3. Standardized test: guided report/interpretation	50 pts	50
4. Standardized test: independent report/interpretation	100 pts	100
5. CBM proposal	10 pts	10
6. CBM project	100 pts	100
7. Midterm Examination	80 pts	80
8. Signature assignment loaded to Taskstream (no grade until this is done)	10	10

*Points will be deducted for work submitted late.	Total	400
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ONLINE SUBMISSION OF STUDENT WORK REQUIRED

All student work *must* be submitted through the **Blackboard Assignment*** function on the class website unless otherwise specified. Due dates are posted at the end of the syllabus and also on the blackboard site. On time submissions are required to be in the class Assignment box *by the beginning of the class session on the due date*. Work should be submitted through the assignment box unless otherwise permitted to send as an attached email.

Each scoring rubric contains points for on-time submission of assignments. All assignments are due at *the beginning of the class period on the date indicated*. The points for on-time submission are no longer available after the submission deadline passes.

Submitting an assignment late does not alter the due dates of the other assignments and prevents timely feedback regarding their work that may be of value in later assignments. Strive to keep up with the assignment schedule so that you will be able to have appropriate formative evaluation and feedback from your instructor across the semester. Some assignments appear in pairs. For paired assignments, your work in the first of the pairs is to serve as a model for the second assignment. Late submissions prevent you from receiving timely feedback to guide your subsequent efforts. Being late with the first of a pair of assignments does not alter the due date for subsequent assignments.

Graded assignments will be returned to you through the class assignment box feature as well unless otherwise indicated. I suggest that you download and preserve the returned assignments with the comments and suggestions for use in your portfolio. The required portfolio artifact for this course is the CBM project.

File Names for Online Submission

You must include your name *in the file name* when you submit to Blackboard. I may deduct five points from each submission (nonrefundable) if your file downloads without your name in the title. Non-refundable means that even if you send the file early for feedback purposes, you lose the five points for the assignment if it does not contain your name *in the file name*.

Blackboard will *not* add your name to your submission as is required for this class. It will label it on the server but when it downloads, only the name of the file *as it appears on your computer* will be transmitted. The name must be assigned to the file on your computer before you send it to Blackboard.

The format for the file name is:

<your last name-assignment name>

If I were submitting homework assignment 1 through the Dropbox, I would call it:

* The Blackboard site may be accessed at: <https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu>. Log in using your GMU email information. Questions regarding the Blackboard site should be directed to the ITU support desk at <http://itusupport.gmu.edu/STG/supportctrhours.asp> or (703) 993-8870.

Platt-Homework 1

Note: If the file name on your computer does not look like my example, it will not look like my example in the dropbox or when it downloads to my computer and you may lose points.

TASKSTREAM SUBMISSION OF SIGNATURE ASSIGNMENT

The signature assignment required for this course must be submitted electronically to Mason,s NCATE management system, TaskStream: (<https://www.taskstream.com>).

Every student registered for **any** EDSE course as of the Fall 2007 semester is required to submit signature assignments to TaskStream (regardless of whether a course is an elective or part of an undergraduate minor). TaskStream information is available at <http://gse.gmu.edu/programs/sped/>.

Failure to submit the assignment to TaskStream will result in reporting the course grade as Incomplete (IN).

Failure to upload the required artifact by the deadline for discharge of incompletes on the following semester will result in the grade being changed to a grade of F by the registrar. If that happens, you will have to appeal your grade to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and explain why failure to follow instructions should not invoke the same penalty for you as it would for everyone else.

Suggestions for Other TaskStream Artifacts from this Course

The signature assignment for the course is the CBM project. Every student will complete the CBM project and submit the document to the TaskStream website. I suggest using the version that will be returned to you through the dropbox. The returned version will have my comments embedded in it and will give you more things to discuss in your narrative. There are several of the key standards that are embedded in the CBM project, including:

- Basic terminology used in assessment.
- Screening, pre-referral, referral, and classification procedures.
- Use and limitations of assessment
- Gather relevant background information.
- Administer nonbiased formal and informal assessments.
- Use technology to conduct assessments.
- Create and maintain records.
- Develop or modify individualized assessment strategies.
- Interpret information from formal and informal assessments.
- Report assessment results to stakeholders using effective communication skills.
- Evaluate instruction & monitor progress of individuals with exceptional learning needs.
- Develop or modify individualized assessment strategies.

You do not need to discuss all of these aspects in your narrative, but a well-executed project will certainly cover many of these topics in some way or another. There are a number of other assignments that cover the professional standards addressed in this course. They are listed below along with the standards that are most likely addressed in each assignment.

Spreadsheet

- Create and maintain records.
- Basic terminology used in assessment.
- Use technology to conduct assessments.
- Interpret information from formal and informal assessments.
- Evaluate instruction & monitor progress of individuals with exceptional learning needs.
- Develop or modify individualized assessment strategies.

Test Reports One and Two

You may submit them together for your portfolio or as separate artifacts for the portfolio.

- Create and maintain records.
- Basic terminology used in assessment.
- Screening, pre-referral, referral, and classification procedures.
- Use and limitations of assessment instruments.
- Gather relevant background information.
- Interpret information from formal and informal assessments.
- Use assessment information in making eligibility, program, and placement decisions for individuals with exceptional learning needs, including those from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds.
- Report assessment results to stakeholders using effective communication skills.
- Evaluate instruction & monitor progress of individuals with exceptional learning needs.

Can't Use Midterm from this course

Grading Scale

100--95%	= A	94--90%	= A-	89--80%	= B
79--70%	= C	< 70%	= F		

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS:

Student Expectations

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/honorcode/>].
- Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester [See <http://ods.gmu.edu/>].
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/1301gen.html>].
- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.
- Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.
- Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

Campus Resources

- The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance [See <http://caps.gmu.edu/>].
- The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing [See <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>].

Core Values Commitment

The College of Education & Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles. <http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/>

For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, Graduate School of Education, please visit our website [See <http://gse.gmu.edu/>].

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a growing concern among faculty at the university level as it is in elementary and secondary education. It is critical that each student complete his or her own assignments, particularly in a course such as EDSE 627 that provides training in an arena of professional performance that is quite technical, so that appropriate formative evaluation, feedback and guidance may be provided. Toward that end, the following definition of plagiarism is provided:

Plagiarism is the intentional or unintentional use of others' ideas, words, data, figures, pictures, sequence of ideas, or arrangement of materials without clearly acknowledging the source (based on the Mason Honor Code online at: <http://mason.gmu.edu/~montecin/plagiarism.htm>).

Students who commit plagiarism on assignments and assessments in this course will be assigned a grade of "F" and a recommendation for dismissal from the university will be forwarded to the Dean of the Education School and the GMU Honor Council.

Please make sure you are being advised on a regular basis as to your status and progress through your program. You may wish to contact Jancy Templeton, GMU Special Education Advisor, at jtemple1@gmu.edu or 703-993-2387. Please be prepared with your G number when you contact her. Students in the cohort sections may be better advised to contact the cohort advisor.

Group Assignment

Work sample Development and Statistics Project

Your task is to develop a work task that can be used as an assessment measuring one of the vocational related aptitudes, as listed and defined in your handout. You may pick any of the aptitudes listed or use a combination of several but I recommend limiting it to one to three.

The task should take no more than 15 minutes and no less than one minute and include a specific standard procedure for administration. I recommend a brief training or practice period in which the student demonstrates mastery of the task. You should be able to quickly administer the work task and collect data on students' performance with regard to speed and accuracy.

Collect or manufacture your results so you have "data" to work with in an excel file to calculate the following:

1. Mean, Mode, and Median (of your group sample)
2. Variance
2. Standard deviation
3. Skewness (ex. The distribution of scores I obtained are _____ly skewed which means _____).
4. Assuming a normal distribution, include a Confidence level statement for a score on your task.
5. Bar Graph of the students' performance on the task (use any software of choice)
6. Answer to question: Is your distribution a "Normal" one? Why or Why not?

The final product should include the following and will be scored as follows:

Element	Points (0=not present, 1=some attempt, 2=met expect, 3=exceeds)
Description of Task	
Standard Admin. Procedure (+1 wt)	
Includes Practice/training	
Presents "Data" in Excel file (weighted x2)	
Calculates Mean, Mode, Median	
Calculates Variance and Standard Deviation	
Calculates skew factor and explain	
Bar Graph of student performance (x2)	
Confidence level (weighted x2)	
Normal Distribution Answer	
Total	40

Instructions for Standardized Test Report & Interpretation (Test Reports 1 & 2)

Test Report One

Download the files. You will be required to write two reports given data collected for you and available on the class website. There are three files necessary for the first report assignment. They will appear in the folder labeled **Test Report 1** under the Assignments button on the Blackboard site. The three files you will need to download for this assignment are:

- . •ACH-Test-Report1-Data.pdf
- . •ACH-Test-Report1-Info.doc
- . •Ach-Test-Report-Template.doc

How to Use the Files

ACH-Test-Report1-Data.pdf. This file contains a computer printout of scores from the test given to this student. The printout should be attached to the end of a report; *however*, most laypeople and many professionals find this printout to be overwhelming. Therefore, your job will be to extract various pieces of information from this printout and insert them into the test report template provided for you.

ACH-Test-Report1-Info.doc. This document contains the notes that the test administrator made in giving the test. Information about student test behavior is described here as well as information from the student's referral, educational history and several reports from classroom teachers regarding the student's performance in their classes. Your job is to extract the relevant information from this document and insert them in the appropriate places on the template provided for you.

Ach-Test-report-Template.doc. The template contains the major headings and shell of a data table that are required for this report. Your job in this part of the assignment is to insert the data from the other two documents into the template and make a coherent report.

Under each heading, you will find a short description of what is to be done for that section *in italics*^{*}. Delete the italicized instructions for the version that you submit in class. Also, make sure that the italics are turned off in the text that you write for your report. The instructions form the basis for the scoring rubric that appears later in this syllabus. That means that I will be specifically looking for the things for which the instructions ask. (Word to the wise...) ***You will use this template (with additional information) to write another report later in the semester.***

Test Report 2

Test report two will involve the description and interpretation of data that you gather from your assessment. (I will use the compuscore program to convert your raw scores to the print-out form that you received for test report 1.) The reason that this assignment is weighted more heavily than the first test report is that you will work on this report individually and we will not discuss the specific data in class. If you have additional reports or information from the student you test, feel free to include it.

Data Sources

You are required to write a report given data you collect. Some of you may have more information to include than others depending on your student.

^{*} To make things a little easier for you, I have also loaded a document containing only the headings. You might download the one with the instructions and then write your report on the blank version so that you do not have to worry about italics and font color.

Report Format

The assessment report must follow the format that was provided in the template for Test Report 1. The WJ-III has many subtests that are different from those reported in Test Report 1 so the report will need to reflect the differences in the subtests administered and domains assessed:

- include descriptions of any administered subtests that were not included in Test Report 1,
- add lines to the table¹ of scores to reflect the additional subtests and assessment domains,
- add headings and paragraphs as necessary to the narrative section of the report to represent all of the domains assessed and the additional subtests used to assess them,
- make sure that your discussion section also includes all of the domains that were assessed.

Instructions for Completing CBM Project

Each student will complete a curriculum-based measurement project including at least two baseline measures and six instructional probes for a total of eight separate measurements of the student's performance. Any academic curriculum area is acceptable for the project; however, the curriculum taught must be appropriate for continuous progress monitoring and the tasks selected must be an academic learning task.

Practicing teachers are encouraged to select curricular areas for which they currently bear instructional responsibility. Students in the class may also create their lessons for other college-aged students or friends and family members.

I highly recommend developing new material for this requirement rather than using a project from a previous course. If you use a previous project make sure you adapt it to the requirements for this project.

Types of Instructional Outcomes Best Suited for CBM

Academic curriculum. Your CBM project must target instruction of tasks from the academic curriculum such as those that would be used to support students in schools. For example, measures of reading or calculation fluency, identification or matching of facts from a curriculum area, spelling tasks, mathematical calculation, or vocabulary (English or other language). Developing motor skills used for sports or games, playing musical instruments or other nonacademic tasks are very difficult to measure and are not appropriate or acceptable for your project in this class. There are, however, academic tasks in every aspect of athletics and the arts and you may use one of those tasks for your project.

Think about what the choice of target area says about you as an educator to the reader of your portfolio. This project is a required artifact for the portfolios of degree-seeking students. Teaching your roommate to play guitar hero demonstrates a high level of disinterest in the welfare of your present and future students. Projects that target important and demanding aspects of the curriculum are more impressive to portfolio evaluators and potential employers than are projects devoted to more tangential aspects of schooling.

Continuous progress monitoring. Curriculum-based measure assumes a variable appropriate for continuous progress monitoring. Tasks that are appropriate for continuous progress monitoring require the individual to be both accurate and fast in their responses. Such tasks are called fluency tasks. Fluency tasks require practice for mastery; therefore, they can be assessed repeatedly to show progress toward a pre-identified goal. Single trial, discrete learning tasks are better measured by

¹ There is a document that gives the basics for working with tables in MS Word on the Blackboard site. If you are not familiar with using tables, it is well worth your time to download it and master the commands. They are the easiest way there is to make formal and professional looking tables of words, numbers or anything else that must be displayed in clear arrangement. (Works great for creating CBM probes in arithmetic and vocabulary.)

single-administration of a criterion-referenced measure.

Discrete response tasks. Curriculum-based measurement lends itself most directly to behaviors for which fluency (the union of rate and accuracy) is the primary determinant of competence. Elements such as reading fluency, arithmetic computation, recall of factual information, and so on are easily monitored through CBM because they are composed of discrete behaviors which can be scored binomially (i.e., right or wrong) and must be executed automatically in order for them to be usable in higher-order tasks that rely upon them. This allows one to consider the child's proficiency of the target behavior to be judged in terms of "hits and misses" exhibited during a certain time period. Behaviors that are scored holistically or qualitatively do not lend themselves as easily to CBM. Also, behaviors that are complex or deliberative are poor choices for CBM.

CBM Proposal

A form for creating your CBM proposal is available on the class website. Please use this form for your CBM proposal. You will receive feedback and advice on the proposal and, if the proposed project does not fit the parameters discussed in class, you will be asked to modify the proposal.

Specific Steps for Completing the CBM Project and Report

1. Specify reason for assessment. A variety of legitimate reasons for assessing learning and performance exist. Find something better than: "I had to do project for a class."
2. Analyze curriculum to determine the content and skills necessary to complete the task.
3. Make sure that the content you are teaching is appropriate for continuous progress assessment. That is, do not set up a series of discrete criterion referenced tests that could be administered independent of each other and without reference to each other. *Such projects can receive grades no higher than 70%, even if everything else is perfect!*
4. Formulate behavioral objectives. What does the person have to do to show that they know the skill how well and how fast do they have to be able to do it?
5. Develop appropriate assessment procedures (i.e., probes). A clear objective leads directly to a logical probe. Look back at your objective. What do you want the student to do? In what format? How well? How fast?
6. Create your probes ensuring that each probe is of the same difficulty, same number of items, same format, and same tool skills as the others. *The first probes (baseline measures) should be as difficult as the last probes that you will use.*
7. Obtain baseline data. One data point is not sufficient. Collect a minimum of two baseline measures, if the baseline measures are stable, then proceed to the next step. If the first two measures show instability, collect a third measure. If the third point is similar to either of the first measures, select a measure of central tendency to represent the overall baseline score for the left side of your aimline. If the addition of a third measure shows a trend, consider selecting a different topic or continue to probe until a stable baseline is obtained.
8. Conduct instruction and collect assessment data (6-10 lessons of ten to fifteen minutes in duration are sufficient for this exercise). You will need in addition to data indicating a stable baseline, data from six instructional probes.
9. At each probe, load your data on the computer-generated graph that describes your project and apply the data decision rules so that you may adjust your instruction as needed.
10. Repeat steps as necessary.
11. Create a summary written presentation of your project. Each written summary should include the following headings:
 - a. Student Information
 - b. Content Description and Reason for Selection
 - c. Behavioral Objective
 - d. Description of the Probe(s) and measurement format including time limits

- e. Description of the instructional methods/materials employed
- f. Performance graph
- g. Discussion of results including:
 - o summary of the student responses to instruction
 - o any decisions made using the data decision rules
 - o recommendations for others or to be implemented on a repeated implementation (i.e., what would you do different next time?)

12. Submit your report, including the computer-generated CBM graph through the Digital Dropbox.

Grading the Major Assignments

Scoring protocols for the major assignments in this class appear on the next pages. They are for your information only. Do not turn them in with your assignment. I will create new ones for your work.

Scoring of CBM Project

Project Elements	Wt	1	0.5	0	NFD	Comments
Planning (50 points)						
Reason for assessment clearly stated	5					
Topic appropriate for continuous progress measure	5					
Curriculum analysis	5					
Evidence that student posses requisite preskills	5					
Behavioral objective(s)	5					
Probes: constant time	5					
Probes: constant number	5					
Probes: constant difficulty	5					
Probe avoids spurious measurement artifacts	5					
Probe record keeping is clear and transparent	5					
Instruction (10 points)						
Adequate description	5					
Evidence of response to measurement data	5					
Measurement Presentation (30 Points)						
Clarity of Display	10					
Baseline	5					
Aimline	5					
Phaseline	5					
Data-decision rules evident	5					
Overall Project Presentation (10 Points)						
Writing quality	5					
Clarity of explanation	5					
Total Score		0				

Scoring Test Report & Interpretation (Test Report One and Two*)

		, Test_Report_1 _Rubric			
		Rating			
Report Element		1	0.5	0	NFT
Reason for referral					
	Clear statement of reason				
	Additional supportive information (e.g., "Triennial required...")				
	Extraneous information omitted				
Assessment procedure					
	Name & Type of procedure(s)				
	Subtest description (task/response)				
	Name & Type of other assessments/procedures				
	Description of other assessments/procedures				
Observations during testing					
	Statements of fact only				
	Extraneous information omitted				
	Concluding statement of probable validity				
General interpretation of scores					
	Indicates use of age or grade norms and explains their meaning				
	SS dfn & interpretation (range of typical performance)				
	CI dfn & interp (random error)				
	%ile rank dfn & interp (as well as/below)				
	GE omitted or includes caveat				
Table					
	Scores accurate				
	Includes all necessary scores proper locations				
	Add/remove headings as needed				
Domain performance descriptions as needed					
	All domains for report included				
	Broad score for each, source, what it means				
	Each subtest score, range, performance compared to peers				
	CI comparison (different/not different)				
Classroom observations/Teacher reports/Other Test Information					
	Identifies procedure and sources of information				
	Describes collected information				
	Reports areas of unanimous agreement				
	Reports areas of different opinions				
Summary/Recommendations					
	Recaps reason for referral and procedures				
	Addresses general findings of each domain				
	Integrates information across domains and explains implications				
	Suggests areas of strength				
	Suggests areas of need				
	At least 2 <i>concrete, explicit</i> instructional interventions for each area of need				
Quality of writing and APA formatting					
	APA style-headings & table format				
	Table Format				
	Grammar & mechanics				
Submission properties					
	On time				
	Last name appears in file name (e.g., Brigham Assignment-1.doc)				
		0	0		
		Total Score 0			
Last Revision date: 7/20/10					

* The total score for Test Report Two is multiplied by two so that it is worth 100 points instead of 50.

Tentative Class Schedule

Mtg	Date	Topic	Preparation
1	6/5	Introduction and Course Overview	Overton Chapter 1 Syllabus
2	6/7	Legal, professional, and ethical requirements relative to assessment Quantitative Measurement, Work sample project discussed and assigned	Overton Chapters 2 & 3
3	6/12	Computers in assessment data management	SPSS (in class) using VCL-- Worksample preparation assignment
4	6/14	Quantitative Measurement Concepts II	Text, Chapter 4 Daub (1996) Fuchs & Fuchs (1986a)
5	6/19	CBM CBM Proposal assigned	Text, Chapter 6 Espin (2000) Fuchs & Fuchs (1986b) Worksample project due
6	6/21	Achievement Tests	Text, Chapters 5 & 7 CBM Proposal Due
7	6/26	Analyzing tests & writing reports	Text, Chapter 11
8	6/28	Assessing students w/significant challenges	Guest Speaker, Mid term
9	7/3	Behavior	Text Chapter 8 Test Report 1 Due
10	7/5	Intelligence and Adaptive Behavior	Text Chapter 9
11	7/10	RTI Classroom testing, grading, etc.	Brigham (2010) Bateman (2009)
12	7/12	No class meeting. Work on CBM projects	
13	7/17	Large scale and alternate assessments Test accommodations	Thurlow (2001) Conderman (2010) Byrnes (2008) Test Report 2 Due
14	7/19	Catch up class	CBM due
15	7/24	CBM presentations	
16	7/26	Catch up	

Twelve Minimum Competencies for Proper Use of Tests*

1. Avoiding errors in scoring and recording.
2. Refraining from labeling people with personally derogatory terms like dishonest on the basis of a test score that lacks perfect validity.
3. Keeping scoring keys and test materials secure.
4. Seeing that every examinee follows directions so that test scores are accurate.
5. Using settings for testing that allow for optimum performance by test-takers (e.g., adequate room).
6. Refraining from coaching or training individuals or groups on test items, which results in misrepresentation of the person's abilities or competencies.
7. Willingness to give interpretation and guidance to test takers in counseling situations.
8. Not making photocopies of copyrighted materials.
9. Refraining from homemade answer sheets that do not align properly with scoring sheets.
10. Establishing rapport with examinees to obtain accurate scores.
11. Refraining from answering questions from test takers in greater detail than the test manual permits.
12. Not assuming that a norm for one job applies to a different job (and not assuming that norms for one group automatically apply to other groups).

* Source: Moreland, Eyde, Robertson, Primoff, & Most (1995, p.16)

Bibliography

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Interesting assessment quote

Oscar K. Buros is well known for establishing a test review service in 1938. He began with the belief that critical test reviewing would result in better quality tests. The introduction to the sixth edition of the *Mental Measurements Yearbook* (1965), the last edition for which Buros was alive, begins with the following quote:

At present, no matter how poor a test may be, if it is nicely packaged and if it promises to do all sorts of things which no test can do, the test user will find many gullible buyers. When we initiated critical test reviewing [1938] we had no idea how difficult it would be to discourage the use of poorly constructed tests of unknown validity. Even the better informed test users who finally become convinced that a widely used test has no validity after all are likely to rush to use a new instrument which promises far more than any good test can possibly deliver.

Counselors, personnel directors, psychologists, and school administrators seem to have an unshakable will to believe the exaggerated claims of test authors and publishers. If the users were better informed regarding the merits and limitations of their testing instruments, they would probably be less happy and less successful in their work. The test user who has faith—however unjustified—can speak with confidence in interpreting test results and in making recommendations. The well-informed test user cannot do this; he knows that the best of our tests are still highly fallible instruments which are extremely difficult to interpret with assurance in individual cases. Consequently, he must interpret test results cautiously and with so many reservations that others wonder whether he really knows what he is talking about. Children, parents, teachers, and school administrators are likely to have a greater respect and admiration for a school counselor who interprets test results with confidence even though his interpretations have no scientific justification. The same applies to psychologists and personnel directors. Highly trained psychologists appear to be as gullible as the less well-trained school counselors. It pays to know only a little about testing; furthermore, it is much more fun for everyone concerned— the examiner, examinee, and the examiner's employer.

It is difficult to allocate the blame for the lack of greater progress. We think, however, that the major blame rests with test users. The better test publishers would like to make more moderate claims for their tests. Unfortunately, test buyers don't want tests which make only moderate claims. Consequently, even the best test publishers find themselves forced by competition to offer test users what they want. Bad usage of tests is probably more common than good usage. Must it always be this way? We are afraid so. (p. xxii).

Grading Policy for EDSE 627

The statements on this and the next page summarize the grading and attendance policies for this class. When they are in conflict (e.g., the grading scale here is tighter), the statements on this page shall supersede the statements elsewhere in the syllabus. As with all policy adjustments of this sort, the reason is that someone has recently abused the system and exploited the good will of the faculty. It is unfortunate, but necessary to make such unpleasant statements of policy in the age of litigation.

Online Submission Of Student Work Required

All student work with the exception of the protocols for the standardized test administration *must* be submitted through the **Blackboard Assignment folder** function on the class website unless otherwise specified. Due dates are posted at the end of the syllabus and also on the blackboard site. On time submissions are required to be in the class Blackboard Assignment folder by the beginning of the class session on the due date.

Only submissions through the Blackboard Assignment folder will be accepted unless otherwise directed. **Assignments sent as email attachments may be deleted without opening them.** Assignments that are not in the DROPBOX at the appropriate time *are late*.

Late Work Penalty

Five percent of the available points for the assignment will be deducted for late submissions during the **first week after the due date. After one week** from the due date, assignments will be penalized **an additional 10% of the total available score for each week they are late.** Thus an assignment that is three weeks late is able to obtain only 75% of the points for the assignment regardless of the quality of the work. After three weeks, the assignment will no longer be accepted and a score of zero will be entered into the grade book for that assignment.

The point deduction will be made after the grading is complete. In the case of an assignment that earned 90 out of 100 points, the student grade would be a score of 65 (90-25). The points are deducted for each week at the time that the assignment was originally due.

The date that the assignment was loaded into the Blackboard Assignment folder will be the date of record. Partially completed or inadequate assignments loaded into the Blackboard Assignment folder will be the assignments of record for the student. Do not load a poor quality assignment on time and then ask to revise it later.

Submitting an assignment late does not alter the due dates of the other assignments and prevents timely feedback regarding their work that may be of value in later assignments. Strive to keep up with the assignment schedule so that you will be able to have appropriate formative evaluation and feedback from your instructor across the semester. Some assignments appear in pairs. For paired assignments, your work in the first of the pairs is to serve as a model for the second assignment.

Signature Assignment Required

Failure to complete the signature assignment according to instructions and guidelines with on time submission through the dropbox **will result in a failing grade.**

In-Class Participation and Professional Deportment

Part of the responsibility that professional educators assume is punctual and active performance of their duties. Such behavior is expected in this class as well as in the performance of the duties of being a professional educator. Therefore, two points will be awarded for being in class on time each week and two points will be awarded for remaining in the class the entire time of the class meeting. Two points will be available for active participation in class each week as well.

Active participation includes:

- Listening to class discussions
- Making relevant to class discussions
- Taking notes
- Listening to instructor lectures and feedback
- Coming to class with materials including textbooks and relevant materials from the class website.

Active participation does not include:

- Sleeping in class
- Surfing the web, doing email, and otherwise engaging in non-instructional activities during class time.
- Holding conversations with your classmates during whole class instruction.
- Taking cell phone calls during class and
- other off-task behaviors that are not relevant to instruction.

Students will fail to earn the points for coming late, leaving early or non-engagement in the instructional activities during the time that they are in class. Repeated violations of these standards of deportment will be referred to the George Mason University Special Education Department faculty as evidence that the individual lacks the “disposition to be a teacher.” Such a finding can result in dismissal from the education program.

Class Grading Scale

100--95% = A	94--90% = A-	89--80% = B	79--75% = C	< 75% =F
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EDSE 627 Schedule of Class Assignments

Assignment	Topic	Assigned	Due
Spreadsheet	Work sample and Descriptive Stats	6/12	6/19
CBM Proposal	Monitoring of Academic Progress	6/19	6/21
Midterm	(Brief written Q and A on basic material covered)	6/28	6/28
Test Report 1	Use available data with in-class support	6/21	7/3
Test Report 2	Using data you obtain	TBD	7/17
CBM Project	Monitoring of Academic Progress: Written Report	TBD	7/24
CBM Project	Oral Presentation	TBD	7/26

Important things to remember:

- Late assignments get penalized.
- Assignments must be submitted through the assignments folder in Blackboard
- Blackboard submissions must have your name *in the file name* or they lose points.

Suggested names for the submissions...

your last name-spreadsheet
your last name-Report-1
your last name-CBM-prop
your last name-Report-2
your last name-CBM

Use the “Save as” command on your application. Replace the words “*your last name*” with your actual last name and save. Then send the file with your name right there in the file name to me using dropbox. This is the equivalent of teaching school children to write their names on their papers. I expect graduate students in the education profession to be able to do this and will deduct points for submission that fail to conform to this requirement.