



**College of Education and Human Development
Division of Special Education and disAbility Research**

EDSE 544-5S1: *Adapted Instructional Methods and Transition for Secondary Learners*

CRN: 72600, 3 - Credit(s)

Fall 2012

Instructor: Daniel F. Bublitz, Ph.D.	Meeting Dates: 08/27/12 - 12/19/12
Phone: 571-435-7641	Meeting Day(s): Thursday
E-Mail: dbublitz@gmu.edu	Meeting Times: 7:20pm - 10:00pm
Office Hours: Before/after class & by appointment	Meeting Location: KAI 113

Course Description:

Provides strategies for teaching functional academics and social/life skills, facilitating the transition to postsecondary environments. Focuses on all aspects of transition and alternative assessments for secondary learners with disabilities.

Prerequisite(s): None.

Advising Contact Information:

Please make sure that you are being advised on a regular basis as to your status and progress through your program. For assistance contact the Special Education Advising Office at (703)993-3145.

Nature of Course Delivery:

Learning activities include the following:

1. Class lecture and discussion
2. Application activities
3. Small group activities and assignments
4. Video and other media supports
5. Research and presentation activities
6. Electronic supplements and activities via Blackboard

Learner Outcomes:

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

- Identify, describe, and design alternate assessments for secondary learners with disabilities to demonstrate learning outcomes and postsecondary interests and aptitudes;
- Demonstrate an understanding of evidence-based strategies for facilitating transition into the community, workplace, and postsecondary environments;
- Demonstrate how to implement cognitive strategies in self-regulation, study skills, attention, memory, motivation, and self-determination;
- Demonstrate knowledge of the federal and Virginia laws, Standards of Learning, and agencies that require and provide for transition, vocational, and rehabilitation services for students with disabilities at the secondary school level (middle & high school);
- Identify the role and responsibilities of the Individual Education Plan (IEP) teams as they strive to incorporate transition requirements into the IEP and principles of person-centered planning;
- Identify organizations, services, networks, and the variety of state and local agencies that maximize the interagency effort involved in the transition process for students with disabilities.

Required Textbooks:

Sitlington, P. L., Neubert, D.A., and Clark, G. M. (2010). *Transition Education and Services for Students with Disabilities (5th ed.)*. Boston: Pearson Education, Inc.

Recommended Textbooks:

N/A

Required Materials:

N/A

Additional Readings:

N/A

Course's Relationship to Program Goals and Professional Organizations:

This course is part of the George Mason University, Graduate School of Education (GSE), Special Education Program for teacher licensure in the Commonwealth of Virginia in the special education areas of Special Education: Students with Disabilities who Access the General Curriculum K-12. This program complies with the standards for teacher licensure established by the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), the major special education professional organization. The CEC Standards are listed on the following website:

<http://www.cec.sped.org/Content/NavigationMenu/ProfessionalDevelopment/ProfessionalStandards/> The CEC standards that will be addressed in this class include Standard 1: Foundations,

Standard 2: Development and Characteristics of Learners, Standard 3: Individual Learning Differences, Standard 4: Instructional Strategies, Standard 5: Learning Environments and Social Interactions, Standard 6: Language, Standard 7: Instructional Planning, Standard 8: Assessment, and Standard 10: Collaboration. *NOTE: NCATE Assessments (in many but not all courses) may address additional CEC standards.

Policies (Attendance and Late Work Policies):

Respect for All:

George Mason University promotes a living and learning environment for outstanding growth and productivity among its students, faculty and staff. Through its curriculum, programs, policies, procedures, services and resources, Mason strives to maintain a quality environment for work, study and personal growth.

An emphasis upon diversity and inclusion throughout the campus community is essential to achieve these goals. Diversity is broadly defined to include such characteristics as, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, disability, and sexual orientation. Diversity also entails different viewpoints, philosophies, and perspectives. Attention to these aspects of diversity will help promote a culture of inclusion and belonging, and an environment where diverse opinions, backgrounds and practices have the opportunity to be voiced, heard and respected.

Attendance:

Students are expected to (a) attend all classes during the course, (b) arrive on time, (c) stay for the duration of the class time and (d) complete all assignments. Attendance, timeliness, and professionally relevant, active participation are expected. Attendance and professional participation at all sessions is very important because all of the activities in class are planned in such a way that they cannot necessarily be recreated outside of the class session. More than one absence for any reason will result in the final grade dropping by 5 points.

Note: It is impossible to participate fully in this class while texting, Facebooking, tweeting, working on documents, etc. Please be *fully* present in class ☺

Workload:

In-depth reading, study, and work on course requirements require outside class time. Students are expected to allot approximately three hours for class readings and preparation for *each* credit hour weekly in addition to time spent on papers and assignments.

Written and Oral Language:

APA Style is the standard format for any written work in the College of Education. If you are unfamiliar with APA, it would benefit you to purchase the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (5th ed.) You are required to use APA guidelines for all course assignments. This website links to APA format guidelines:

<http://apastyle.apa.org/>

We will use *person-first language* in our class discussions and written assignments (and ideally in our professional practice). We will also strive to replace the term “Mental Retardation” with “Intellectual Disabilities” in our oral and written communication in accordance with terminology choices in the disability community.

Academic Integrity:

Students in this course are expected to exhibit academic integrity at all times. Be aware that plagiarism is presenting someone else's work as your own. **Whether the act is deliberate or unintentional is irrelevant.** You must take great care to give credit to an author when you borrow either exact words or ideas. Generally, if you use 4 or more words in a row you should use quotation marks and a proper APA citation. Remember that plagiarism is a very serious offense and can result in dismissal from the University. Evidence of plagiarism or any other form of cheating in this class will result in a zero on that assignment and a report of the incident to the Dean’s Office.

Email: Please note that your GMU email will be used exclusively for all your GMU courses: Please activate and forward your GMU email to your most-checked account!

Go to <http://mail.gmu.edu>. Click on Options tab at the top of the page. Click on Settings link on the left of the page. Type in your most-checked email account in the box labeled Mail Forwarding.

Be an Informed Student:

Negotiating all the requirements for your Master’s and/or VA Licensure is extremely complex. It is recommended that you schedule a phone/email or in-person appointment with one of the Special Education Advisors, Jancy Templeton (jtemple1@gmu.edu 703/993-2387) or Danielle Williamson (dwilli19@gmu.edu 703/993-4361). Doing so each semester will ensure that you rectify any outstanding issues, are timely with all necessary paperwork, and are ultimately in good standing to graduate on time.

TaskStream Submission:

For student evaluation, program evaluation, and accreditation purposes, all students are required to submit an NCATE assignment from selected Special Education courses to TaskStream. The NCATE assignment required for this course must be submitted electronically to Mason’s NCATE management system, TaskStream: (<https://www.taskstream.com>).

Note: Every student registered for any EDSE course as of the Fall 2007 semester is required to submit NCATE 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/>. Students who do not submit the required NCATE assignment to TaskStream will receive a grade of Incomplete (IN) in the course. The Incomplete (IN) will change to a grade of (F) if the required signature assignment has not been posted to TaskStream by the incomplete work due date listed in the current semester’s Schedule of Classes.

Grading Scale:

95 - 100% = A

90 - 94% = A-

80 - 89% = B

70 - 79% = C

<70% = F

Evidence-Based Practices:

This course will incorporate the evidence-based practices (EBPs) relevant to self-determination, facilitating transitions, alternative assessments, and social skills. These EBPs are indicated with an asterisk (*) in this syllabus' schedule. Evidence for the selected research-based practices is informed by meta-analysis, literature reviews/synthesis, the technical assistance networks which provide web-based resources, and the national organizations whose mission is to support students with disabilities. We address both promising and emerging practices in the field of special education. This course will provide opportunities for students to take an active, decision-making role to thoughtfully select, modify, apply, and evaluate EBPs in order to improve outcomes for students with disabilities.

Schedule:

Class Session	Topic/Learning Experiences	Readings	Assignments
8/30	Course Introduction Enduring Understandings Foundations of Transition Planning: A historical perspective The NLTS 1	Chapter 1	
9/6	Characteristics and Needs of Secondary Learners with Disabilities	Chapter 3	

9/13	From Entitlement to Eligibility: IDEA, ADA, 504, WIA and beyond*	Chapter 2 Read assigned NLTS 2 Report: http://www.nlts2.org/reports/index.html	Assignment 1: Oral Brief of NLTS 2 Report
9/20	Online Class: <u>The IEP Transition Requirements Resource</u> http://transitions.keenecommons.net/about-the-iep-transition-requirements-resource-i-13 *	Chapter 6	
9/27	Assignment 2: Quiz on online class 9/20 Community Resources and Transition Planning Considerations: Employment*	Chapter 7	Assignment 2: Quiz on online class 9/20
10/4	Infusion of Life and Career Skills into the standards-based curriculum	Chapter 5	
10/11	Online Class: Web Quest and Discussion Board (directions on Blackboard)	Chapter 8	Assignment 3: Discussion Board
10/18	Community Resources and Transition Planning Considerations: Postsecondary Education*	Chapter 9	Assignment 4: Site Visit Paper Due Oral Presentation of Assignment 4

10/25	Secondary IEP Planning and Delivery* Graduation Requirements	Read: http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/graduation/index.shtml Read: http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/alternative_assessments/index.shtml	
11/1	Secondary IEP Planning and Delivery* (continued)		
11/8	Assessment: Academic and Transition*	Chapter 4	
11/15	Student Motivation/Self Regulation Self-Determination for Students and families*	Chapter 11	Assignment 5: Infusing Life Skills into Standards- Based Curriculum Project Oral Presentation of Assignment 5
11/22	Thanksgiving Break		

11/29	Community Resources and Transition Planning Considerations: Independent Living	Chapter 10	
12/6	Career Education across the spectrum	Chapter 12	Assignment 6: Transition IEP due Oral Presentation of Assignment 6

There are 3 Major and 3 Minor Assignments for EDSE 544. The NCATE assessment/signature assignment, which MUST be submitted electronically to Taskstream, is marked with an asterisk *.

(Please note that student and family privacy must be protected in all written and oral communication. Please refrain from including any information that would jeopardize compliance with FERPA regulations)

ASSIGNMENT 1: (10 points) due 9/13

You will be assigned a particular report from the National Longitudinal Transition Study 2 (<http://www.nlts2.org/reports/index.html>) to read. In a five-minute briefing, you will provide your classmates with the most salient and pertinent information from the report. You may use a visual if you wish.

ASSIGNMENT 2: (10 points) due 9/27 (in class assignment)

15-question Quiz on online assignment from previous week

The IEP Transition Requirements Resource is a multimedia training and reference tool designed to increase understanding about IEP transition requirements and indicator 13. This online tool should increase your understanding of the important transition requirements that are foundational to creating effective and evidenced-based transition-driven IEPs. It features video interviews with a leading national expert on IDEA transition requirements and Indicator 13, Dr. Ed O’Leary. This Quiz will document your understanding of these requirements, and the content of this tool will help you with your Transition IEP assignment.

ASSIGNMENT 3: (5 points) due 10/11

Review at least 5 of the Web Links on the Blackboard site for this course. Choose two that you think are valuable and critique them for your classmates. On the Blackboard Discussion Board, list the 5 sites you reviewed, identify the two you selected to critique, and then discuss to what target audience these two sites would appeal, give an overview of the content of each site, and explain why each site would be beneficial to the secondary transition process. NO late submissions will be accepted.

ASSIGNMENT 4: (20 points) due 10/18**Site Visit to a Community Resource/Agency or School Resource That Facilitates Transition Skills**

Visit a transition resource either in the community or within a school system and describe the services available to youth with disabilities. Your write-up should include services, accommodations, population(s) served, description of the agency/office, and your questions for staff. Your “lens” for this visit should be “what opportunities exist for youth with mild disabilities through this avenue during and/or after high school?” Include copies of materials available at center, agency, or office.

You will need to make an appointment. Acceptable options for this assignment include a school career center, interview with a school or county transition coordinator, One-Stop Center, vocational evaluation site, Virginia Department of Rehabilitation Services office, local Community Services Board, Job Placement/Training program, and other suggestions from your professor. Your write up MUST include a synthesis section that integrates the information from your site visit with professional literature on transition and career education. In a five to ten-minute briefing, you will provide your classmates with the most salient and pertinent information from your site visit. You may use a visual if you wish.

ASSIGNMENT 5: (25 points) due 11/15**Infusing Life Skills into Standards-Based Curriculum Project**

The career/life skill integration project will consist of a “mini-unit” that will cover approximately 2 weeks of a block-scheduled class (5 classes/90 minutes per class) and use appropriate *SECONDARY (middle or high school)* grade level Standards to teach in a content area (English, math, science, social studies or other secondary academic area of your choice) at an identified secondary level. Make this something you or another secondary teacher could actually use. In a ten-minute briefing, you will provide your classmates with the most salient and pertinent information from your project. You may use a visual if you wish.

This unit will include a variety of activities, teaching strategies, and assessment tools to match the needs of your learners, the topic being taught, and the resources available. In your lesson plans, the students should be actively engaged in activities at least half of the time. The goal of your lessons should be to infuse career education or critical life skills into content area instruction as described in a course of study and the SOL(s) for that grade level and subject. You are to find and/or create each activity to be completed by the students. If you select a

published activity you must cite the reference.

The following will help you to develop this project:

Step 1. Standards.

Obtain a curriculum (often referred to as a program of study or curriculum frameworks) from general education at the *secondary* level. Locate and clearly identify the related Standards/Curriculum Frameworks for major content areas. Be sure to specify the teaching situation and the students: What kind of class? What kind of students? How many students? What kind of instructors? What kind of resources?

Step 2. Integration of Career Development/Life Skills within Academic Lessons.

Using the *secondary* general education curriculum (or program of study) and the state Standards develop 5 (or more) sequential well-designed lessons (a mini-unit, if you will) which will cover five (or more) sessions of content and will reflect the integration of career development/life skills activities. These lessons must relate to one another at the thematic level.

Step 3. Standards-based Goals and Objectives.

Identify the Standards upon which the lessons are based.

List general goals for each lesson. These are to be based on the Standards that you identified. Please indicate which one(s) and for which grade level and subject that you select.

Then, identify what career concepts/life skills will be infused into the lesson, and write specific, measurable objectives for each lesson.

Properly written instructional objectives have four components. They:

1. *Identify what students will be able to do once they have acquired the knowledge, skills or values related to the overall goal of the lesson(s).*
2. *Specify an anticipated measurable performance that will demonstrate the student has acquired the knowledge, skills or values related to the overall goal of the lesson. It allows the teacher to be able to see, hear, or examine a student-developed project.*
3. *Describe the setting in which the performance is to be demonstrated and observed, as well as the conditions under which the students will perform.*
4. *Establish a degree or level of expected performance (criterion) to measure the successful completion of the objective. These may be measured by rubrics, the percentage of correct items on a text/quiz, check sheets, etc.*

Step 4. Lesson Format

Provide a detailed outline for **each** lesson including Grade Level, Theme, Standards addressed, Objectives, Introduction, Presentation, Guided and Individualized Practice, and Assessment. Your outline should not exceed two pages for each lesson.

Step 5. Adaptations & Accommodations.

For the lesson(s), specify (in general) how you would adapt the content and/or methods of presentation to meet the needs of students with disabilities, especially those with learning disabilities, mild intellectual disabilities, and /or emotional disabilities. What will be done differently to ensure mastery of content??

Step 6: Assessment Plan for the Lessons.

Summarize the multiple forms of assessment (formal and informal) that will be embedded in the lesson(s). Construct actual assessment examples for each lesson and at least one for the unit as a whole.

Include a discussion of how the results of each assessment will be used in instructional decision-making.

Step 7: Enduring Understandings for Students

How will the concepts and skills you infused into this mini-unit assist the students in transitioning to their adult lives? How will they use the content in the future?

***ASSIGNMENT 6: (30 points) due 12/6 (Note: NCATE Assessment/signature assignment for submission to Taskstream)**

Transition Plan with Assistive Technology

The purpose of this assessment is to have candidates demonstrate knowledge of the individualized planning process required for the development of a transition plan for secondary students with mild to moderate exceptional learning needs. Candidates will demonstrate understanding of the components of the transition plan. Based upon case information provided, candidates will construct a transition plan that is legally sufficient and educationally appropriate for the described student. Candidates will use curricular resources and evidence-based practices to demonstrate their ability to plan appropriately for the student with mild to moderate exceptional learning needs. In a five to ten-minute briefing, you will provide your classmates with the most salient and pertinent information from your project. You may use a visual if you wish.

1. Directions for the Assessment:

In this assignment/project, you will demonstrate your ability to develop a Transition Plan for a hypothetical secondary student with a mild to moderate exceptional learning need. You will be presented with case studies and the Fairfax County Public Schools Transition Plan Forms (on Blackboard). Using the information in your selected case study, you will write a transition plan that thoroughly and appropriately addresses the needs of the student in the case scenario and integrates at least one form of assistive technology which increase the student's ability to access the general curriculum and work towards his or her transition goals.

As you write the transition plan, you will:

- Complete a thorough review of the case study facts

- Complete all components of the transition planning forms, using specific instructions provided by the instructor
 - *Infuse appropriate augmentative and assistive communication or assistive technology strategies into the transition goals and short-term objectives.*
- **Transition Assessment Information:** Interests, strengths/capabilities, and career goal (include training, education, employment, and where appropriate independent living)
 - Consider the information presented in the vignette as well as any assessment data (formal or informal) and present levels of performance as you develop these statements.
 - Consider the impact of the student's academic and social abilities, attitudes, interests, and values on instruction and career development.
- **Measurable Postsecondary Goals:**
 - Write *one measurable postsecondary goal* for each domain: employment, education/training, and independent living skills. Base each goal on the information from the vignette and peer-reviewed research. Each goal is a specific statement of what the student wants to achieve after high school written as an "I will" statement. These goals should be based on the student's interests, preferences, and strengths.
 - Select and adapt instructional strategies and materials according to the characteristics of the student with exceptional learning needs and integrate evidence-based practices (from a minimum of TWO peer-reviewed journal articles) which have been validated to promote successful transitions for the specific characteristics of the learner and setting.
 - *What appropriate augmentative and assistive communication or assistive technology would help the student reach their post-secondary goals? How could that technology be integrated into the instruction in a natural and meaningful way?*
 - Ensure that each postsecondary goal is based on an age appropriate transition assessment (functional vocational evaluations, state assessments, or other more informal methods like daily living skills checklists and interest inventories and that you consider the principles of normalization and concept of least restrictive environment when making decisions about post-secondary outcomes.
- **Transition Objectives:**
 - Write one short-term objective or benchmark each for **career, self-advocacy and independent living**. Integrate evidence-based practices which have been validated for the specific characteristics of the learner and setting.
 - At least two of your objectives must contain a *form of appropriate augmentative and assistive communication or assistive technology* as one component.
 - You may want to consider the following questions:
 - What specific models, theories, philosophies, and research methods which form the basis for special education practice can be utilized?
 - What culturally, linguistically, and gender responsive instructional

- content, resources and strategies can be implemented?
 - *What appropriate augmentative and assistive communication or assistive technology would help the student reach their post-secondary goals? How could that technology be integrated into the instruction in a natural and meaningful way?*
 - What evaluation measures (indicators of progress toward meeting the goal) will be implemented intermittently during the year?
 - What strategies can be used to integrate student initiated learning experiences into the instruction in order to maximize opportunities to increase self-determination?
- **School and Post-Secondary Services:**
 - Identify a **minimum of two post-secondary resources** that would be helpful for your student (e.g. Woodrow Wilson Training Center, ARC, Community Services Board).
 - Identify a minimum of **one in-school employment preparation option** (e.g. Academies in Fairfax County Public Schools, Monroe Center in Loudoun County Public Schools, Davis Center, Pulley Center, WAT, OAT).
 - In addition to completing the checklists on the Fairfax County form, you are required to write a **ONE PAGE SERVICE SUMMARY** which details a comprehensive, longitudinal individualized program for your secondary student including:
 - A rationale for the services selected. Relate the level of support to the needs of the student. Why did you choose explore vs. select? Why are these services necessary for the student? Ensure that the rationale takes the continuum of placement and services available for students with exceptional learning needs as well as the legal, judicial and educational systems to assist students with exceptional learning needs into consideration.
 - Do you recommend a job coach? Enclave? Any other special support?
 - A detailed explanation of what skills, experiences, activities, opportunities and connections the student needs in order to reach their post secondary goals and the “action plan” to reach them.
 - A detailed explanation of resources, techniques and recommendations for educational, community, vocational, and post-school adult living experiences which should be used to transition the student with exceptional learning needs out of school and into the postsecondary environment. This should include an explanation of the selected forms of appropriate augmentative and assistive communication or assistive technology which would benefit the student and a discussion of how these technology skills can be introduced and taught.
 - Articulate how you would review this document with the learner and how you would help the student understand how things change when they are no longer covered by IDEA.

NOTE: All rubrics, forms, resources etc. for each Major Assignment can be found

on the Blackboard site for this course in an assignment-specific folder under the “Information” tab on the course menu

GMU POLICIES AND RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS:

- a.* Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/honorcode/>].
- b.* Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/1301gen.html>].
- c.* 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.
- d.* 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/>].
- e.* 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/>].
- f.* Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.
- g.* 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/>].

PROFESSIONAL DISPOSITIONS

Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

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/Revised 06/25/12>

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

Note: This syllabus may change according to class needs. Students will be advised of any changes immediately through George Mason e-mail and/or through Blackboard.