



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

Summer 2014

EDSE 440 C01: Characteristics of Students with Disabilities Who Access the  
General Curriculum  
CRN: 40257, 3 - Credits

<b>Instructor:</b> Dr. LaTisha Putney	<b>Meeting Dates:</b> 6/30/2014 - 8/8/2014
<b>Phone:</b> 703-986-6473	<b>Meeting Day(s):</b> MWF
<b>E-Mail:</b> lputney@gmu.edu	<b>Meeting Time(s):</b> 7:00 pm-9:40 pm
<b>Office Hours:</b> by appointment	<b>Meeting Location:</b> KA 102

***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.*

**Course Description**

Examines the characteristics of students with mild disabilities. Emphasis on etiology, contributing factors, conditions that affect learning, the challenges of identifying students with disabilities, and the need for academic, social, and emotional accommodations and support.

**Prerequisite(s):** None

**Co-requisite(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. Mason M.Ed. and Certificate students should contact the Special Education Advising Office at (703) 993-3670 for assistance. All other students should refer to their faculty advisor.

**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

### **Field Experience Requirement**

A Field Experience **MAY BE** a part of this course. Field Experiences may include observations of a school setting or case studies of individual students. Below are procedures that students need to follow based on their specific situation:

**REQUIRED PROCEDURE FOR ALL STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THIS COURSE:** Complete the online field experiences form [<http://cehd.gmu.edu/endorse/ferf>] at the beginning of the semester (if not before) and complete the information requested **REGARDLESS** if you need assistance in 'finding' an individual for the project/case study or not. This information is required by the state.

**OPTION 1:** Request a placement online through the Clinical Practice Office

- Complete the online request form and indicate that you need a field placement. **IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU DO THIS WITHIN THE FIRST TWO CLASSES SO THAT THE FIELD PLACEMENT OFFICE HAS SUFFICIENT TIME TO FIND A PLACEMENT FOR YOU .**

**OPTION 2:** Arrange for your own placement **AND** complete the online field placement form indicating that you do not need assistance finding a placement.

a. I work in a school setting and would like to complete my course assignment in my school or with one of my own students.

→Although you are already a school employee, you should request permission from your principal **BEFORE** you begin your assignment.

b. I don't work in a school setting, but I have a friend or classmate who does and I would like to complete my course assignment in their school or with one of their own students.

→You need to ask the **SCHOOL EMPLOYEE** to request permission from the principal **BEFORE** you begin your assignment. (The guest GMU student should **NOT** contact the principal directly). The school employee needs to send an email that indicates principal consent to the course instructor so it can be forwarded to the CEHD field experience office at [fieldexp@gmu.edu](mailto:fieldexp@gmu.edu).

c. I know a student outside of a school setting that I would like to work with for the assignment (Note: It is not recommended that you work with your own child.)

→You need to obtain consent from the parent of the child and forward written consent to the CEHD field experience office at [fieldexp@gmu.edu](mailto:fieldexp@gmu.edu).

d. I am a consortium student that does not attend GMU

→You need to complete the GMU online field placement form regardless of whether or not you need assistance finding a placement.

You need to make sure that you follow the procedures for field placement at your university to identify a placement or report that you have a placement. Contact your faculty liaison for more information.

### **Evidence-Based Practices**

This course will incorporate the evidence-based practices (EBPs) relevant to characteristics of students with mild disabilities, etiology of mild disabilities, inclusionary practices. 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.

### **Learner Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to

- Describe the field of learning disabilities from its origins to policies and practices of today.
- Compare the history of education for students with emotional and behavioral disorders, students with learning disabilities students with mild intellectual disabilities.
- Define learning disability, emotional disturbance, and mild intellectual disabilities.
- Describe how educators and other professionals determine the difference between normal and atypical behaviors.
- Describe characteristics of K-12 students with learning disabilities, emotional disturbances, and/or mild intellectual disabilities.
- Compare conceptual models of behavioral deficits with three conceptual models that explain learning disabilities and/or mild intellectual disabilities.
- Discuss the various etiologies in relation to biological, family, cultural, and school perspectives.
- Identify various procedures and practices that motivate reluctant learners to complete class work and develop skills that build self- understanding and confidence as learners.
- Describe and discuss a range of learning disabilities, emotional disturbances, and mild intellectual disabilities for a parent and suggest possible interventions for home and school.
- Describe how children develop language.
- Describe informal assessment procedures for determining knowledge and skills of children with various learning disabilities and emotional/behavioral problems.

- Based on informal assessment procedures, design appropriate clinical teaching strategies for children with various learning disabilities and/or behavior problems.
- Describe what an Individualized Education Program (IEP) is and how it is developed.

### **Required Textbooks**

Henley, M., Ramsey, R., & Algozzine, R. (2009). *Characteristics of and Strategies for Teaching Students with Mild Disabilities* (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ Pearson Education, Inc.

### **Digital Library Option**

The Pearson textbook(s) for this course **may be** available as part of the **George Mason University Division of Special Education and disAbility Research Digital Library**. Please note that not all textbooks are available through this option. Visit the links below before purchasing the digital library to ensure that your course(s) text(s) are available in this format. The division and Pearson have partnered to bring you the Digital Library; a convenient, digital solution that can save you money on your course materials. The Digital Library offers you access to a complete digital library of **all Pearson textbooks** and MyEducationLabs used across the Division of Special Education and disAbility Research curriculum at a low 1-year or 3-year subscription price. Access codes are available in the school bookstore. Please visit <http://gmu.bncollege.com> and search the ISBN. To register your access code or purchase the Digital Library, visit:

<http://www.pearsoncustom.com/va/gmu/digitallibrary/education/index.html>

- 1 year subscription \$200 ISBN-13: 9781269541411
- 3 years subscription \$525 ISBN-13: 9781269541381
- Individual e-book(s) also available at the bookstore link above or at <http://www.pearsoncustom.com/va/gmu/digitallibrary/education/index.html>

### **Recommended Textbooks**

American Psychological Association (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

### **Required Resources**

TaskStream Access

Blackboard Access

### **Additional Readings**

Will be provided in class

### **Course Relationships 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 that will be addressed in this class include Standard 1: Foundations, Standard 2: Development and Characteristics of Learners, Standard 3: Individual Learning Differences, Standard 6: Language, and Standard 8: Assessment, Standard 9: Professional and Ethical Practice, and Standard 10: Collaboration.

### **GMU POLICIES AND RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS:**

a. Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code/>].

b. Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>].

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. [See <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/>]

### **Course Policies & Expectations**

#### Attendance.

Attendance and participation is an important part of being successful in this course. Please contact me prior to any absence preferably via text. Excessive absences may result in a poor grade or possibly being dropped from the course.

#### Late Work.

All late assignments, including those that are pre-arranged, will receive a 5 point deduction for each day it is late.

### **TaskStream Submission**

Every student registered for any Special Education course with a required performance-based assessment is required to submit this assessment, Observation Case Study to TaskStream (regardless of whether a course is an elective, a onetime course or part of an undergraduate minor). Evaluation of the performance-based assessment by the course instructor will also be completed in TaskStream. Failure to submit the assessment to TaskStream will result in the course instructor reporting the course grade as Incomplete(IN). Unless the IN grade is changed upon completion of the required TaskStream submission, the IN will convert to an F nine weeks into the following semester.

If you have never used TaskStream before, you **MUST** use the login and password information that has been created for you. This information is distributed to students through GMU email, so it is very important that you set up your GMU email. For more TaskStream information, go to <http://cehd.gmu.edu/api/taskstream>.

### **Grading Scale**

A	90 – 100
B	80 – 89
C	70 - 79
D	60 – 69
F	< 60

## Assignments

### **Performance-based Assessment (TaskStream submission required).**

#### *Case Study*

A comprehensive case study on a student with mild disabilities will be completed. This case study will include the following components:

- a) student's demographic data
- b) description of school and neighborhood;
- c) educational history (schools attended, reason for referral, pre-referral interventions, results of multidisciplinary evaluation, special education classification, placement);
- d) IEP goals, objectives, classroom accommodations;
- e) observational information (at least two class-period observations specifically related to IEP goals, objectives and accommodations);
- f) teacher interviews (related to IEP goals, objectives, and accommodations, and other accommodations or relevant issues not included on IEP);
- g) your additional recommendations, educational accommodations, and/or modifications;
- h) summary and synthesis (Comparison of student's characteristics with those described in the textbook, i.e., Which characteristics were identified in your student? Integrate at least three sources from the literature with what you observed in your case study); and
- i) appendices such as student work samples, teacher interview questions/answers.

### **Performance-based Common Assignments (No TaskStream submission required).**

#### *Chapter Reflections*

Students are required to do 4 Chapter Reflection papers. Your paper should be double spaced and no more than one page in length. Each reflection should include the following: 1.) Describe the information you learned and/or found interesting. 2.) Paraphrase your understanding of the new and/or interesting information. 3.) How is this new information going to impact your current or future classroom? 4.) What information in the chapter did you not understand or need further explanation?

#### **Other Assignments.**

While in small groups, students will complete 5 in-class assignments.

## Schedule

Date	Reading	Topic	Assignment Due
Jun 30		Introduction Syllabus Blackboard	
July 02	Ch 1	Special Education Laws	
July 04	<b>NO CLASS</b>		
July 07	Ch 2	Overview of Students with Mild Disabilities	Reflection Ch 4 & Ch 5
July 09	Ch 3	Students with Mild Intellectual Disabilities	In class Activity
July 11	Ch 5	Students with Learning Disabilities	
July 14	Ch 4	Students with Emotional Disturbance	Reflection Ch 6
July 16	Ch 6	Learning & Teaching	In class Activity
July 18	Ch 7	The Inclusive Classroom	
July 21	Ch 8	Instructing Students with Mild Disabilities	Reflection Ch 9
July 23	Ch 9	Classroom Management	In class activity
July 25	Ch 10	Teaching Social Skills	
July 28	Readings Provided	Differentiating a Lesson Plan	Reflection Ch 11
July 30	Ch 11	Building Family Partnerships	In class activity
Aug 01	Readings Provided	Writing Effective IEPs	
Aug 04	Case Study Presentations		
Aug 06	Case Study Presentations		
Aug 08	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>		

Schedule is tentative

## Appendix