



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

Fall 2020

EDAT 610 DL1: Designing Adapted Environments

CRN: 76643, 3 – Credits

Instructor: Cindy George	Meeting Dates: 8/24/20 – 12/16/20
Phone: 571-230-7854	Meeting Day(s): Asynchronous
E-Mail: cgeorge4@gmu.edu	Meeting Time(s): Meets synchronous online 9/14 & 12/7 only; 4:30 pm – 7:10 pm
Office Hours: Virtual by appointment	Meeting Location: N/A; Online
Office Location: Krug 105A	Other Phone: N/A

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

Prerequisite(s):

EDAT 510

Co-requisite(s):

EDAT 510

Course Description

Provides an overview of environmental adaptations for individuals with disabilities to increase their access to community, workplace, and school activities. Covers legal issues within the ADA for adapting environments and addresses programmatic and physical access issues. Notes: Field Experience required.

Advising Contact Information

Please make sure that you are being advised on a regular basis as to your status and progress in your program. Students in Special Education and Assistive Technology programs can contact the Special Education Advising Office at 703-993-3670 or speced@gmu.edu for assistance. All other students should refer to their assigned program advisor or the Mason Care Network (703-993-2470).

Advising Tip

Did you know you can order an official transcript through Patriotweb? Logon to Patriotweb. Select Student Services. Select Student Records. Select Order Official Transcript.

Course Instructional Method

EDAT 610 is a combination synchronous and asynchronous course. Using Blackboard, students are expected to complete assignments weekly and be engaged in course activities throughout the semester. In addition, students are expected to connect in real time for synchronous class meetings on the following dates using Blackboard Collaborate.

Course Delivery Method

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

This course will be delivered online (76% or more) using asynchronous format via Blackboard Learning Management system (LMS) housed in the MyMason portal. You will log in to the Blackboard (Bb) course site using your Mason email name (everything before @masonlive.gmu.edu) and email password. The course site will be available on Friday, August 21, 2020.

Under no circumstances, may candidates/students participate in online class sessions (either by phone or Internet) while operating motor vehicles. Further, as expected in a face-to-face class meeting, such online participation requires undivided attention to course content and communication.

Technical Requirements

To participate in this course, students will need to satisfy the following technical requirements:

- High-speed Internet access with standard up-to-date browsers. To get a list of Blackboard's supported browsers see: [Browser support \(https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting_Started/Browser_Support#supported-browsers\)](https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting_Started/Browser_Support#supported-browsers)

To get a list of supported operation systems on different devices see: [Tested devices and operating systems \(https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting_Started/Browser_Support#tested-devices-and-operating-systems\)](https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting_Started/Browser_Support#tested-devices-and-operating-systems)

- Students must maintain consistent and reliable access to their GMU email and Blackboard, as these are the official methods of communication for this course.
- Students will need a headset microphone for use with the Blackboard Collaborate web conferencing tool.
- Students may be asked to create logins and passwords on supplemental websites and/or to download trial software to their computer or tablet as part of course requirements.
- The following software plug-ins for PCs and Macs, respectively, are available for free download:
 - [Adobe Acrobat Reader \(https://get.adobe.com/reader/\)](https://get.adobe.com/reader/)
 - [Windows Media Player \(https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/help/14209/get-windows-media-player\)](https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/help/14209/get-windows-media-player)
 - [Apple Quick Time Player \(www.apple.com/quicktime/download/\)](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/)

Expectations

- **Course Week:**
- Because asynchronous courses do not have a “fixed” meeting day, our week will start on Monday, and finish on Sunday. Our course week will begin on the day that our synchronous meetings take place as indicated on the Schedule of Classes.
- **Log-in Frequency:**
- Students must actively check the course Blackboard site and their GMU email for communications from the instructor, class discussions, and/or access to course materials at least 2 times per week. In addition, students must log-in for all scheduled online synchronous meeting.
- **Participation:**
Students are expected to actively engage in all course activities throughout the semester, which includes viewing all course materials, completing course activities and assignments, and participating in course discussions and group interactions.
- **Technical Competence:**
Students are expected to demonstrate competence in the use of all course technology. Students who are struggling with technical components of the course are expected to seek assistance from the instructor and/or College or University technical services.
- **Technical Issues:**
Students should anticipate some technical difficulties during the semester and should, therefore, budget their time accordingly. Late work will not be accepted based on individual technical issues.
- **Workload:**
Please be aware that this course is not self-paced. Students are expected to meet *specific deadlines* and *due dates* listed in the Class Schedule section of this syllabus. It is the student’s responsibility to keep track of the weekly course schedule of topics, readings, activities and assignments due.
- **Instructor Support:**
Students may schedule a one-on-one meeting to discuss course requirements, content or other course-related issues. Those unable to come to a Mason campus can meet

with the instructor via telephone or web conference. Students should email the instructor to schedule a one-on-one session, including their preferred meeting method and suggested dates/times.

- **Netiquette:**
The course environment is a collaborative space. Experience shows that even an innocent remark typed in the online environment can be misconstrued. Students must always re-read their responses carefully before posting them, so as others do not consider them as personal offenses. *Be positive in your approach with others and diplomatic in selecting your words.* Remember that you are not competing with classmates, but sharing information and learning from others. All faculty are similarly expected to be respectful in all communications.
- **Accommodations:**
Online learners who require effective accommodations to insure accessibility must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services.

Learner Outcomes

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

1. Locate resources for adaptive environments.
2. Discuss the optimal layout design of an accessible workstation.
3. Apply the principals of universal design in assessing environments.
4. Conduct a functional needs assessment of an environment.
5. Design an adaptive environment within a community organization.

Professional Standards

This course is part of the George Mason University, School of Education, Assistive Technology Program. The Assistive Technology Program has developed program specific standards in accordance with NCATE requirements. The Assistive Technology Program Standards incorporate several elements within the professional standards from the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), while also expanding upon them to meet the specific needs related to assistive technology. The primary AT Program standards that will be addressed in this class include the following: Standard 3: Assessment and Planning, Standard 4: Practical Experience, and Standard 5: Professional Practice and Collaboration

*NOTE: NCATE Assessments (in many but not all courses) may address additional AT Program standards.

Required Texts

There is no required text.

Recommended Texts

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). <https://doi.org/10.1037/0000165-000>

Required Resources

The Centre for Excellence in Universal Design (2020). *What is universal design*. Retrieved from National Disability Authority Web Site: <http://universaldesign.ie/What-is-Universal-Design/>

Institute for Human Centered Design (2016). *ADA checklist for readily available barrier removal*. (NIDRR grant number H133A060092-09A). Boston, MA: New England ADA Center. Retrieved from <https://www.adachecklist.org/doc/fullchecklist/ada-checklist.pdf>

U.S. Department of Defense (n.d.). *Workplace ergonomics reference guide 3rd edition: A publication of the computer/electronic accommodations program*. Retrieved from https://www.cap.mil/Documents/Workplace_Ergonomics_Reference_Guide.pdf

U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (2011). *Fair housing: Equal opportunity for all*. Retrieved from https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/FHEO_BOOKLET_ENG.PDF

U.S. Department of Justice (2010). *2010 ADA standards for accessible design*. Retrieved from <https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/2010ADASTandards/2010ADASTandards.htm>

Course Performance Evaluation

Students are expected to submit all assignments on time in the manner outlined by the instructor (e.g., Blackboard, VIA, hard copy).

VIA Performance-Based Assessment Submission Requirement

It is critical for the special education program to collect data on how our students are meeting accreditation standards. Every teacher candidate/student registered for an EDSE course with a required Performance-based Assessment (PBA) is required to upload the PBA to VIA (regardless of whether a course is an elective, a one-time course or part of an undergraduate minor). A PBA is a specific assignment, presentation, or project that best demonstrates one or more CEC, InTASC or other standard connected to the course. A PBA is evaluated in two ways. The first is for a grade, based on the instructor's grading rubric. The second is for program accreditation purposes. Your instructor will provide directions as to how to upload the PBA to VIA.

For EDAT 610, the required PBA is Environmental Adaptation Screening Project. Please check to verify your ability to upload items to VIA before the PBA due date.

Assignments and/or Examinations

Performance-based Assessment (VIA submission required)

Required assignment: *Environmental Adaptation Screening Project (with your direct portions highlighted)*. Please see specific assignment description below.

College Wide Common Assessment (VIA submission required)

N/A

Performance-based Common Assignments (No VIA submission required)

N/A

Other Assignments

Modifying Modules 1 & 2

(10 points each; total 20 points)

Students must access the modifying the environment module and complete posted activities on Blackboard for Modules 1 & 2. Posted activities will include PowerPoint presentations of content, Internet search/research assignments, video exploration and viewing, and case study activities.

Environmental Adaptation Preparation- Notes & Plan

(Notes/Plan each =10 points; total 20 points)

Students will access the Environmental Adaptation Preparation presentation and submit notes taken from its content prior to the Synchronized class session on 9/16/19. During the synchronized session, the class will discuss the Project, prepare a Project Plan, and assigned team participants. Team members must then further develop their section and submit the specific plan as a whole during the synchronous session.

Environmental Functional Needs Review

(25 points)

Students will select an environment and conduct a functional needs assessment. The assessment can be performed in a home, school, community, or workplace environment. Using principles of design, students will identify accessibility issues related specifically to three disability areas of their choice, plan a systematic approach for their resolution, and provide a visual representation of the specific environment. An observation form will be posted on Blackboard that can be modified to fit the environment observed.

Environmental Adaptation Screening Project

(35 points)

VIA Assignment

Students are required to participate as a team member to complete an assistive technology screening for a community organization that services individuals with disabilities. The screening will consist of the following:

a. User Needs within Environment

Student helps the class as a whole develop the goals of the proposed AT screening using information presented by the targeted organization. The class then divides into teams; one team associated with one goal. The student assists their team in the development of specific outcome objectives associated with the assigned goal. The objectives are formulated following interviews with the organization's representatives, other organizational personnel and individuals who have disabilities and/or family members who potentially will benefit from the environmental screening.

b. Identify Assistive Technology Suggestions and Recommendations

Team members are assigned to research specific objectives. The student considers the organization's interests, preferences, and needs to research and match technologies and strategies that may prove beneficial in supporting the screening objective. Attention to technology that spans within the hierarchy of no-tech to high-tech solutions that can also be used within different settings is made. Using Blackboard's Discussion Board, the student communicates weekly with other team members to plan, research and share technology selections and rationale. A mid-semester meeting with the instructor will review student's team progress and individual student's preparedness.

c. Environmental Screening Report Writing

The environmental screening report will include the following sections:

- Community Organization Information
- Desired Goals & Objectives
- Interviews
- Observations
- Suggestions/Recommendations

The student collaborates with other team members to professionally write either the Interview or the Observation section of the final report for their team. The student individually produces their Suggestion/Recommendation section for the objective to which they are assigned. These recommendations include: a rationale for selection, description, a photo and vendor info (if applicable), and pros/cons in terms of acquisition and implementation.

- The written report will be submitted to instructor as a draft and reworked prior to its submission to the community organization.
(*Draft due 11/22/20; Final due 12/13/20*)
- An oral presentation of the report will be expected of each section of the report by team members. This presentation should be supported by PowerPoint and be presented during the final synchronous class meeting (12/7/20 at 4:30 – 7:00 PM).

VIA & Final Survey due 12/14/20

Course Policies and Expectations

Attendance/Participation

Students are expected to actively engage in all course activities throughout the semester, which include viewing of all course materials, completing course activities and assignments, and participating in course discussions and group interactions.

Please note that while only certain learning elements are assessed through “grades”, the instructor can still assess student involvement and engagement using other measures. Blackboard enables the instructor to view such data as login dates, duration

of time spent online, access to specific content elements, and more. The instructor will use this data along with course grades to ensure that students are actively engaged in the course.

Late Work

Work will not be accepted if work is submitted a week past the due date. All work submitted late will automatically receive ½ credit unless arrangements are made in advance with the instructor.

Grading Scale

Evaluation will be based upon the point value for each assignment is as follows:

Modifying the Environment Module	10
Modifying the Home Environment Module	10
Preparation Notes & Plan.....	20
Environmental Functional Needs Review	25
Environmental Adaptation Screening Project.....	35
TOTAL POINTS.....	100

The following grading scale will be used at the Graduate level:

- A+ = >100%
- A = 95-100%
- A- = 90-94%
- B+ = 87-89%
- B = 83-86%
- B- = 80-82%
- C = 70-79%
- F = < 70%

***Note:** The George Mason University Honor Code will be strictly enforced. See [Academic Integrity Site](https://oai.gmu.edu/) (<https://oai.gmu.edu/>) and [Honor Code and System](https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/) (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/>). Students are responsible for reading and understanding the Code. “To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the university community, have set forth this honor code: Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.” Work submitted must be your own new, original work for this course or with proper citations.

Professional Dispositions

Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times. See [Policies and Procedures](https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/policies-procedures/) (<https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/policies-procedures/>).

Class Schedule

*Note: Faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule as necessary, with notification to students.

SESSION	TOPIC	READINGS	ASSIGNMENT
Module 1 8/24–8/30	<p>Introduction to Environmental Adaptation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ergonomics • ADA • Universal Design 	<p>Workplace Ergonomics Reference Guide</p> <p>Simple Guide to the ADA Standards for Accessible Design</p> <p>ADA checklist for readily available barrier removal</p> <p>The Principles of Universal Design</p>	<p><u>Module 1</u> Modifying the Environment</p>
Module 2 8/31–9/6	<p>Home Modification.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Around the Home • Fair Housing 	<p>An Accessible and Universal Home</p> <p>Fair Housing: Equal Opportunity</p>	<p><u>Module 2</u> Modifying the Home Environment</p>
Module 3 9/7–9/20	<p>Assignment Work Week.</p> <p><i>Environmental Functional Needs Review</i></p> <p>and</p> <p><i>Environmental Assessment Preparation Notes</i></p>	<p>No reading assignments</p>	<p>Environmental Functional Needs Review Due 9/13</p> <hr/> <p>Environmental Assessment Preparation Notes Due 9/20</p>

SESSION	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT
Module 4 9/21–9/27	Environmental Assessment Introduction & Group Planning	<p>Synchronous Class Meeting: 9/14/20; 4:30 – 6:00 PM</p> <p>Follow-up Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project goal and objectives • General assessment timeline • Team Assignments <p><u>Assignment:</u> Environmental Adaptation: Introductions & Group Plan</p>
Module 5 9/28–10/18	Environmental Needs & Objectives Research	<p><u>Work Weeks:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team communication • Assessment Interview (questions & summary) • Environmental Observation notes • Research to identify assistive technology suggestions and recommendations <p><u>Assignment:</u> DRAFT listing: Potential Thoughts on Assistive Technologies</p>
Module 6 10/19-10/25	Mid-Semester Meeting	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Instructor Conference</u></p>
Module 7 10/26-11/8	Assistive Technology Research, Feature/User Matching & Recommendations	<p><u>Work Weeks:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team communication • Interview/Observation write-up • Finalize AT device/service suggestions and recommendations/ • AT device category rationale Specific device descriptions & Pros/Cons

SESSION	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT
Module 8 11/9-11/22	Report Assembly	<p><u>Assignment:</u> Environmental Adaptation Screening: Environmental Screening Report Writing</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>DRAFT</u> Due 11/22/20</p>
Module 9 11/23–12/6	Presentation Development	<p><u>Assignment:</u> Summary of report developed as PowerPoint presentation</p>
Module 10 12/7–12/14	Environmental Adaptation Assessment Report & Presentation	<p><u>Assignments:</u></p> <p>Online Synchronous Session Monday, 12/7/20 4:30 – 7:00 PM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Oral PowerPoint Presentations 2(Due during final synchronous session)</p> <p>Environmental Adaptation Screening: Final Environmental Screening Report Due 12/13/20</p> <p>VIA Submission and Final Survey Due 12/14/20</p>

Core Values Commitment

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

GMU Policies and Resources for Students

Policies

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the Mason Honor Code. See [Honor Code and](#)

[System](https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/) (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/>).

- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing. See [Responsible Use of Computing](http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/) (<http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>).
- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their Mason 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 with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services. Approved accommodations will begin at the time the written letter from Disability Services is received by the instructor. See [Disability Services](https://ds.gmu.edu/) (<https://ds.gmu.edu/>).
- Students must silence all sound emitting devices during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

Campus Resources

- Support for submission of assignments to VIA should be directed to [VIA Help support@watermarkinsights.com](mailto:VIA_Help_support@watermarkinsights.com). Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to [Blackboard Instructional Technology Support for Students](https://its.gmu.edu/knowledge-base/blackboard-instructional-technology-support-for-students/) (<https://its.gmu.edu/knowledge-base/blackboard-instructional-technology-support-for-students/>).

Notice of mandatory reporting of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking:

- As a faculty member, I am designated as a “Responsible Employee,” and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason’s Title IX Coordinator per University Policy 1202. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason’s confidential resources, such as Student Support and Advocacy Center (SSAC) at 703-380-1434 or Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at 703-993-2380. You may also seek assistance from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator by calling 703-993-8730, or emailing the [Title IX Coordinator](mailto:titleix@gmu.edu) (titleix@gmu.edu).
- **For information on student support resources on campus, see [Student Support Resources on Campus](https://ctfe.gmu.edu/teaching/student-support-resources-on-campus/) (<https://ctfe.gmu.edu/teaching/student-support-resources-on-campus/>).**
- For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, please visit our website [College of Education and Human Development](http://cehd.gmu.edu/) (<http://cehd.gmu.edu/>).

Appendix
Assessment Rubric(s)

	Assessment Criteria	Does Not Meet Expectations	Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations
Environment Needs Analysis <i>AT Program Standards 3.4</i>	<i>Indicator 3.4:</i> Candidates understand the use of multiple types of assessment information.	Candidate fails to use multiple types of assessment information to provide evidence of assistive technology needs.	Candidate uses multiple types of assessment information to provide evidence of assistive technology needs.	Candidate uses multiple types of assessment information within the client’s natural environment to provide evidence of assistive technology needs.
Environment Needs Analysis <i>AT Program Standards 4.3</i>	<i>Indicator 4.3:</i> Candidates develop and customize individualized technology-based solutions to address exceptional needs.	Candidate fails to apply knowledge and skills to assess specific environment needs for planning the screening of assistive technology tools and strategies that may be potentially meaningful and useful to individuals with exceptional needs, their families, and/or their community of support.	Candidate applies knowledge and skills to assess specific environment needs for planning the screening of assistive technology tools and strategies that may be potentially meaningful and useful to individuals with exceptional needs, their families, and/or their community of support.	Candidate applies knowledge and skills to assess specific environment needs for planning the screening of a range of assistive technology tools and strategies within multiple environments that are meaningful and useful to individuals with exceptional needs as well as their families and community of support.

	Assessment Criteria	Does Not Meet Expectations	Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations
Environment Needs Analysis <i>AT Program Standards 3.2</i>	<i>Indicator 3.2:</i> Candidates identify and match appropriate technology based on individual and environmental needs while also considering personal interests, preferences, values and cultural influences.	Candidate fails to identify and match appropriate assistive technology based on an individual's interests, preferences, values, and cultural influences.	Candidates identifies and matches appropriate assistive technology based on an individual's interests, preferences, values, and cultural influences.	Candidates identifies and matches appropriate assistive technology based on an individual's interests, preferences, values, and cultural influences across environments, settings, and life span.
Environment Needs Analysis <i>AT Program Standard 3.6</i>	<i>Indicator 3.6:</i> Candidates use results of assessments in selecting assistive technology tools and strategies for individual with exceptional needs across environment and settings.	Candidate fails to use results of needs assessments to support goals and write objectives for screening an environment for appropriate technologies for individuals with exceptional needs.	Candidate uses results of assessments to support goals and write objectives for screening an environment for appropriate technology for individuals with exceptional needs.	Candidate uses results of assessments to support goals and write objectives appropriate technology for individuals with exceptional needs across environments, settings, and life span.

	Assessment Criteria	Does Not Meet Expectations	Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations
AT Recommendations <i>AT Program Standard 2.4</i>	<i>Indicator 2.4:</i> In conjunction, candidates possess a repertoire of evidences-based strategies to develop personalized supports for individuals with exceptional needs across environments, settings, and the life span.	Candidate fails to use results of assessments to identify and match assistive technology tools developed to support individuals with exceptional needs within a specific environment.	Candidate uses results of assessments to identify and match assistive technology tools appropriate for supporting individuals with exceptional needs within a specific environment.	Candidate uses results of assessments to identify and match assistive technology tools and implementation strategies appropriate for supporting individuals with exceptional needs across environments, settings, and the life span within a specific environment.