

George Mason University
College of Education and Human Development
Early Childhood Education

ECED 781.DL1 Seminar in Early Childhood Education
3 Credits, Spring 2021
01/25/2021 – 05/10/2021, Thursdays, 4:30pm-7:10pm
Online Synchronous

Faculty

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Required Prerequisites

ECED 788 or 789
May be taken concurrently.

University Catalog Course Description

Provides opportunities to evaluate and reflect upon instructional practices and interactions with culturally, linguistically, socioeconomically, and ability diverse young children, their families, and other professionals. Examines evidence-based practices used in early childhood settings to manage the environment, guide behavior, and provide instruction that responds to each child's strengths, needs, and interests. Emphasizes professionalism and foundations of early education and care.

Course Delivery Method

This course will be delivered online using a synchronous seminar format using Blackboard Learning Management system (LMS) housed in MyMason portal. You will log in to the Blackboard (Bb) course site using your Mason email (everything before @masonlive.gmu.edu) and email password. The course site will be available on January 25, 2021.

Learner Outcomes or Objectives

This course is designed to enable students to do the following:

1. Describe the legal status of teachers and students, including federal and state laws and regulations; school as an organization/culture; contemporary issues and current trends in education, including technology in education; local, state, and federal governance of schools, including the roles of teachers and schools in communities; and *Virginia's Guidelines for Uniform Performance Standards and Evaluation Criteria for Teachers*.
2. Discuss and reflect on examples from student teaching of various school crisis management and safety plans and identify ways they have worked to create a safe, orderly, inclusive classroom environment that engages individual children, including children with diverse abilities, in meaningful learning activities and social interactions.

3. Examine and discuss examples from student teaching of research-based classroom and behavior management techniques, classroom community building, positive behavior supports, and individual interventions, including techniques that promote emotional well-being and teach and maintain behavioral conduct and skills consistent with norms, standards, and rules of the educational environment.
4. Examine and discuss examples from student teaching of diverse, age-appropriate classroom and behavior management approaches based on culturally responsive behavioral, cognitive, affective, social, and ecological theory and practice that support professionally appropriate practices that promote positive redirection of behavior, development of social skills, and development of self-discipline.
5. Identify and reflect on strategies used during student teaching that demonstrate effective classroom management skills through methods that build responsibility and self-discipline, promote self-regulation, and maintain a positive learning environment.
6. Identify, examine, and discuss examples of modifying and managing the learning environments and experiences during student teaching to meet the individual needs of children, including children with disabilities, gifted children, children who are English learners, and children with diverse cultural backgrounds.
7. Identify, examine, and discuss a variety of age-appropriate techniques used during student teaching, informed by learning principles and knowledge of child development, that teach social and emotional skills to individual children and groups of children to assist with behavior management.
8. Provide examples from student teaching of the ways data were collected, analyzed, and used to inform instruction and guide children's behavior.
9. Discuss and reflect on evidence-based instructional practices implemented during student teaching that promoted positive learning outcomes for young children.
10. Discuss and reflect on ways they differentiated instruction in their student teaching experience to respond to the individual strengths, needs, and interests of young children.
11. Reflect critically on their practice and collaborations and discuss ways they engage in continuous learning.
12. Explain and reflect on how historical, philosophical, and sociological foundations underlying the role, development, and organization of public education in the United States influence current teaching practices and environments and discuss and reflect on ways to navigate school environments.
13. Exhibit and reflect on standards of professionalism, ethical standards, and personal integrity with children, families, and professionals in the field and in interactions with classmates, the instructor, the field experience coordinator, and others.
14. Use writing as an instructional and assessment tool to generate, gather, plan, organize, and to communicate for a variety of purposes; integrate correct written conventions (i.e., grammar, usage, mechanics, and spelling); and format using current APA style.

Professional Standards – Virginia Professional Studies Competencies, Virginia Early Childhood Special Education Endorsement Competencies, Virginia Early/Primary Education PreK-3 EPK3 Endorsement Competencies, Interstate Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (InTASC) Standards, Division of Early Childhood (DEC) Professional Preparation Standards, and National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Professional Standards and Competencies

Upon completion of this course, students will have met the following professional standards:

Virginia Professional Studies Requirements

Classroom and Behavior Management
Foundations of Education and the Teaching Profession

Virginia Early Childhood Special Education Endorsement Competencies

Behavior Management
Standards of Professionalism

Virginia Early/Primary Education PreK-3 Endorsement Competencies

Methods

Required Texts

- American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). Washington, DC: Author. ISBN: 978143383216-1
- Fields, M., Merritt, P., & Fields, D. (2018). *Constructive guidance and discipline: Birth to age eight* (7th ed.). Boston: Pearson. ISBN: 9780134547916
- Tyminski, C. (2014). *Your early childhood practicum and student teaching experience: Guidelines for success* (3rd ed.). Boston, MA: Pearson. ISBN: 9780132869959

Required Online Documents

- Council for Exceptional Children. (2015). *What every special educator must know: Professional ethical and standards*. Arlington, VA: Author. Retrieved from <https://www.cec.sped.org/Standards/Ethical-Principles-and-Practice-Standards>
- Council for Exceptional Children Division for Early Childhood (2020). Initial practice-based professional preparation standards for early interventionists/early childhood special educators (EI/ECSE) (initial birth through age 8). Retrieved from https://d4ab05f7-6074-4ec9-998a-232c5d918236.filesusr.com/ugd/95f212_6e8952cda15f48b3935a7729dddc50d.pdf
- National Education Association for the Education of Young Children. (2020). Professional standards and competencies for early childhood educators. Retrieved from https://www.naeyc.org/sites/default/files/globally-shared/downloads/PDFs/resources/position-statements/professional_standards_and_competencies_for_early_childhood_educators.pdf
- National Association for the Education of Young Children. (2019). *NAEYC position statement: Advancing equity in early childhood education*. Retrieved from <https://www.naeyc.org/sites/default/files/globally-shared/downloads/PDFs/resources/position-statements/naeycadvancingequitypositionstatement.pdf>
- Virginia Department of Education. (2012). Virginia's guidelines for uniform performance standards and evaluation criteria for teachers. Retrieved from http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/regulations/2011_guidelines_uniform_performance_standards_evaluation_criteria.pdf

Virginia Department of Education. (2016-17). Virginia tiered systems of support frequently asked questions: What is VTTS? What are the big implementation ideas? What is pre-mapping? Retrieved from <https://vtss-ric.org/all-educators/>

Course Performance Evaluation

Students are expected to submit all assignments on time in the manner outlined by the instructor (e.g., Blackboard, Tk20, hard copy).

Assignments	Due Date	Points
Attendance and Participation	Ongoing	25
Classroom Management and Guidance Analyses	<i>Ongoing and based on readings</i>	25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video Analysis 1 • Video Analysis 2 • Video Analysis 3 • Examination of Practice Reflections 	February 4 March 4 March 25 Ongoing	5 5 5 10
Instructional Reflections	Submit to Bb before class:	25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classroom Video 1 • Assessment Data • Lesson Plan and Video Clip 1 • Classroom Video 2 • Lesson Plan and Video Clip 2 	February 4 March 4 March 11 April 15 April 29	1 3 10 1 10
Professional Resume	Draft – March 25 Final – April 22	5
Strength-Based Instruction and Guidance Talking Points Brief	Draft – April 1 Final – May 6	20
TOTAL		100

- **Assignments and/or Examinations**

Classroom Management and Guidance Analyses (25 points)

This assignment is designed to assist students to explore and develop their own guidance and management practices. Students will (a) complete weekly readings and reflections related to classroom management and guidance philosophies, (b) engage in video analysis reflective experiences, and (c) engage in a Socratic seminar to analyze and discuss a particular guidance situation. A Classroom Management and Guidance Analyses guide will be available on Blackboard. Students are expected to follow the schedule and complete assignments according to the schedule.

Instructional Reflections (25 points)

Students will identify select artifacts from their internship to upload to Blackboard or *Edthena* to be used during seminar discussions. Artifacts include the following:

Introducing Classroom

Students will upload two videos to *Blackboard* introducing their classroom at two points during the semester (see class schedule). They will narrate the video as they video record the various areas of the classroom. If the videos are of two different settings, they will introduce themselves, state the type of classroom and age/grade level of the children, and explain how the environment is set up. If the second video is of the same setting, they will introduce themselves, state the type of classroom and age/grade level of the children, and explain any changes they have made to the environment in response to what they have learned about the children.

Assessment Data

Students will upload to Blackboard and discuss during seminar children's data collected during internship. They will use pseudonyms and ensure no identifiers are on the data. They will be prepared to discuss (a) how and why they collected the data; (b) what they considered before during, and after data collection; (c) how they analyzed and interpreted the data; and (d) how the data informed instruction.

Two Lesson Plans with Videos (20 points, 10 points for each lesson plan with video)

Students will upload to Blackboard and discuss during seminar two lesson plans implemented during internship, one in the first 8 weeks and one in the second 8 weeks of the internship. They will be prepared to discuss (a) how assessment informed their development of the lesson plan; (b) what they considered before, during, and after implementing the lesson plan; (c) how they differentiated instruction to respond to individual children's strengths, needs, and interests; (d) how they addressed equity; (e) their reflections on the lesson; and (f) how the outcomes of this lesson informed their future lessons.

Students will select a teaching video clip from the implementation of each of the two lesson plans and upload to *Blackboard* for discussion. They will reflect with peers.

Professional Resume (5 points)

Students will prepare a resume relevant to the positions they plan to seek. They will participate in feedback sessions, use feedback to revise their resume, and submit a final draft of their resume to Blackboard.

Strength-Based Instruction and Guidance Talking Points Brief (20 points)

Students will prepare a two-page, single-spaced, strength-based instruction and guidance talking points brief. This brief is designed to help students organize their talking points for interviews, conversations with families, and collaborating with colleagues and other professionals. The brief will include the following:

- An introduction that provides an overview of their beliefs about strength-based instruction and guidance

- Nine to 12 strengths-based instruction and guidance talking points with a paragraph or bulleted points elaborating on each point
- In-text citations and a reference list written in APA style to support the introduction and talking points

- **Other Requirements**

Attendance and Participation (25 points)

Because active participation and engagement are imperative for optimal learning, preparation for and participation in in-class and online activities will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Students attend class, arrive on time, and stay for the entire class period.
- Students use laptops and personal devices are to be used for instructional purposes only.
- Students complete readings and prepare for class activities prior to class as evidenced by their ability to discuss and write about the concepts presented and examined in the texts as well as participate fully in related activities.
- Students are actively involved in in-class and online learning experiences as evidenced by (a) participating in all activities, (b) engaging in small- and large-group discussions, (c) completing written work related to the activities, and (d) supporting the participation and learning of classmates.
- Students show evidence of critical reflective thinking through in-class and online discussions, activities, and written reflections.
- Students display professional dispositions at all times while interacting with the instructor and other students.
- Students complete participation activities across the semester that complement the scheduled course topic. Instructors will periodically collect artifacts from the activities. Students in attendance and who actively engage in the learning experience will receive credit for their efforts. Graded participation activities are not announced and are implemented at the discretion of the instructor.
- Students submit attendance and participation self-evaluation.

Written Assignments

All formal written assignments will be evaluated for content and presentation. The American Psychological Association, Seventh Edition (APA) style will be followed for all written work. All written work unless otherwise noted must be completed on a word processor and should be proofread carefully. (Use spell check!) If students are not confident of their own ability to catch errors, they should have another person proofread their work. When in doubt, they should check the APA manual. Portions of the APA manual appear at the Style Manuals link on the Mason library website at <http://infoguides.gmu.edu/content.php?pid=39979>. Students may consult the Writing Center for additional writing support.

Students will do the following:

1. Present ideas in a clear, concise, and organized manner. (Avoid wordiness and redundancy.)
2. Develop points coherently, definitively, and thoroughly.

3. Refer to appropriate authorities, studies, and examples to document where appropriate. (Avoid meaningless generalizations, unwarranted assumptions, and unsupported opinions.)
4. Use correct capitalization, punctuation, spelling, and grammar.
5. Type the paper with double spacing, indented paragraphs, 1-inch margins all around, and 12-point Times New Roman font.

- **Grading**

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

Incomplete (IN): This grade may be given to students who are passing a course but who may be unable to complete scheduled coursework for a cause beyond reasonable control.

All CEHD graduate students are held to the university grading policies as described in the Academic Policies section of the current catalog, which can be accessed at <http://catalog.gmu.edu>. Those students seeking Virginia initial teaching licensure must earn a B- or better in all graduate licensure coursework.

Professional Dispositions

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

Class Schedule

Date	Topics	Readings and Assignments Due
Week 1 January 28th Synchronous- First day of class on Bb collaborate 5:00-630pm	Engaging in Critical Reflection on Teaching, Professional Collaborations, and Opportunities for Continuous Learning Establishing Professional Relationships Professionalism, Ethical Standards, and Personal Integrity	CEC Code of Ethics NAEYC Position Statement: Advancing Equity in Early Childhood Education, Pages 1-9 Tyminski, Chapters 1, 2, and 3
Week 2 February 4 Synchronous Bb Collaborate 5:00-6:30pm	Legal Status of Teachers and Students Crisis Management and Safety Plans Considering Guidance and Discipline of Diverse Young Children in the Classroom Virginia Tiered Systems of Supports	Fields et al., Chapter 1 Tyminski, Chapter 4 Due to Bb by 2/4 – Introducing Classroom Video 1 Due to Bb by 2/4 – Video Analysis #1 based on Fields et al., Chapter 1

		<p>Bring electronic or paper copies of the following to the seminar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>CEC Initial Preparation Standards & ECSE Specialty Set</i> • <i>NAEYC Initial Preparation Standards</i> • <i>Virginia's Guidelines for Uniform Performance Standards and Evaluation Criteria for Teachers</i> • <i>Student Teaching Evaluation Materials</i>
<p>Week 3 February 11 Asynchronous</p>	<p>Effect of Physical, Emotional, Social, and Intellectual Development on the Behavior and Discipline of Diverse Young Children</p> <p>Preparing for and Learning from Student Teaching Observations and Evaluations</p> <p>Virginia's Guidelines for Uniform Performance Standards and Evaluation Criteria for Teachers</p>	<p>Fields et al., Chapters 2, 3</p> <p>Tyminski, Chapters 5, 6</p>
<p>Week 4 February 18 Synchronous Internship Seminar 5:00-6:30pm</p>	<p>Classroom Management: Environment, Routines, and Discipline Programs in Inclusive Classrooms</p> <p>Interpreting and Using Assessment of Diverse Young Children to Inform Practice</p>	<p>Fields et al., Chapter 4, 5</p> <p>Tyminski, Chapter 7</p>
<p>Week 5 February 25 Asynchronous</p>	<p>Teaching Desirable Behavior Through Example</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building inclusive classroom community • Promoting well-being <p>Implementing Evidence-Based Instructional Practices</p>	<p>Fields et al., Chapter 6</p> <p>Tyminski, Chapter 8</p>
<p>Week 6 March 4 Synchronous</p>	<p>Communication Strategies for Effective Discipline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redirecting behavior 	<p>Fields et al., Chapter 7</p> <p>Tyminski, Chapter 9</p>

<p>Internship Seminar 5:00-6:30pm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive behavior supports <p>Collaborating with Diverse Families and Communities</p>	<p>Due to Bb by 3/4 – Video Analysis #2</p> <p>Due to Bb by 3/4 – Assessment data assignment</p>
<p>Week 7 March 11 Asynchronous</p>	<p>Helping Children Understand and Accept Limits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual interventions <p>Preparing for a Professional Career in Early Childhood Education – Reference Letters</p>	<p>Fields et al., Chapter 8</p> <p>Due to Bb by 3/11 – Lesson plan and video clip #1</p>
<p>Week 8 March 18 Asynchronous</p>	<p>Preparing for a Professional Career in Early Childhood Education – Effective Teaching Resumes</p>	<p>Fields et al., Chapter 9</p>
<p>Week 9 March 25 Synchronous Internship Seminar 5:00-6:30pm</p>	<p>Beyond Behaviorism</p> <p>Preparing for a Professional Career in Early Childhood Education –Resume Feedback</p>	<p>Due to Bb by 3/25 – Video Analysis #3</p> <p>Due to Bb by 3/25 – Draft of Professional Resume</p>
<p>Week 10 April 1 Asynchronous</p>	<p>Punishment Versus Discipline</p> <p>Preparing for a Professional Career in Early Childhood Education – Applying for Positions</p>	<p>Fields et al., Chapter 10</p> <p>Due to Bb by 4/1 – Draft of Strengths-based guidance assignment</p>
<p>Week 11 April 8 Synchronous Bb Collaborate 5:00-6:30pm</p>	<p>Childlike Behaviors and Unmet Needs</p> <p>Preparing for a Professional Career in Early Childhood Education – Interviewing for Positions</p>	<p>Fields et al., Chapter 11, 12</p>
<p>Week 12 April 15 Asynchronous</p>	<p>Meeting the Diverse Needs of Young Children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culturally responsive approaches • Addressing children’s stress and vulnerabilities 	<p>Fields et al., Chapters 13, 14</p> <p>Due to Bb by 4/15 – Classroom video #2</p>

	Preparing for a Professional Career in Early Childhood Education – Articulating a Code of Practice	
Week 13 April 22 Synchronous Internship Seminar 5:00-6:30pm	Analyzing Discipline Challenges Preparing for a Career in Early Childhood Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding how historical, philosophical, and sociological foundations underlying the role, development, and organization of public education in the United States influence current teaching practices and environments • Navigating school environments 	Fields et al., Chapter 15 Due to Bb by 4/22 – Final draft - Professional Teaching Resume
Week 14 April 29 Asynchronous	Reflecting on the Internship Experiences Reflecting on the Behavior Management Personal Code of Practice	Due to Bb by 4/29 – Lesson plan and video clip #2
Week 15 May 6 Synchronous Bb Collaborate 5:00-6:30pm	Finals/ Wrap-up	Due to Bb by 5/6 - Final – Strengths-Based Instruction and Guidance Talking Points Brief Due to Bb by 5/6 – Attendance and participation self-evaluation

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

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: <http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/>.

GMU Policies and Resources for Students

Policies

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the Mason Honor Code (see <https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/>).
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing (see <https://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 <http://ds.gmu.edu/>).
- Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be silenced during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

Campus Resources

- Support for submission of assignments to Tk20 should be directed to tk20help@gmu.edu or <https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/tk20>. Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to <https://its.gmu.edu/knowledge-base/blackboard-instructional-technology-support-for-students/>.
- For information on student support resources on campus, see <https://ctfe.gmu.edu/teaching/student-support-resources-on-campus>.

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 titleix@gmu.edu.

For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, please visit our website: <http://cehd.gmu.edu>.

Strengths-Based Instruction and Guidance Talking Points Brief Evaluation Guide

- /2 Prepared a two-page, single-spaced, strength-based instruction and guidance talking points brief designed to help students organize their talking points for interviews, conversations with families, and collaborating with colleagues and other professionals.
- Focused on strength-based instruction and guidance
 - Addressed the intended purpose and audience
 - Wrote two single-spaced pages
- /6 Provided an introduction to the strengths-based instruction and guidance talking points brief.
- Used strengths-based language
 - Provided an evidence-based introduction to the instruction and guidance talking points
- /12 Provided nine to 12 strengths-based instruction and guidance talking points with a paragraph or bulleted points elaborating on each talking point.
- Stated talking points using strengths-based language
 - Included talking points meaningful and relevant to working in early childhood education settings
 - Provided evidence-based support for each talking point
- /5 Wrote the talking points in a clear, concise, and cohesive manner using correct spelling and mechanics.
- Presented ideas in a clear, concise, and organized manner
 - Developed talking points coherently, definitively, and thoroughly
 - Cited appropriate authorities, studies, and examples are cited where appropriate
 - Used correct capitalization, punctuation, spelling, and grammar
 - Followed APA style in the text and in the reference list
- /25