

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

Fall 2021 EDAT 610 DL1: Designing Adapted Environments CRN: 75464, 3 – Credits

Instructor: Cindy George	Meeting Dates: 8/23/2021 – 12/15/2021
Phone: 571-230-7854	Meeting Day(s): Meets synchronously online
	from 4:30 pm – 7:10 pm on Monday 9/12 &
	12/6 ONLY
E-Mail: cgeorge4@gmu.edu	Meeting Time(s): see above
Office Hours: by appointment only	Meeting Location: N/A; Online
Office Location: Krug Hall; 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; B- or EDAT 510; XS

Co-requisite(s):

None

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 20, 2021.

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: <u>Browser support</u> (<u>https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting_Started/Browser_Support#support</u> <u>rted-browsers</u>)

To get a list of supported operation systems on different devices see: <u>Tested devices</u> <u>and operating systems</u> (<u>https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting_Started/Browser_Support#tested</u> -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 web conferencing tools.
- 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:
 - o <u>Adobe Acrobat Reader (https://get.adobe.com/reader/)</u>
 - <u>Windows Media Player (https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/help/14209/get-windows-media-player)</u>
 - <u>Apple Quick Time Player (www.apple.com/quicktime/download/)</u>

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 meetings.

• 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 ensure 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.

Optional Text

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

Required Resources

- The Centre for Excellence in Universal Design (2020). *What is universal design*. Retrieved from National Disability Authority Web Site: <u>http://universaldesign.ie/What-is-Universal-Design/</u>
- 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 <u>https://www.adachecklist.org/doc/fullchecklist/ada-checklist.pdf</u>
- U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (2011). *Fair housing: Equal opportunity for all*. Retrieved from <u>https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/FHEO_BOOKLET_ENG.PDF</u>
- 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 EDAT 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, In TASC 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

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 9/13. 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 a 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 (VIA Assignment)

(35 points)

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 11/21; Final due 12/13*)
- 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 (due 12/6 before 4:00 EST) and presented during the final synchronous class meeting (12/6 at 4:30 7:00 PM).

VIA & Final Survey due 12/15

Modifying the Environment Module		10 points
Modifying the Home Environment Module		10 points
Preparation Notes & Plan		20 points
Environmental Functional Needs Review		25 points
Environmental Adaptation Screening Project		35 points
	Total Points:	100 points

Assignment Summary

Course Policies and Expectations

Attendance/Participation

Students are expected to actively engage in <u>all</u> 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 the grade section, 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 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

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

*Note: The George Mason University Honor Code will be strictly enforced. See <u>Academic</u> Integrity Site (https://oai.gmu.edu/) and <u>Honor Code and System</u>

(<u>https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/</u>). 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 <u>Policies</u> and <u>Procedures (https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/polices-procedures/)</u>.

Class Schedule

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

SESSION	TOPIC	READINGS	ASSIGNMENT
Module 1 8/23–8/29	Introduction to Environmental Adaptation. • Ergonomics • ADA • Universal Design	Workplace Ergonomics Reference GuideSimple Guide to the ADA Standards for Accessible DesignADA checklist for readily available barrier removal The Principles of Universal Design	<u>Module 1</u> Modifying the Environment
Module 2 8/30–9/5	Home Modification. • Around the Home • Fair Housing	<u>An Accessible and Universal</u> <u>Home</u> <u>Fair Housing: Equal</u> <u>Opportunity</u>	<u>Module 2</u> Modifying the Home Environment
Module 3 9/6–9/12	Assignment Work Week Environmental Functional Needs Review & Preparation Notes for Synchronized Meeting	No reading assignments	Environmental Functional Needs Review Due 9/12 Environmental Assessment Preparation Notes Due 9/13 by 4:00 EST

SESSION	ΤΟΡΙϹ	ASSIGNMENT
Module 4 9/13–9/19	Environmental Assessment Introduction & Group Planning	Synchronous Class Meeting: 9/13/21; 4:30 – 6:00 PM Assignment: Follow-up Activities • Project goal and objectives • General assessment timeline • Team Assignments Assignment: Environmental Adaptation: Introductions & Group Plan Due 9/19
Module 5 9/27–10/17	Environmental Needs & Objectives Research	 Work Weeks: Team communication Assessment Interview (questions & summary) Environmental Observation notes Research to identify assistive technology suggestions and recommendations Assignment: DRAFT listing: Potential Thoughts on Assistive Technologies
Module 6 10/18-10/24	Group Mid-Semester Meeting	Instructor Conference
Module 7 10/25-11/7	Assistive Technology Research, Feature/User Matching & Recommendations	 Work Weeks: 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 11/8-11/21	Draft Report Assembly	Assignment: Environmental Adaptation Screening: Environmental Screening Report Writing <u>DRAFT</u> Due 11/21	
Module 9 11/22–12/5	Presentation Development	Assignment: Summary of report developed as PowerPoint presentation	
Module 10 12/6–12/15	Environmental Adaptation Assessment Report & Presentation	Assignments: Online Synchronous Session Monday, 12/6 4:30 – 7:00 PM PowerPoint Presentation (Due 12/6 before 4:00 EST) Environmental Adaptation Screening: Final Environmental Screening Report Due 12/13 VIA Submission and Final Survey Due 12/15	

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 <u>Core Values</u> (<u>http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/)</u>.

GMU Policies and Resources for Students

Policies

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the Mason Honor Code.See <u>Honor Code and</u> <u>System (https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/)</u>.
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing. See <u>Responsible Use of Computing (http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/</u>).
- 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 <u>Disability Services (https://ds.gmu.edu/</u>).
- Students must silence all sound emitting devices during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

Campus Resources

- Support for submission of assignments to either Tk20 or VIA should be directed to https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/assessments/
- Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to <u>Blackboard</u> <u>Instructional Technology Support for Students (https://its.gmu.edu/knowledgebase/blackboard-instructional-technology-support-for-students/)</u>.

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

- As a faculty member, I am designated as a "non-confidential 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 <u>Title IX Coordinator</u> (titleix@gmu.edu).
- For information on student support resources on campus, see <u>Student Support</u> <u>Resources on Campus</u> (<u>https://ctfe.gmu.edu/teaching/student-support-resources-on-campus</u>).
- For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, please visit our website <u>College of Education and Human Development (http://cehd.gmu.edu/)</u>.

Appendix

Assessment R	ubric(s)
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Assessment Rubric(s)					
	Assessment	Does Not Meet	Meets	Exceeds	
	Criteria	Expectations	Expectations	Expectations	
Environment Needs Analysis AT Program Standards 3.4	<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 AT Program Standards 4.3	<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	Does Not Meet	Meets	Exceeds
	Criteria	Expectations	Expectations	Expectations
Environment Needs Analysis AT Program Standards 3.2	<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 AT Program Standard 3.6	<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	Does Not Meet	Meets	Exceeds
	Criteria	Expectations	Expectations	Expectations
AT				
Recommendations	Indicator 2.4:			
	In conjunction,	Candidate fails	Candidate uses	Candidate uses
AT Program	candidates	to use results of	results of	results of
Standard 2.4	possess a	assessments to	assessments to	assessments to
	repertoire of	identify and	identify and	identify and
	evidences-	match assistive	match assistive	match assistive
	based strategies	technology tools	technology tools	technology tools
	to develop	developed to	appropriate for	and
	personalized	support	supporting	implementation
	supports for	individuals with	individuals with	strategies
	individuals with	exceptional	exceptional	appropriate for
	exceptional	needs within a	needs within a	supporting
	needs across	specific	specific	individuals with
	environments,	environment.	environment.	exceptional
	settings, and the			needs across
	life span.			environments,
				settings, and the
				life span within a
				specific
				environment.