



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

Fall 2021

EDSE 452 001: Intersectionality and Disability

CRN: 83023, 3 – Credits

<b>Instructor: Carmen Rioux-Bailey</b>	<b>Meeting Dates: 8/23/2021 – 12/15/2021</b>
<b>Phone: 202-302-3223 mobile</b>	<b>Meeting Day(s): Tuesday; Thursday</b>
<b>E-Mail: criouxba@gmu.edu</b>	<b>Meeting Time(s): 10:30 am – 11:45 am</b>
<b>Office Hours: M, T, R by appointment</b>	<b>Meeting Location: Fairfax; Thompson L013</b>
<b>Office Location: Finley 206 A</b>	<b>Other Phone: Zoom: <a href="https://gmu.zoom.us/j/3341024489">https://gmu.zoom.us/j/3341024489</a></b>

**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):**

None.

**Co-requisite(s):**

None

**Course Description**

Examines disability within a diversity and intersectionality context in K-12 schools. Analyzes how diversity and intersectionality informs the educational experience of individuals with and without disabilities to include race, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and home/language and culture. Assesses how cultural competency and intersectionality awareness on the part of educators enhance the school success of all students. Develops educator capacity to implement trauma-sensitive interventions in diverse settings for all students.

**Course Overview**

EDSE 452 examines disability within a diversity and intersectionality context in K-12 schools. Analyzes how diversity and intersectionality informs the educational experience of individuals with and without disabilities to include race, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and home/language culture. Develops educator capacity to implement trauma-sensitive interventions in diverse settings for all students.

### **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](mailto: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**

Are you familiar with Mason career resources? Email [speced@gmu.edu](mailto:speced@gmu.edu) to be added to the Special Education employment listserv, and check out Career Services: <https://careers.gmu.edu/>.

### **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
7. Guest Speakers

### **Learner Outcomes**

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

1. Identify strengths and challenges in one's own cultural competency and develop critical consciousness about issues such as race, class, gender, culture, language, and educational equity.
2. Explain how K-12 student learning and behavior may be impacted by socioeconomic status, language/cultural background, race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, and trauma.
3. Demonstrate culturally sound and diversity-informed assessment and intervention practices for learning and behavior.
4. Recognize disability as a diversity construct and differentiate whether student academic or behavioral difficulties are due to disability and/or other diversity factors.
5. Apply an intersectionality framework to identify the interconnected nature of social categorizations such as disability, race, class, and gender as they apply to a given individual or group, that create overlapping and interdependent systems of privilege, discrimination, or disadvantage.
6. Use appropriate research methods and resources to apply social and behavioral science concepts, terminology, principles, and theories to an in-depth written analysis of individuals with disabilities and their support needs through the lens of intersectionality.
7. Understand instructional practices that are sensitive to culturally and linguistically diverse learners, including English learners, gifted and talented students, and students with disabilities.

## **Professional Standards**

(Council for Exceptional Children [CEC] and the Interstate Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium [InTASC]). Upon completion of this course, students will have met the following professional standards: CEC Standard 1: Learner Development and Individual Learning Differences (InTASC 2,3); CEC Standard 2: Learning Environments (InTASC 3); CEC Standard 3: Curricular Content Knowledge (InTASC 4,5); CEC Standard 4: Assessment (InTASC 6); CEC Standard 5: Instructional Planning and Strategies (InTASC 7,8); CEC Standard 6: Professional Learning and Ethical Practice (InTASC 9).

## **Required Texts**

Pang, V. (2018). *Diversity and equity in the classroom*. Boston, MA: Cengage Learning. ISBN-13: 978-1305386471, ISBN-10: 9781305386471

## **Recommended Texts**

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

Kendi, Ibram (2019). *How to be an antiracist*. New York: One World. ISBN 978-0-525-50928-8

## **Required Resources**

Computer with access to Blackboard. If possible, bring laptop to each class session

## **Additional Readings**

As assigned

## **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 EDSE 452, the required PBA is Intersectionality 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)**  
N/A

**College Wide Common Assessment  
(VIA submission required)**  
N/A.

### *Other Assignments*

1. (**\*Designated Performance-Based Assessment; 30 points**):

As a culminating activity (and the designated performance-based assessment), the **Intersectionality Project** offers an opportunity for students to engage in scholarly research and writing. Students will examine relevant scholarly literature to include at least two attributes of intersectionality that influence the education of individuals with exceptionalities. This project will address key issues discussed throughout this course, such as: How do diverse populations of individuals with exceptionalities experience special education or other community-based services in terms of identification and interventions? What do service providers need to understand about themselves and these diverse students and families in order to provide a Free, Appropriate, Public Education (FAPE) in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) as described by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)?

Students will submit a proposal for the project to obtain prior approval. Students will engage in scaffolded research and writing using APA Style Guidelines by submitting benchmark components of the paper on the dates listed so the instructor can provide feedback to ensure students are engaging in quality research and writing. In addition to a written research paper of at least 3500 words, students will deliver a presentation during an assigned class session to their peers and the instructor about their intersectionality research and findings. In addition to explicit classroom instruction on writing requirements for each component of the paper, students will have multiple opportunities to revise their Intersectionality Project in accordance with Writing Across the Curriculum guidance as noted in the Course Topics section of the syllabus.

**1. Identify at least two areas of diversity through which you will examine exceptionalities through an intersectionality lens.**

**2. Find in a professional, peer-reviewed journal (your instructor will help you with your search) e.g., Multiple Voices for Ethnically Diverse Exceptional Learners, Teaching Exceptional Children, Learning Disabilities Research and Practice; Behavioral Disorders; Exceptional Children; Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities; Journal of Special Education, Journal of Adolescence, Journal of LGBT Youth); at least 4 research-based articles that focus on elementary, secondary, or postsecondary individuals with disabilities or their families.**

**2. Read the article(s) with the purpose of comprehending the research, then summarize. Discuss how the content relates to individuals with disabilities and what this means for teaching and learning.**

**4. Provide an introduction that links explicitly to course content and your own background of understanding and diversity affiliation(s)/biases.**

**5. Conclude with a summary of what the articles say *collectively* about your research;**

**6. Conclude with a section on how this research and course content will impact your ability to provide culturally sensitive and inclusive services to all individuals with disabilities, especially those with additional diversity profiles. Make recommendations to future service providers about what you've learned.**

2. **Media Analysis Paper (25 points):** Students will analyze a media source from a list provided by the instructor or receive preapproval for source of their own choosing. The media must be of significant weight; a book, in-depth investigative series, or documentary. Students will review the media in three sections: 1) An introduction to the media and its alignment with course content, 2) major findings or themes of the content, and their significance for educators of diverse students in diverse settings, and 3) how the media source changed student thinking and created understandings for future engagement with students and families.
3. **Blackboard Discussion Boards (15 points):** Throughout the semester, there will be three Blackboard discussion boards in response to selected readings. Students will provide a comprehensive response to the prompts and to at least 2 classmates' postings. Each discussion board will be worth 5 points, for a total of 15 possible points. To earn full credit, students must submit postings by the due date and time (9 am of the due date), and **no** late submissions will be accepted. Your response should address the discussion board topic AND include a thoughtful reaction to at least 2 of your classmates' postings. An assignment description and grading rubric will be posted on Blackboard and discussed in class.
4. **Professionalism (15 points):** Attendance, punctuality, and active participation during each class session and assigned activity are expected. For each session, students will earn one Professionalism point for the following expectations:
  1. **Attendance:** Students are expected to attend all classes, arrive on time, and remain in class for the duration of each session. Refer to the Attendance Policy below for detailed expectations.
  2. **Participation & Professional Behavior:** Throughout all classes, students are expected to demonstrate professional and ethical behavior in the classroom and complete all assignments (including those completed in class, out of class, or on Blackboard) with professional quality, integrity, and in a timely manner. Students are expected to read all assigned readings prior to class and to actively participate in discussions and activities during class sessions.

## Assignment Summary

<b>EDSE 452 Self-Monitoring Course Performance</b> <i>Use this self-monitoring tool to track your performance throughout the semester</i>		
Assignment	Points Earned by Student	Total Points Possible
<b>A. Professionalism</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>B. Blackboard Discussion Boards (3 discussions, 5 points each)</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>C. Media Analysis Paper</b>		<b>25</b>
<b>D. Intersectionality Project</b>		<b>35</b>
<b>E. Intersectionality Project Presentation</b>		<b>5</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total points earned</b>	<b>100</b>
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## Course Policies and Expectations

### Attendance/Participation

Class attendance and professional participation at all sessions is very important because many of the activities in class are planned in such a way that they cannot necessarily be recreated outside of the class session. Students are expected to (a) attend all classes during the course, (b) arrive on time, (c) remain in class for the duration of each session, (d) actively participate and demonstrate professional behavior in the classroom, and (e) complete all assignments with professional quality and on time. All assigned readings should be completed prior to class (Note: assigned readings may be added or removed as the semester progresses).

Students earn attendance and participation points each class (i.e., Professionalism described in the Assignments section above); these points can only be earned if the student is in attendance and actively participates in class activities. Please notify me in advance by email or phone if you will not be able to attend class. When absence from class is unavoidable, it is the student's responsibility to plan to obtain notes, handouts, and/or lecture details from another student prior to the class meeting that follows the absence. Students may not pass this course if they miss 3 classes or more (for a 15-week course).

Students must follow the university policy that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor. The use of electronic devices that produce sound or interfere with the learning of others (e.g., cell phones) is prohibited during class. Please turn these devices off or to silent mode before the start of class. Do not read or send texts during class time. Computers may be used to take notes during class, but they may not be used for internet exploration, to send or receive emails, or other non-class activities during class time. Please be *fully* present in class.

#### Late Work

**To successfully complete this course, students need to adhere to all due dates for readings and assignments. All assignments should be submitted *on or before* the assigned due date, unless the professor has agreed to an extension (which may be used one time only and only for one assignment) which cannot be used past the last day of class. The maximum extension is 7 days, after which the assignment is not awarded any points toward a final grade. (Note that all Discussion Board assignments are due by 9 am on the due date and are not eligible for extensions). On all assignments, full credit is available for those submitted on time. For late assignments a 25%-point reduction will be enforced.**

#### Communication

Your GMU email address and the instructor's GMU email address are the only email addresses that will be used for communication in this course. Student email is accessed at <http://masonlive.gmu.edu>. All communications are sent to students via their Mason email accounts, and students are held responsible for this information.

#### Grading

Letter Grade	% of Points
A	95-100%
A-	90-94%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%
C	73-76%
C-	70-72%
D	60-69%
F	<60%

**\*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/). Professional dispositions are an essential function of a special educator’s job, indicating that these dispositions are critical to develop and assess in special education licensure programs. In the College of Education and Human Development, dispositions are formally and separately evaluated in at least three points in each student’s program – a self-evaluation at the start of their program, a self-evaluation at the mid-point of their program, and a university supervisor’s evaluation during internship. In special education graduate licensure programs, the initial self-evaluation is completed in designated courses (EDSE 241, EDSE 361, EDSE 311), the mid-point self-evaluation is completed in designated courses (EDSE 445, EDSE 465, and EDSE 419), and the internship evaluation is completed by instructors in EDSE 482, EDSE 483, and EDSE 484. In addition to these three designated evaluation times, instructors may complete instructor-rated disposition assessments other times throughout the program. When dispositions are assessed, it is important that for areas where a positive disposition is rated as “not proficient,” the student takes steps to grow as an educator. See <https://cehd.gmu.edu/epo/candidate-dispositions>.

**Class Schedule**

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

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Readings Due by Next Class Session</b>	<b>Assignments Due for this Class Session</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>8/24 and 8/26</b>	<p><b>Course Overview &amp; Syllabus Review</b></p> <p><b>Introduction to Disability and Diversity: Exploring the intersectionality between disability and other aspects of diversity.</b></p> <p><b>WAC (Writing Across the Curriculum Skill): Understanding research methods and accessing quality research</b></p>	<p><b>Ensure successful access for Blackboard for this course</b></p> <p>Pang: Chapters 1 &amp; 2</p>	



<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Readings Due by Next Class Session</b>	<b>Assignments Due for this Class Session</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>8/31 and 9/2</b>	<b>Understanding Equity vs. Equality: Educator implicit bias and the impact of privilege, diversity, and culture on education</b>  WAC: Writing a research article summary using APA	Pang: Chapter 3	<b>Discussion Board 1</b> <b>(5 points possible)</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>9/7 and 9/9</b>	<b>Equity and the achievement gap for underrepresented groups including students with disabilities.</b>  WAC: Writing a proposal that will also serve as your Intersectionality Project introduction	Pang: Chapter 11	<b>Discussion Board 2</b> <b>(5 points possible)</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>9/14 and 9/16</b>	<b>Trauma in the school setting and the impact of trauma on learning and development</b>	Pang: Chapter 9	<b>Proposal for Intersectionality Project Due</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>9/21 and 9/23</b>	<b>Race and Ethnicity: implications for access and equity in school</b>  WAC: Feedback on Project Proposal and Revision	Pang: Chapters 4 & 5	<b>Discussion Board 3</b> <b>(5 points possible)</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>9/28 and 9/30</b>	<b>Socio-economic status and the impact of poverty on student achievement</b>	Pang: Chapter 6	<b>Article 1 Summary for Intersectionality Project</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>10/5 and 10/7</b>	<b>Cultural and linguistic diversity in the community and in the classroom.</b>  WAC: Revision feedback on Proposal and Article Summary	Pang: Chapters 8 & 10	<b>Media Assignment Proposal Due</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>No class on 10/12 10/14</b>	<b>Gender and Sexual Orientation: how are these impacted by educational practices?</b>	Pang: Chapter 7	<b>Article 2 Summary for Intersectionality Project</b>

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Readings Due by Next Class Session</b>	<b>Assignments Due for this Class Session</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10/19 and 10/21</b>	<b>Culturally-responsive practices with families and community members of underrepresented populations</b>  WAC: Feedback/Revision of Article Summaries	Media Assignment Reading/Viewing	
<b>10</b>	<b>10/26 and 10/28</b>	<b>Understanding the impact of disability and diversity on assessment and ensuring bias-free and culturally responsive assessment practices</b>  WAC: Feedback/Revision of Article Summaries	Media Assignment Reading/Viewing	<b>Article 3 Summary for Intersectionality Project</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>11/2 and 11/4</b>	<b>Culturally responsive teaching and restorative evidence-based practices in elementary school</b>	Media Assignment Reading/Viewing	<b>Article 4 Summary for Intersectionality Project</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>11/9 and 11/11</b>	<b>Culturally responsive teaching and restorative evidence-based practices in secondary school</b>  WAC: Feedback/Revision of Article Summaries. How to write an effective conclusion to the Intersectionality Project		<b>Media Assignment Paper Due (25 points possible)</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>11/16 and 11/18</b>	<b>Future directions in American education to ensure educational equity and inclusive education for all students</b>  WAC: Feedback/Revision of Article Summaries		<b>Intersectionality Introduction and Conclusion due</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>No Class</b>	Week of 11/23 and 11/25		

Week	Date	Topics	Readings Due by Next Class Session	Assignments Due for this Class Session
15	11/30 and 12/2	<p><b>Course reflections &amp; wrap-up Presentations of Intersectionality Projects</b></p> <p>WAC: Feedback/Revision of Entire paper</p>		<p><b>Intersectionality Project Presentations</b> (5 points possible)</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 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 [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 “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 [Title IX Coordinator \(titleix@gmu.edu\)](mailto: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)**

	<b>Does Not Meet Expectations</b> <b>1</b>	<b>Meets Expectations</b> <b>2</b>	<b>Exceeds Expectations</b> <b>3</b>
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<p>Background Information to Intersectionality Exploration</p> <p>CEC/IPC Standard 1.0 and 1.1</p> <p><b>Candidate understands how exceptionalities may interact with development and learning and uses this knowledge to provide meaningful and challenging learning experiences for individuals with exceptionalities.</b></p> <p><b>Candidate understands how language, culture, and family background influence the learning of individuals with exceptionalities</b></p>	<p><b>Candidate does not provide a clear and focused introduction</b></p> <p><b>And/Or</b></p> <p><b>Candidate does not identify two areas of diversity through which intersectionality with disability will be examined.</b></p> <p>And/or</p> <p><b>Candidate fails to link this introduction to course content</b></p> <p><b>And/Or</b></p> <p><b>Candidate fails to identify own background of diversity affiliation(s)/biases.</b></p>	<p><b>Candidate provides a clear and focused introduction to two areas of diversity through which intersectionality with disability will be examined.</b></p> <p>And</p> <p><b>Candidate links introduction to course content</b></p> <p>And</p> <p><b>Candidate includes Candidate’s own background of understanding and diversity affiliation(s)/biases.</b></p>	<p><b>Candidate provides a clear and focused introduction to two or more areas of diversity through which intersectionality with disability will be examined.</b></p> <p>And</p> <p><b>Candidate links introduction to course content and includes information from other evidence-based sources other than course content</b></p> <p>And</p> <p><b>Candidate includes Candidate’s own background of understanding and diversity affiliation(s)/biases and analyzes background in depth and detail</b></p>
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