George Mason University
College of Education and Human
Development Literacy and Reading Program

EDUC 896 A01: Impacting and Enacting Teacher Education Policy
3 Credits, Summer 2022
Online

Faculty
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Prerequisites/Corequisites
Students must be enrolled in the PRISE program within the PhD program in Education or Human Development programs unless instructor permission is given.

University Catalog Course Description
Explores selected topics in education across all doctoral specializations.

Course Overview

This special topics course will engage students in policy-making and policy implementation activities in collaboration with various stakeholders including institutions of higher education, national nonprofit organizations, federal department of education, state department of education, U.S. Congress, and national coalitions. We will explore how to influence both policy-making and policy implementation from these various vantagepoints within the broad field of education. Students will participate in a minimum of 150 field hours where they will work directly on course activities.

Course Delivery Method

This course will be delivered online (76% or more) using an synchronous format via Zoom. Class is held on Tuesdays from 10am-1pm.

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 a standard up-to-date browser, either Internet Explorer or Mozilla Firefox is required (note: Opera and Safari are not compatible with Blackboard).
- 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 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/
    - Windows Media Player: https://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/downloads/windows-media-player/
    - Apple Quick Time Player: www.apple.com/quicktime/download/

Expectations

- 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 or Objectives

This course is designed to enable students to do the following:
  (a) Demonstrate understanding of major stakeholders in education policymaking and policy implementation.
  (b) Demonstrate knowledge of best practices for influencing policymaking and implementation decisions.
  (c) Engage in policy-related activities intended to improving educational experiences of student with disabilities.
  (d) Demonstrate understanding of best practices for dissemination to multiple audiences related to education policymaking and implementation.
  (e) Describe personal contributions to the field as a result of field hours.

Professional Standards

Not Applicable.

Required Texts

Student generated to align with field work placement.

Course Performance Evaluation
Students are expected to submit all assignments on time in the manner outlined by the instructor.

- **Assignments and/or Examinations**

Assignment	Points
Engage in professional networking to secure a field placement with one or more key education stakeholders (see course overview for list)	100
Present Summer Plan including goals for field hours and dissemination efforts	100
Actively Engage in at least 150 Field Hours	500
Submit weekly log of field hour activities, progress towards goals, and next steps	200
Final Dissemination Product	500
Present Summer Accomplishments related to	100

course objectives (particularly objective e)	

- **Grading Scale**

Low Range	High Range	Grade
0	1049	F
1050	1124	C
1125	1199	B-
1200	1274	B
1275	1349	B+
1350	1424	A-
1425	1500	A

Professional Dispositions

Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

Class Schedule

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

Course Dates: 5/24/22, 5/31/22, 6/7/22, 6/14/22, 6/21/22 10-1pm
Course Follow-up Dates: 7/26/22 10am-noon, 8/9/22 10am-noon

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 http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code/).
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing (see 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 http://ods.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 http://coursessupport.gmu.edu/.

- The Writing Center provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing (see http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/).

- The Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance (see http://caps.gmu.edu/).

- The Student Support & Advocacy Center staff helps students develop and maintain healthy lifestyles through confidential one-on-one support as well as through interactive programs and resources. Some of the topics they address are healthy relationships, stress management, nutrition, sexual assault, drug and alcohol use, and sexual health (see http://ssac.gmu.edu/). Students in need of these services may contact the office by phone at 703-993-3686. Concerned students, faculty and staff may also make a referral to express concern for the safety or well-being of a Mason student or the community by going to http://ssac.gmu.edu/make-a-referral/.

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

Appendix 1: Guidelines for Final Dissemination Product

Final Product Criteria:
- Connect some aspect of your policy internship with some aspect of your research interests
- A worthwhile activity for you and your development
- A tangible product with a specified target audience
- Includes a crystalized plan for dissemination using best practices for reaching multiple audiences
- Has a clear connection to improving educational experiences to individuals with disabilities
- Illustrates your person contributions to the broad field of education

Weekly Report:
Please submit a weekly report to me via email with attachment that includes your progress towards this final product. An example log is provided below, but you may use whatever format suites your needs.

Hours Logged	Planning For	Accomplished	Next Steps
Week of:			