



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

Fall 2022

EDSE 501 6S2: Introduction to Special Education

CRN: 84430, 3 – Credits

Instructor: Dr. Shanna Takacs	Meeting Dates: 8/22/22 – 12/5/22
Phone: 703-785-0311	Meeting Day(s): N/A
E-Mail: stakacs@gmu.edu	Meeting Time(s): N/A
Office Hours: by appt	Meeting Location: Online
Office Location: by appt	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): None

Co-requisite(s): None

Course Description: Provides a survey of current knowledge on individuals with disabilities within the context of human growth and development across the lifespan. Includes historical factors, legal aspects, etiology, characteristics, assessment, evidence-based practices, and support services for individuals having needs for intervention ranging from mild to severe. Includes the impact of disabilities on academic, social, and emotional performances framed within the teaching profession as a whole.

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: Take advantage of student resources like the Writing Center (<https://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>), Learning Services (<https://learningservices.gmu.edu/>), Assistive Technology Initiative (<https://ati.gmu.edu/>), Disability Services (<https://ds.gmu.edu/>).

Course Delivery Method

Learning activities include the following:

1. Class lecture and discussion
2. Application activities
3. Video and other media supports
4. Electronic supplements and activities via Blackboard

This course will be delivered online (76% or more) using an **asynchronous** format via the 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 **Monday, August 22, 2022, at 12:00am.**

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

Technical Requirements

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

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

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

(https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting_Started/Browser_Support#tested-devices-and-operating-systems)

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

Expectations

Course Week: **Because asynchronous courses do not have a "fixed" meeting day, our week will start on Monday at 12:00 am and finish on Sunday at 11:59 pm.**

Log-in Frequency: Students must check the Blackboard course site and GMU email for communications from the instructor, class discussions, and/or access to course materials at least to (2) times a week.

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 budget their time accordingly. Late work will not be accepted based on individual technical issues.

Workload: 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 Service.

Learner Outcomes

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

1. Analyze how educators and other professionals address the variance between “typical” and “atypical” behaviors across the lifespan.
2. Distinguish characteristics of children and youth with disabilities across all IDEA categories relative to age, varying levels of severity, and developmental differences manifested in cognitive, linguistic, physical, psychomotor, social, or emotional functioning.
3. Interpret information on individual differences and formulate ways to create meaningful learning experiences and interaction opportunities for all students.
4. Discuss current regulations governing special education policies and practices including rights, responsibilities, and legal status of all parties within the context of schools and communities.
5. Analyze historical perspectives, models, theories, philosophies, and trends related to special education practice within the context of organized public education in the United States.
6. Examine legal aspects of special education regarding litigation, legislation, and expectations associated with the identification, education, and evaluation of students with disabilities.
7. Explain the etiological factors and medical aspects associated with various disabilities.
8. Summarize and evaluate past, present, and future models of assessment and intervention, including use of innovative technology.
9. Illustrate how principles of learning influence the selection of relevant, appropriate, and culturally responsive materials for all learners (e.g., gifted, English learners, students with disabilities).
10. Identify individual needs such as dyslexia and related evidence-based practices for intervention.
11. Evaluate the dynamic influence of family systems on the education of students with disabilities.
12. Evaluate the dynamic influence of culture/environment on the education of students with disabilities.
13. Consider ethical considerations for the treatment of all children within the context of professional standards of practice.
14. Recognize child abuse and implement research-based interventions to address abusive and traumatic situations.

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 1,2) & CEC Standard 3: Curricular content knowledge (InTASC 4,5).

Required Texts

Hallahan, D. P., Kauffman, J. M., & Pullen, P. C., (2022). *Exceptional Learners: An introduction to special education* (15th ed.). Pearson.

Recommended Texts

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

Required Resources: On Blackboard

Additional Readings: On Blackboard

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 501, the required PBA is (NO ASSESSMENT REQUIRED FOR THIS COURSE). 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)

This course contains at least one Common Assessment developed by the College of Education and Human Development to assess our candidates' performance on nationally accepted standards for beginning teachers (InTASC) and our programs' performance on national accreditation standards (CAEP). The college-wide common assessment in this course is: Initial Self-Rated Dispositions.

Other Assignments

- **Beyond the Modules Activities:** During Week 1 of the course, there are some Beyond the Modules Activities. They are all required for a passing grade in the course.
- **Module Activities:** This course is set up in module form. Each module focuses on a certain special education topic with a similar structure. Each module contains individual lessons, an assignment, and a self-reflection. Each lesson includes a reading, lecture, video or media

component, and a reading check. Below are brief summaries of the module activities; *see Blackboard for detailed directions and grading rubrics.*

- **Reading Checks:** At the end of each lesson, there is a reading check assignment. In most lessons, these checks are 5-10 multiple choice or true-false questions. These reading checks assess your understanding and recall of the chapter in the textbook you were assigned. You may use materials such as books or notes to help you complete these checks, **but you may take each reading check no more than twice.**
- **Module Self-Reflections:** At the end of each module, there is a module self-reflection in which you will read statements about special education topics and write a written reflection. You will analyze, judge, and apply module content within your reflections.
- **Module Assignments:**
 - **Modules 1 and 4 require students to write individual APA-style papers.**
 - The paper in Module 1 is a personal philosophy statement. It also requires you to choose two activities from a list of school- and community-based options. You will include a summary of the activities in your paper.
 - The Module 4 assignment is the Final Paper in the course. You will likely use information from the other module assignments to inform the final paper. The Final Paper is an opportunity to show growth in your knowledge about learners with disabilities. You will **select one disability area** and demonstrate your knowledge based on course activities. (Please see the Appendix for a detailed description of the Final Paper and Blackboard for additional details/resources).
 - **Modules 2 and 3** are intended to help you collect information from multiple types of sources to dig deeper into one disability group for each. At the beginning of the module, you will choose a disability group (high incidence or low incidence) that corresponds to the module's focus.

Course Policies and Expectations

Attendance/Participation: All coursework will be online in an asynchronous format.

Late Work: Work must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. EST on the due date. It can be turned in early, but all late work will receive a 10%-point deduction off the resulting grade for each calendar day.

For example, on a 25-point Reading Check, there would be a 2.5-point deduction (10%) per day, so if a student submitted the Reading Check one day late and earned 20 out of 25 points, their final grade would be 17.5 points. After one week from the due date or after the last day of class (whichever comes first), assignments will no longer be accepted and a score of zero will be entered into the grade book for that assignment.

Incomplete Grades: An Incomplete (I) is used when the instructor is not prepared to give a final grade for the course because of some justifiable delay in the student's completion of specific course work. A final grade is submitted to the Records and Registration Office by the instructor after grading only the student's completed work done within the agreed time frame.

In the event that the work is not completed within the agreed time frame and no grade is reported within four weeks after the start of the following semester, a grade of F replaces the I on the student's transcript. **Any student requesting an incomplete must (1) be passing the course at the time of the request, and (2) create a contract outlining a plan to complete missing coursework with completion dates, and the contract must be signed by the student and division director before turning the contract into the professor prior to the last class**

Grading

To compute your final course grade, divide total “earned points” by total “possible points” for percentage.

A = 95-100%	A - = 90-94%	B+ = 86-89%	B = 80-85%	C+ = 77-79%	C = 73-76%	F = < 73%
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Course Action Items	Earned Points	Possible Points
Beyond the Modules Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Required Modules• Professional Disposition Survey		25 (10, 10, 5 points)
Reading Checks		150 (10 points each)
Lesson Checks		150 (10 points each)
Reflections		200 (50 points each)
Teaching Philosophy (Assignment 1)		100
Profile (Assignment 2)		100
Poster (Assignment 3)		100
Disability in Pop Culture		25
Final Paper (Assignment 4)		150
TOTAL POINTS FOR THE COURSE		1000

***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 a designated course (EDSE 501), the mid-point self-evaluation is completed in designated courses (EDSE 627, EDSE 661, and EDSE 616), and the internship evaluation is completed by instructors in EDSE 783, EDSE 784, and EDSE 785. 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.

Week	Module	Topic(s)	Activities and Readings	Deliverables (Due Sunday by 11:59 pm)
Week 1 (Starts on Monday at 12:00 am)	Module A	Getting Started; Introduction to the course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting to know the course • Capturing your thinking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child abuse and Neglect Certification • Professional Disposition Survey • Purchase/Rent Textbook • Reflection 1
Week 2	Module B	Foundations of Special Education: Historical Perspectives, Legal Mandates, Personnel, Procedural Safeguards, and Ethical Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Ch. 1 • Read: Ch. 2 • Lesson: Historical Foundations and Special Education Law 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Check: Ch. 1 • Reading Check: Ch. 2 • Lesson Check: Historical Foundations and Special Education Law • Teaching Philosophy Paper
Week 3	Module C	The Cognitive Continuum: Exploring Intellectual Disabilities (ID), Multiple Disabilities, and Giftedness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Ch. 13 • Lesson: Severe Disabilities • Introduce Profile Assignment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Check: Ch. 13 • Lesson Check: Severe/multiple disabilities
Week 4	Module C	The Cognitive Continuum Continued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Ch. 5 • Lesson: Intellectual Disabilities • Read: Ch. 15 • Lesson: Giftedness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Check: Ch. 5 • Lesson Check: ID • Reading Check: Ch. 15 • Lesson Check: Giftedness
Week 5	Module D	The Dynamic Duo: Exploring Specific Learning Disabilities (LD) and Emotional and Behavior Disorders (EBD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Ch. 6 • Lesson: LD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Check: Ch. 6 • Lesson Check: LD • Dyslexia Awareness Certification
Week 6	Module D	The Dynamic Duo Continued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Ch. 8 • Lesson: EBD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Check: Ch. 8 • Lesson Check: EBD • Reflection 2
Week 7	Module E	Spectrum of Considerations: Exploring Speech or Language Impairment (SLI) and Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Ch. 9 • Lesson: ASD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Check: Ch. 9 • Lesson check: ASD • Profile Assignment: Exploring Disability Profile Characteristics, Needs, and Reliable Sources

Week 8	Module E	Spectrum of Considerations Continued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Ch. 10 • Lesson: Speech/Language and communication disorders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Check: Ch. 10 • Lesson check: SLI • Reflection 3
Week 9	Module F	The Physical Realm: Exploring Orthopedic Impairments (OI) and Other Health Impairments (OHI) including Attention Deficit- Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Ch. 14 • Lesson: Orthopedic Impairments • Introduce Poster Assignment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Check: Ch. 14 • Lesson Check: Orthopedic Impairments
Week 10	Module F	The Physical Realm Continued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Ch. 7 • Lesson: ADHD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Check: Ch. 7 • Lesson Check: ADHD
Week 11	Module F	The Physical Realm Continued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesson: TBI 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesson Check: TBI • Poster Assignment: Comparing and Contrasting, Disability Profiles, Organizations, and Resources
Week 12	Module G	The Sensory Arena: Exploring Visual Impairments (VI) including Blindness, Hearing Impairments (HI), Deafness, and Deaf-Blindness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Ch. 12 • Lesson: Visual Impairments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Check: Ch. 12 • Lesson Check: Visual Impairments
Week 13	Module G	The Sensory Arena Continued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Ch. 11 • Lesson: Hearing Impairments • Introduce Final Paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Check: Ch. 11 • Lesson Check: Hearing Impairments • Disability in Pop Culture Assignment
Week 14	Module H	Creating Opportunities for All Learners: Exploring Multicultural Perspectives and Collaboration in Special Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Ch. 3 • Lesson: Cultural Competency • Read: Ch. 4 • Lesson: Families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Check: Ch. 3 • Lesson Check: Cultural Competency • Reading Check: Ch. 4 • Lesson Check: Families • Reflection 4
Week 15	Module H	Final Class & Wrap-up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on the future of special education • Wrap up video 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Paper Due • Special Education Disposition Survey

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

GMU Policies and Resources for Students

Policies

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the Mason Honor Code. See [Honor Code and System](https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/) (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/>).
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing. See [Responsible Use of Computing](http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/) (<http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>).
- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their Mason email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.
- Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services. Approved accommodations will begin at the time the written letter from Disability Services is received by the instructor. See [Disability Services](https://ds.gmu.edu/) (<https://ds.gmu.edu/>).
- Students must silence all sound emitting devices during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

Campus Resources

- Support for submission of assignments to VIA should be directed to viahelp@gmu.edu or <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, sexual harassment, interpersonal violence, and stalking: As a faculty member, I am designated as a “Non-Confidential Employee,” and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, sexual harassment, 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 the [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 or support measures 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 [College of Education and Human Development](http://cehd.gmu.edu/) (<http://cehd.gmu.edu/>).

Appendix

Assessment Rubric(s)

Teaching Philosophy Paper Assignment Rubric

Page ONE: My Ideas about special education (25 points)

- What is a disability?
- How should a disability be handled in/by society?
- How should students with disabilities be treated in schools, colleges, and the workplace?
- What should the education of students with disabilities look like?
- What ethical considerations must I face as a special educator?
- Include a rationale for your ideas; honest description of your ideas at this moment in time.

Page TWO: My Ideas about my role as an educator (25 points)

- Who are the students I serve? Will I serve students with disabilities?
- How can I meet the unique needs of students (and those with disabilities) within the context of my school and classroom?
- What are some barriers to meeting these unique needs?
- What is one goal for myself related to this course?

Page THREE: Summary of activities and their impact on your philosophy. These **should not** take place in a public-school setting so don't use the GMU CEHD Field Experience Office to arrange your observation(s). Complete two (2) of the following that you will arrange in a community setting by you and will last at least an hour. (40 points)

- Observe relevant community settings
- Shadow/interview an individual in a position of interest to you in a community setting (e.g., Interpreter, teacher, audiologist, counselor, physical therapist, etc.)
- Interview a person with a disability
- Interview a sibling or parent of a person with a disability
- Interview the entire family of an exceptional learner
- Conduct an accessibility assessment
- Attend a relevant information presentation

APA style formatting (e.g., cover page, pagination, headings), grammar, and spelling (10 points)

Grading Checklist

	Earned Points	Possible Points
Content: Special Education (Describe & Analyze): Students' current understanding of disability and special education are described. Rationale for this understanding is provided.		25
Content: Role as an Educator (Describe & Analyze): Students' current understanding of role as an educator is described. Learning goal for this course is included		25
Philosophy Statement (Judge & Apply): Two exploratory activities are described along with the effect they had on the students' special education philosophy.		40
APA Style: Writing is clear and easy to understand. There are few to no grammar errors/typos. References are correctly cited in APA format.		10
		100

Profile Assignment: Exploring Disability Profile Characteristics, Needs, and Reliable Sources

Grading Checklist

	Earned Points	Possible Points
Disability Characteristics (Describe & Analyze): Disability characteristics are described. The following topics are addressed: prevalence, diagnosis, physical or medical considerations, and social/behavioral implications are addressed		40
Learning Needs (Analyze & Judge): Considerations of learning needs are addressed including: areas of learning impacted, beneficial teaching strategies, IEP considerations, service location, and requisite teacher skills		40
Visual Appeal: Product is straightforward, clear, purposefully organized, and visually appealing		10
APA Style: Writing is clear and easy to understand. There are few to no grammar errors/typos. References from three peer-reviewed journal articles are cited using APA formatting. The textbook can also be cited in addition to the three scholarly publications.		10
		100

**Poster Assignment: Comparing and Contrasting: Disability Profiles, Organizations, and Resources
Grading Checklist**

	Earned Points	Possible Points
Contrasting Disabilities (Describe & Analyze): Disability characteristics are compared and contrasted. The following topics are addressed: prevalence of the disabilities, similarities and differences in disability characteristics, IEP team considerations, prominent advocacy groups related to the selected disabilities, and instructional strategies		40
Organizations (Analyze & Judge): Description of the selected organization includes name, website, mission statement, funding, target audience, and what the organization does		40
Poster: Product is straightforward, clear, purposefully organized, and visually appealing. Venn diagram and graphic organizer are included.		10
APA Style: Writing is clear and easy to understand. There are few to no grammar errors/typos. Additional resources for students with disabilities and their families are included. References for all cited information, including organization websites follow APA formatting.		10
		100

Final Paper

The final Module Assignment (Final Paper) is an opportunity to show growth in your knowledge about learners with disabilities. **Select one disability area** and demonstrate your knowledge of all five areas outlined in Paper Guidelines below. Combine what you have learned from coursework, independent learning, and the exploratory activity you completed in this Module.

Paper Guidelines: Your goal is to clearly show how your own perceptions of disability have changed and evolved this semester AND demonstrate that you clearly understand the important content you have learned.

Regardless of your approach this assignment, your paper must address the following areas:

A. Disability Characteristics	<p>What are some characteristics of the disability?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is its prevalence? Is it a high- or low- incidence disability? • How is it diagnosed? • Are physical/medical issues associated with this disability? • Are there social or behavioral implications associated with this disability?
B. Learning Needs	<p>How does the disability affect learning?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What areas of learning might be impacted by this disability? • What teaching strategies might benefit learners with this disability? • What IEP considerations might be needed? • What accommodations might students with this disability need? • Where might a student with this disability receive services? (Think LRE.) • What skills do teachers need when working with students who have this disability?
C. Lifespan Issues (including Impact on Individual and Family)	<p>How does having this disability impact an individual?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the early childhood issues that need to be considered? • What are community issues that need to be considered? • What post-secondary (post high school: job, college, independent living) factors need to be considered? • What impact does having this disability have on social relationships? <p>What is the impact of the disability on family?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What daily living skills might be impacted by this disability? • How does this disability impact family dynamics? • What information do families need to advocate for their children who have disabilities?
D. Similarities and Differences to Other Disabilities	<p>How is this disability similar/different from other disabilities (or disability areas)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there a difference in the prevalence of the chosen disabilities? • What factors might the IEP team consider when determining a student's placement? • What types of instructional strategies or accommodations/modifications may be different for students with the chosen disabilities? <p>Note: For this category, you should contrast your selected disability with TWO other disabilities or disability areas. For example, if my paper were on students</p>

	with ADHD (mild disability), I might contrast it to severe disabilities (or a specific disability such as Cerebral Palsy) AND sensory disabilities (or a specific disability such as blindness).
E. Information Synthesis	<p>Integrate what was learned through independent learning activities (e.g., IRIS modules, exploratory activities) and from other coursework (lectures, discussions, articles, and textbook readings) to demonstrate knowledge about learners with disabilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the key takeaways for this paper? • How do you tie all the ideas you presented throughout this paper together?

Additional Final Paper Details:

- Be sure to include all required topics as outlined in the paper guidelines above.
- There is no minimum or maximum page length, but typically length is around 10 pages.
- The paper should be written in APA format and style (see <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10/> for help with APA)
- Use the headings you see in the Grading Rubric below to organize your paper.
- Notice the synthesis portion of the paper is the most heavily weighted and therefore should receive the most attention. This section will likely have citations from outside sources to support your ideas and demonstrate your learning.

Grading Checklist

Final Paper Requirements	Earned Points	Possible Points
Disability Characteristics (Describe) Salient characteristics of the disability are clearly described. Requirements related to identification for special education are included.		25
Learning Needs (Describe) Learning needs associated with the chosen disability are clearly described including relevant IEP considerations.		25
Lifespan Issues (Describe & Analyze) A clear description of the impact of the disability across the lifespan is provided. Potential impact on family members is analyzed.		25
Similarities and Differences to Other Disabilities (Judge) The paper compares and contrasts the chosen disability with <u>2</u> other disabilities (or disability categories: mild, severe, or sensory).		25
Information Synthesis (Apply) Student demonstrates personal growth in knowledge about learners with disabilities. Student demonstrates completion of independent learning activities (e.g., IRIS modules, exploratory activities) by integrating what was learned through these experiences with learning from other coursework (lectures, discussions, articles, and textbook readings).		40
APA Style Writing is clear and easy to understand. There are few to no grammar errors/typos. References are correctly cited in APA format.		10
Total Points		150

