



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

Spring 2024

EDAT 410 DL1: Introduction to Assistive Technology

CRN: 10518, 3 – Credits

<b>Instructor:</b> Cindy George	<b>Meeting Dates:</b> 1/17/24 – 5/8/24
<b>Phone:</b> 571-230-7854	<b>Meeting Day(s):</b> N/A
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<b>Office Hours:</b> By appointment only	<b>Meeting Location:</b> N/A; Online
<b>Office Location:</b> Krug 105	<b>Other Phone:</b> 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 an understanding of assistive technology and application in instructional programs, career tasks, and life skills for individuals with disabilities. Enables students to better use assistive technology in education, work, community, and home environments.

**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 interested in an AT minor? Submit your Minor Declaration (<http://registrar.gmu.edu/wp-content/uploads/UMD.pdf>), or contact the program for more information: [atprog@gmu.edu](mailto:atprog@gmu.edu).

## **Course Instructional Method**

EDAT 410 is an asynchronous online course. Using Blackboard, students are expected to complete assignments weekly and be engaged in course activities throughout the semester.

## **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 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 @gmu.edu) and email password. The course site will be available on Tuesday, January 16, 2024.

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/Ultra/Getting_Started/Browser_Support) ([https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Ultra/Getting\\_Started/Browser\\_Support](https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Ultra/Getting_Started/Browser_Support))
- 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/](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/)

## *Expectations*

- **Course Week:**  
Because asynchronous courses do not have a “fixed” meeting day, our week will start on Wednesdays and finish on Tuesdays. 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.
- **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 Service.

## **Learner Outcomes**

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

1. Complete online assignments regarding assistive technology companies, organizations, and services.
2. Review and identify funding solutions for acquiring assistive technology.
3. Explore and integrate legislative mandates and governmental regulations related to assistive technology
4. Research and create a presentation on an assistive technology approved device of choice.

## **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 1: Characteristics and Needs and Standard 2: Knowledge and Skills.

\*NOTE: NCATE Assessments (in many but not all courses) may address additional AT Program standards.

## **Required Texts**

Bouck, E. C. (2017). *Assistive technology*. Sage Publications.

Draper, Sharon M. (2010). *Out of my mind*. Atheneum Books for Young Readers.

## **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**

No required upload.

## **Assignments**

### **Weekly Assignments**

#### *Text Exploration (20 points)*

Students are required to complete text assignments posted each week for the text: *Assistive Technology*, as well as other assigned readings. Assignments will be posted on Blackboard and due by the specified date and time.

#### *Fiction Reading: Out of My Mind (15 points)*

Students are required to read assigned chapters and respond to Discussion Questions posted for the book: *Out of My Mind*. A minimum of 2 responses should be made per week: one response directly from the question posted and at

least one other in response to a classmate's posting. All responses are due by the specified time.

### *Online Learning (20 points)*

Students are required to complete weekly online learning assignments. Assignments will contain multiple activities that cover content from books and materials distributed in class, websites, television shows, newspapers/magazines, etc. Assignments will be posted on Blackboard and due on the specified date and time. All activities within each week must be completed to receive credit.

## **Final Assignments**

### *AT Funding Sources (15 points)*

Students are to locate their state offices for Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and Vocational Rehabilitation due 4/3.

Provide the following:

- Agency name
- Agency address
- Agency phone
- Main home page URL for agency
- Description of agency (narrative)
- Eligibility requirements for the agency's funding (narrative)

### *AT Device Category Research Project (30 points) – VIA/SSL Assessment*

Students are required to select an AT Device Category of their choice and create an AT PowerPoint Presentation. Topics must be pre-approved by the instructor by 4/16. Note that AT device topics that are already in the student's repertoire should not be selected for this project. The Project presentation itself is due 5/4 and should include:

*Category Overview:* Provide a description of device category & a rationale for why it was chosen. The description should include the potential features of the device as well as its range in terms of size, cost, etc.

*User Characteristics:* List user characteristics of individuals who would potentially benefit from access to this device category. User characteristics can be defined as disabilities areas or areas of human function.

*Community Support:* Reflect on how the use of this device category could potentially impact a user within the home, school, work & outside community.

*Funding Sources:* Locate organizational, governmental, civic funding sources appropriate for acquisition of assistive technology within this device category. Include name, contact information, and eligibility.

*Legislative Support:* Identify a governmental regulation or legislative mandate that supports using devices in this category. State why & how the law provides support.

*Resources:* Use the Internet to identify both professional & informational web resources for potential users of this device category. Include the source name, the URL, & contact information.

A Comparison Chart as a peer review will follow (5/6).

## Assignment Summary

Text Exploration Activities	20 points
Fiction Reading: <i>Out of My Mind</i>	15 points
Online Learning Activities	20 points
AT Funding Sources	15 points
AT Device Category Research Project	30 points
Total Points:	100 points

### Student Evaluations of Teaching:

The student evaluation of teaching, or SET, is an online course survey. You are strongly encouraged to complete this form for each course as this feedback helps instructors and administrators improve your class experiences. Towards the end of the course, you will receive email and Blackboard notifications when the evaluations open. Your anonymous and confidential feedback is only shared with instructors after final grades have been submitted. More information about the SET can be found on The Institute of Effectiveness and Planning website at <https://oiep.gmu.edu/set/>

### Course Policies and Expectations

#### Attendance/Participation

Students are expected to actively engage in ALL weekly 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 “grades”, 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

All weekly module work submitted late will automatically receive ½ credit unless arrangements are made in advance with the instructor. All final project work will receive a response cost for being late (up to 10% per day) unless arrangements are made in advance with the instructor.

## Grading

Evaluation will be based upon a point system totaling 100 points for the class; using the following grade scale:

A	=	95-100%
A-	=	90-94%
B+	=	87-89%
B	=	83-86%
B-	=	80-82%
C+	=	77-79%
C	=	74-76%
C-	=	70-73%
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/>).

## Class Schedule

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

SESSION	TOPIC	READING	ASSIGNMENT
<b>Session 1</b> <b>1/17–1/23</b>	AT Definition	Bouck (2017) Chapter 1: pp. 1-12  Draper (2010) Chapters 1-3	<u>Session 1</u> Text Exploration Fiction Reading Online Learning

SESSION	TOPIC	READING	ASSIGNMENT
<b>Session 2</b> 1/24–1/30	History & Legislation	Bouck (2017) Chapter 1: pp. 13-16; 20-21  Draper (2010) Chapters 4-6	<u>Session 2</u> Text Exploration Fiction Reading Online Learning
<b>Session 3</b> 1/31-2/6	Speech & Communication	Bouck (2017) Chapter 3  Draper (2010) Chapters 19-22	<u>Session 3</u> Text Exploration Fiction Reading Online Learning
<b>Session 4</b> 2/7-2/13	Academic Instruction	Bouck (2017) Chapter 8  Draper (2010) Chapters 29-33	<u>Session 4</u> Text Exploration Fiction Reading Online Learning
<b>Session 5</b> 2/14–2/20	Sensory: Vision	Bouck (2017) Chapter 6: pp. 125- top 138  Draper (2010) Chapters 11-14	<u>Session 5</u> Text Exploration Fiction Reading Online Learning
<b>Session 6</b> 2/21-2/27	Sensory: Hearing	Bouck (2017) Chapter 6: pp. end 138-148  Draper (2010) Chapters 15-18	<u>Session 6</u> Text Exploration Fiction Reading Online Learning
<b>Session 7</b> 2/28-3/12 (2-week session)  <i>Spring Break</i> 3/4-3/8	Information Access & Input	Bouck (2017) Chapter 5  Draper (2010) Chapters 23-28	<u>Session 7</u> Text Exploration Fiction Reading Online Learning



SESSION	TOPIC	READING	ASSIGNMENT
<b>Session 8</b> <b>3/13-3/19</b>	Mobility & Positioning	Bouck (2017) Chapter 4	<u>Session 8</u> Text Exploration Fiction Reading Online Learning
<b>Session 9</b> <b>3/20-4/2</b> (2-week session)	Funding Assistive Technology	Finding Strategies <a href="#">Finding Funding</a>  ATIA Funding <a href="#">AT Resource Funding Guide</a>	<u>Session 9</u> Text Exploration Online Learning  AT Funding Sources DUE DATE 4/3
<b>Session 10</b> <b>4/3-4/9</b>	Universal Design	Bouck (2017) Chapter 1: pages 17-20	<u>Session 10</u> Text Exploration Online Learning
<b>Session 11</b> <b>4/10-4/16</b>	Independent Living	Bouck (2017) Chapter 9: pp. 218-230  Draper (2010) Chapters 7-10	<u>Session 11</u> Text Exploration Online Learning  AT Device Topic APPROVAL DUE DATE 4/16

SESSION	TOPIC	READING	ASSIGNMENT
<b>Session 12</b> 4/17-4/23	Workplace Accommodations	Job Accommodation Network <a href="#">Benefits and Costs of Accommodation</a>	<u>Session 12</u> Text Exploration Online Learning
<b>Session 13</b> 4/24-4/30	Assistive Technology Frameworks	Bouck (2017) Chapter 2	<u>Session 13</u> Text Exploration Online Learning
<b>Session 14</b> 5/1-5/7	Final Assignments	<p style="text-align: center;">AT Device Category Research Presentation DUE DATE 5/4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Comparison Chart DUE DATE 5/6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Final Class Survey DUE DATE 5/7</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 VIA should be directed to [viahelp@gmu.edu](mailto: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/>).
- [Learning Services](mailto:learningservices@gmu.edu) ([learningservices@gmu.edu](mailto:learningservices@gmu.edu)) - Provides a variety of experience-based learning opportunities through which students explore a wide range of academic concerns. Services include support to students with learning differences, individual study strategy coaching, individualized programs of study, and referrals to tutoring resources. Presentations on a variety of academic topics such as time management, reading, and note taking are available to the university community. The programs are open to all George Mason University students free of charge.

### 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](mailto: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)**

	<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	<b>Does Not Meet Expectations</b>	<b>Meets Expectations</b>	<b>Exceeds Expectations</b>
<b>Category Overview</b>  <b>AT Program Standard 1.1</b>	<i>Indicator 1.1:</i> Candidates understand the similarities and differences in human development and the characteristics between and among individuals with and without exceptional needs.	Candidate fails to identify characteristics specific to those with exceptional needs as it relates to typical human development.	Candidate identifies salient characteristics of those with exceptional needs as it relates to typical human development.	Candidate identifies salient characteristics of those with exceptional needs as it relates to typical human development across environments, settings, and life span.
<b>AT Program Standard 1.2</b>	<i>Indicator 1.2:</i> Candidates understand how exceptional conditions can interact with the domains of human development and consider the impact of utilizing specific features of AT devices and strategies to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individual with exceptional needs.	Candidate fails to identify specific and related features of assistive technology devices related to the selected AT category. Candidate’s discussion of the impact of utilizing the specified AT to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with exceptional needs is limited.	Candidate identifies specific features of assistive technology devices and considers the impact of utilizing the specified AT to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with exceptional needs.	Candidate identifies specific features of assistive technology devices and considers the impact of utilizing the specified AT to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with exceptional needs across environments, settings, and the life span.

	<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	<b>Does Not Meet Expectations</b>	<b>Meets Expectations</b>	<b>Exceeds Expectations</b>
<b>User Characteristics</b>  <b>AT Program Standard 1.2</b>	<i>Indicator 1.2:</i> Candidates understand how exceptional conditions can interact with the domains of human development and consider the impact of utilizing specific features of assistive technology devices and strategies to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individual with exceptional needs.	Candidate fails to identify characteristics of users who could benefit from the specified assistive technology.	Candidate identifies characteristics of users who could benefit from the specified assistive technology.	Candidate identifies specific characteristics of users who could benefit from the specified assistive technology based on their understanding of exceptional conditions or other human factors.
<b>Funding Sources</b>  <b>AT Program Standards 2.2</b>	<i>Indicator 2.2:</i> Candidates can identify a range of funding sources and processes of acquisition of assistive technology devices and services.	Candidate fails to identify funding sources appropriate for assisting in the acquisition of assistive technology.	Candidate identifies appropriate funding sources for assisting in the acquisition of assistive technology.	Candidate identifies a range of appropriate funding sources across domains for assisting in the acquisition of assistive technology.

	<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	<b>Does Not Meet Expectations</b>	<b>Meets Expectations</b>	<b>Exceeds Expectations</b>
<b>Resources</b> <b>AT Program Standards 2.3</b>	<i>Indicator 2.3:</i> Candidates are knowledgeable of and demonstrate proficiency in use of a range of assistive technology tools.	Candidate fails to identify specific and related assistive technology tools and strategy resources that enhances their knowledge of the range of AT tools available.	Candidate identifies specific assistive technology tools and strategy resources that enhances their knowledge of the range of AT tools available.	Candidate identifies a range of assistive technology tools and strategy resources that enhances their knowledge of the range of AT tools available.
<b>Community Impact</b> <b>AT Program Standards 1.3</b>	<i>Indicator 1.3:</i> Candidates understand how human diversity issues can impact families, individuals, communities, & cultures, & how these human issues in the delivery of AT.	Candidate fails to discuss the impact assistive technology can have on individuals with exceptional needs within various cultures & communities.	Candidate discusses the impact assistive technology can have on individuals with exceptional needs within various cultures & communities.	Candidate discusses the impact AT can have on individuals with exceptional needs and their families within various diverse environments, cultures & communities.