

**VIRGINIA CONSORTIUM FOR TEACHER PREPARATION  
IN SPECIAL EDUCATION ADAPTED CURRICULUM**

**Spring 2024  
SD Characteristics, 3 Credits**

**Consortium Titles**

- GMU: EDSE 547: Characteristics of Students with Severe Disabilities  
EDSE 547 DL1 - CRN: 13146; EDSE 547 6U1 – CRN: 23719; EDSE 547 6Y1 – CRN: 23691
- VCU: SEDP 501 Characteristics of Students with Disabilities: ADCR
- RU: EDSP 663 Characteristics of Students with Severe Disabilities
- ODU: SPED 674: Characteristics of Students with Severe Disabilities
- JMU: EXED 509: Nature and Issues of Severe Disabilities

<b>Instructor:</b> Dr. Judith Connell	<b>Meeting Dates:</b> 1/16/2024-4/29/2024
<b>Phone:</b> 757-412-9212	<b>Meeting Day(s):</b> N/A
<b>E-Mail:</b> jconnel4@gmu.edu	<b>Meeting Time(s):</b> N/A
<b>Office Hours:</b> By appointment. On-going contact via email.	<b>Meeting Location:</b> N/A; Online
<b>Office Location:</b> Online	<b>Instructing University:</b> ODU

**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

**GMU Course Description**

Examines the academic, social, medical, and behavioral characteristics of individuals with severe disabilities such as intellectual disability, autism, traumatic brain injury, and severe/multiple cognitive, physical and/or sensory disabilities. Focuses on etiology, contributing factors, impact on life and family, the challenges of identifying students with disabilities, and the need for intensive instruction, accommodations, and support.

**Course Overview**

EDSE 547 focuses on the academic, social, medical and behavioral characteristics of individuals with severe disabilities and the impact these characteristics have on school, family, and life outcomes. The course examines the etiology, contributing factors, identification process, and required intensive instruction of these disabilities.

### **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).

### **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 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 January 16.

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)
- Students must maintain consistent and reliable access to their University 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: 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 Thursday, and finish on Wednesday.
- **Log-in Frequency:**  
Students must actively check the course Blackboard site and their University email for communications from the instructor, class discussions, and/or access to course materials at least [3] 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 their University’s Office of Disability Services.

## **Learner Outcomes**

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

1. State the federal definitions of students with severe disabilities including students with autism, developmental delay, intellectual disability, traumatic brain injury, and multiple disabilities, including sensory, deaf-blindness, speech-language, orthopedic and other health impairments as an additional disability.
2. Describe the history and evolution of severe disability.
3. Describe the characteristics of individuals with severe disabilities whose cognitive impairments or adaptive skills require adaptations to the general curriculum and whose functional skills are significantly different from typically developing peers and therefore require adaptations to the general curriculum for an appropriate education. Discuss and evaluate how the following characteristics impact education, behavior, and social interactions:
  4. Age-span and developmental issues;
  5. Levels of severity;
  6. Medical, health, sensory, and positioning and handling needs;
  7. Cognitive functioning;
  8. Speech, language development, and communication;
  9. Emotional and behavioral development and supports;
  10. Social development; and
  11. Cultural, ethnic, and socio-economic factors.
12. Describe the impact of disability on self-determination and self-advocacy skills.
13. Describe historical and legal perspectives, models, theories, philosophies, and trends related to specific student populations.
14. Discuss and examine how educational environments impact students with severe disabilities.
15. Discuss and examine how to build strong parental connections and relationships for families with severe 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 (nTASC 1,2); CEC Standard 3: Curricular Content Knowledge (InTASC 4,5) & CEC Standard 6: Professional Learning and Ethical Practice (InTASC 9).

## **Required Texts**

Agran, M., Brown, F., Hughes, C., Quirk, C. & Ryndak, D. (2014). *Equity & full participation for individuals with severe disabilities: A vision for the future*. Paul H. Brookes.

Batshaw, M. L., Roizen, N. J., & Lotrecchiano, G. R. (2019). *Children with disabilities* (8th ed.). Paul H. Brookes.

## **Recommended Texts**

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

## **Additional Readings**

Additional readings will be posted to 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/SLL (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/SLL.

For EDSE 547, the required PBA is Disability Case Study. Please check to verify your ability to upload to VIA/SLL before the PBA due date.

## **Assignments and/or Examinations**

### **Performance-based Assessment (VIA submission required)**

The performance-based assessment for this course is the *Disability Case Study*. Please see the *Course Assignments* section for assignment description.

Students must also submit the Child Abuse and Neglect Module to Blackboard. Please see the Course Assignments section for assignment description.

### **College Wide Common Assessment (VIA submission required)**

None

## **Course Assignments**

**Disability Case Study:** Students will work individually to develop a paper related to a specific disability. In this paper, students will provide an overview of the specified disability as well as discussion as to how the specified disability impacts families and what cultural differences must be addressed; a description of the complex needs of individuals with this disorder/disability, a presentation of a range of special education and

community-based supports and services that are needed to maximize their achievement and capacity; and a discussion of the impact of the disability on normal growth and development and the ability to learn, interact socially and live as fulfilled contributing members of the community.

**Child Abuse Recognition and Training Module:** All students must complete the online child abuse recognition training module as outlined in the Orientation Module.

**Course Learning Modules:** All modules will be made available as outlined in the *Class Schedule*. Within any learning module, students will be presented with a series of activities and assignments. Students will complete the assignments within each module as outlined in the *Class Schedule*. Additional assignment directions and rubrics are posted on Blackboard.

### Assignment Summary

Assignment	Points
Disability Case Study	30 points
Child Abuse Recognition and Training Module	10 points
Course Learning Modules (Points for individual assignments is listed in Class Schedule) All graduate level students are required to complete the Graduate Essays regardless of program.	107 points
<b>Total Points:</b>	<b>147 points</b>

### 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 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. Grading for work completed in *Course Learning Modules* is specifically outlined in *Course Learning Modules* within the Other Assignments section of the syllabus. 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. Students struggling to complete work on time or who appear to not be engaging fully with course content will be asked to conference with the instructor.

**Late Work**

Five percent of the available points for the assignment may be deducted each day for late submissions during the first week after the due date. After one week from the due date, assignments may not be accepted. Thus, an assignment that is three days late is able to obtain only 85% of the points for the assignment regardless of the quality of the work. After one week, the assignment may no longer be accepted, and a score of zero may be entered into the grade book for the assignment.

Please note: There may be a hard cut-off due date posted for each assignment after which the assignment will not be accepted for grading. A zero may then be assigned for the grade.

The point deduction will be made after grading is complete. The date that the assignment was received by the instructor via Blackboard will be considered the date submitted. Submitting an assignment late does not alter the due dates of other assignments and prevents timely feedback to students regarding their work that may be of value in later assignments. Strive to keep up with the assignment schedule so that you will be able to have appropriate formative evaluation and feedback from your instructor throughout the semester.

**Grading**

93-100% = A	87-89% = B+	70-79% = C
90-92% = A-	80-86% = B	< 70% = F

**\*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.

### **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/>).



## Class Schedule

\*Note: Faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule as necessary, with notification to students. All assignments are due by 11:59 PM EST on the date noted.

Module Topic	Module Availability	Readings	Graded Assignments	Assignment Due Date	Points
Orientation Module	1/16-1/24	Materials on Blackboard	Complete and submit all quizzes, discussion board introduction, student profile, and Child Abuse and Neglect Training certificate	DB Intro: 1/18	2.5
				PROFILE: 1/24	2.5
				CA:1/24	10
				APA:1/24	5
				PLAG: 1/24	5
				Feedback: 1/24	
Please also see specific dates as noted on the Module Activities submission portals and Calendar page.					

Module 1--The Historical Treatment and Outcomes for Individuals with Severe Disabilities	1/25-2/07	EFP Chapters 1 & 3; materials on Blackboard	Module 1 discussion board post	Individual Card Sort Activity:1/31  DB: 2/07  Please also see specific dates as noted on the Module Activities submission portals and Calendar page.	10
Module 2 -- Understanding and Planning for People with Severe Disabilities	2/08-2/21	EFP Chapters 2, 4, 5, 8, & 10	Module 2 Case Study	Case Study: 2/21  Please also see specific dates as noted on the Module Activities submission portals and Calendar page.	15
Module 3 – Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities	2/22-3/06	CWD Chapters 14 & 15; Mini-lectures and additional readings on Blackboard	Module 3 Inclusion Assessment  M3 Graduate Essay Question*	Assessment: 3/06  Grad Essay 3/06  Please also see specific dates as noted on the Module Activities submission portals and Calendar page.	15  3

<p>Module 4 – Cerebral Palsy and Traumatic Brain Injury/Acquired Brain Injury</p>	<p>3/07-3/20</p>	<p>CWD Chapters 21 &amp; 23</p>	<p>Module 4  Portfolio  M4 Graduate Essay Question*</p>	<p>Portfolio: 3/20  Grad Essay: 3/20  Please also see specific dates as noted on the Module Activities submission portals and Calendar page.</p>	<p>15  3</p>
<p>Module 5 – Multiple Disabilities and Sensory Impairments</p>	<p>3/21-4/03</p>	<p>CWD Chapters 26 &amp; 25  Handbook of Special Education Chapter 27</p>	<p>Module 5 Professional Development Planning Tool and Presentation  M5 Graduate Essay Question*</p>	<p>Portfolio: 4/03  Grad Essay: 4/03  Please also see specific dates as noted on the Module Activities submission portals and Calendar page.</p>	<p>15  3</p>

Module 6 – Autism Spectrum Disorders / Behavioral and Psychiatric Disorders in Children with Disabilities	4/04-4/17	CWD Chapters 18 & 27	Module 6 Assessment  M6 Graduate Essay Question*	DB: 4/17  Grad Essay: 4/17  Please also see specific dates as noted on the Module Activities submission portals and Calendar page.	10  3
Module 7 – Disability Case Study	4/18-4/29	EFP: Chapter 19	Module 7 Disability Case Study	Disability Case Study: 4/29  Please also see specific dates as noted on the Module Activities submission portals and Calendar page.	30
			Total points available		Grad:147

EFP = Equity and Full Participation for Individuals with Severe Disabilities  
CWD = Children with Disabilities (excerpts on Bb site)

## **ADAPTED Consortium Syllabus Statements and Policies**

### Honor Code

Each university has its own honor code and it is important for you to review the honor code at your university. However, all students taking this course, regardless of the university they are enrolled in, are expected to follow this honor code and may be asked to pledge all assignments and their exam to indicate that they have followed the honor code. A pledge means that you have not cheated or plagiarized, nor have you given or received assistance that violated the description of how assignments are to be completed for this course. The shortened version may be used: “Pledged” followed by the date and your full name (typed “signatures” will be OK for assignments/tests submitted electronically).

*Students at all universities pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work. Work submitted must be your own or with proper citations.*

A complete copy of each university’s Honor System document is available through

GMU: <http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code/>

VCU: [www.students.vcu.edu/rg/policies/rg7honor.html](http://www.students.vcu.edu/rg/policies/rg7honor.html).

Radford: [http://www.radford.edu/~dos-web/handbook02-03/Honor\\_Code.pdf](http://www.radford.edu/~dos-web/handbook02-03/Honor_Code.pdf)

NSU: [http://www.nsu.edu/student\\_judicial/policy.html](http://www.nsu.edu/student_judicial/policy.html)

JMU: <http://www.jmu.edu/honor/code.shtml>

ODU: <https://www.odu.edu/about/monarchcitizenship/student-conduct>

### Accommodations for Disability

At all the participating universities, accommodations can be made with the instructor if a student has a documented disability. University specific information regarding eligibility, services and accommodations can be found at:

GMU: <http://www.gmu.edu/student/drc/>

VCU: <http://www.students.vcu.edu/dss/index.html>

Radford: <http://www.radford.edu/~dro/>

NSU: <http://www.nsu.edu/disabilityservices/index.html>

JMU: <https://www.jmu.edu/ods/>

ODU: <https://www.odu.edu/life/diversity/accessibility>

### Student Support Resources

At all the participating universities, students have access to free counseling and support services. University specific information can be found at:

GMU: <https://caps.gmu.edu/>

VCU: <https://counseling.vcu.edu/>

Radford: <https://www.radford.edu/content/student-counseling/home.html>

NSU: <https://www.nsu.edu/Campus-Life/Services-Resources/Counseling-Center>

JMU: <https://www.jmu.edu/counselingctr/>

ODU: <https://www.odu.edu/counselingservices>

### Course Materials

This course gives you access to PowerPoint files, class lecture notes, handouts, and copyrighted articles. All of these materials should be regarded as authored materials, which if used or referred to must be fully credited through reference to the author, the class, and date. If used beyond citation, permission of the instructor/author is required.

### Technology Proficiencies

All students participating in this course are expected to be proficient in several technology skills. Students are expected to be proficient in using the Internet and have reliable and consistent Internet access. Students are expected to have an active university email account and to check email regularly. This course requires students to use Blackboard, which is our online course management system located at <http://mymason.gmu.edu> under the COURSES tab.

Students are expected to login to this system frequently and be proficient in using its features. Students are expected to be proficient in using the computer, which includes downloading and saving files, typing, and word processing skills. Students participating in this course are expected to use Microsoft Word for all written assignments. Furthermore, students are expected to use Microsoft PowerPoint and Adobe Acrobat Reader for class documents located on the Blackboard website.

### Blackboard Access and Non-Mason Students

NON GMU students will be required to activate and utilize their GMU login credentials to access Blackboard. NEW students this semester should have received an email with activation directions from Marci Kinas Jerome. Any questions please contact Marci Kinas Jerome, [mkinas@gmu.edu](mailto:mkinas@gmu.edu). Passwords must be reset every 6 months. If students do not receive the change password email request, they will need to request a password reset if they can no longer login. Students can reset their password at <https://password.gmu.edu>

### GMU Email and Non-Mason Students

NON GMU students will be required to activate their GMU email account and either check the account regularly or forward their mail to their home university account. By default all accounts in the Blackboard system are GMU accounts. Directions for activating your GMU email account can be found at: <http://masonlive2.gmu.edu/instructions.cfm> and directions for forwarding your mail are located at: <http://masonlive2.gmu.edu/tutorials/forwardemail.cfm>

### Blackboard Assistance

This course requires that you be a regular email user and be able to use various features of Blackboard (sign on, download materials, hand in completed assignments electronically through the assignment submission link). You may direct your questions about Blackboard to Marci Kinas Jerome ([mkinas@gmu.edu](mailto:mkinas@gmu.edu)). She will be the best resource.

## Policies and Resources for GMU 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)**

Disability Case Study Assessment Rubric

	Does Not Meet Expectations 1	Meets Expectations 2	Exceeds Expectations 3
Disability Overview & Etiology  CEC/IIC Standards 1	Candidate’s description of definitions and characteristics of learners with moderate to severe exceptionalities including typical and atypical development in cognitive, physical and sensory functioning is limited.	Candidate provides definitions and characteristics of learners with moderate to severe exceptionalities including typical and atypical development in cognitive, physical and sensory functioning.	Candidate provides definitions and characteristics of learners with moderate to severe exceptionalities including typical and atypical development in cognitive, physical and sensory functioning. In addition, candidate discusses the effect of the exceptionality across the student’s lifespan.
Disability Overview & Etiology  CEC/IIC Standards 1	Candidate partially identifies etiologies and medical complication and the discussion related to the implications of conditions related to learners with moderate to severe exceptionalities and discusses the impact those conditions can have on a learner’s life is limited.	Candidate identifies etiologies and medical complication and implications of conditions related to learners with moderate to severe exceptionalities and discusses the impact those conditions can have on a learner’s life.	Candidate identifies etiologies and medical complication and implications of conditions related to learners with moderate to severe exceptionalities and discusses the impact those conditions can have on a learner’s life including psychological and social-emotional characteristics of individuals with exceptionalities.
Disability Overview & Etiology  CEC/IIC Standards 6	Candidate discusses issues related to the identification of learners with moderate to severe exceptionalities, however does not identify issues related to those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.	Candidate discusses issues related to the identification of learners with moderate to severe exceptionalities including those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.	Candidate discusses issues related to the identification of learners with moderate to severe exceptionalities including those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and how those issues effect placement and services available for students with exceptionalities.
Impact on Families	Candidate’s discussion of the impact of learners with moderate	Candidate discusses the impact of learners with moderate to severe	Candidate discusses the impact of learners with moderate to severe



CEC/IIC Standards 6	to severe exceptionalities on family systems and the role of families in supporting development within the educational process is limited. Candidate's discussion of the impact of differences in values, languages, and customs that can exist between the home and school as well as the effect of personal cultural biases and differences that affect one's teaching is limited.	exceptionalities on family systems and the role of families in supporting development within the educational process. Candidate discusses the impact of differences in values, languages, and customs that can exist between the home and school as well as the effect of personal cultural biases and differences that affect one's teaching	exceptionalities on family systems and the role of families in supporting development within the educational process. Candidate discusses the impact of differences in values, languages, and customs that can exist between the home and school as well as the effect of personal cultural biases and differences that affect one's teaching. In addition, candidate discusses their own cultural biases and differences that affect their teaching.
Educational Issues CEC/IIC Standards 6	Candidate partially identifies continuum of placement and services available for learners with moderate to severe exceptionalities.	Candidate identifies the continuum of placement and services available for learners with moderate to severe exceptionalities.	Candidate identifies the continuum of placement and services available for learners with moderate to severe exceptionalities with consideration to the models, theories, and philosophies that form the basis of special education practice.
Educational Issues CEC/IIC Standards 5	Candidate fails to relate levels of support to the specific needs of learners moderate to severe exceptionalities to support them within the least restrictive environment.	Candidate relates levels of support to the needs of learners moderate to severe exceptionalities to support them within the least restrictive environment.	Candidate relates levels of support to the specific needs of learners moderate to severe exceptionalities to support them within the least restrictive environment. Candidate discusses specialized materials, curricula, and resources for learners with exceptionalities.
Educational Issues CEC/IIC Standards 1	Candidate's discussion of the educational implications of characteristics of learners with moderate to severe exceptionalities is limited and only partially identifies strategies to support learners including those from culturally diverse backgrounds.	Candidate discusses the educational implications of characteristics of learners with moderate to severe exceptionalities and identifies strategies to support learners including those from culturally diverse backgrounds.	Candidate discusses the educational implications of characteristics of learners with moderate to severe exceptionalities and identifies several evidence-based strategies to support learners including those from culturally diverse backgrounds.
Legal Issues CEC/IIC Standard 6	Candidate's discussion of the impact of the legal, judicial, and educational systems on the rights	Candidate discusses the impact the legal, judicial, and educational systems on the rights of learners	Candidate discusses the impact of various legal, judicial, and educational systems on the rights

	of learners with moderate to severe exceptionalities is limited.	with moderate to severe exceptionalities.	of learners with moderate to severe exceptionalities.
Family Resources CEC/IIC Standard 6 & 7	Candidate accesses information but identifies limited sources of unique services, networks, and organizations that may not specifically support families and learners with moderate to severe exceptionalities. Candidate's discussion of the roles of professional groups and referral agencies in identifying, assessing, and providing services to learners with moderate to severe exceptionalities is limited.	Candidate accesses information to identify sources of unique services, networks, and organizations to support families and learners with moderate to severe exceptionalities. Candidate discusses roles of professional groups and referral agencies in identifying, assessing, and providing services to learners with moderate to severe exceptionalities.	Candidate accesses information to identify and evaluate a range of unique services, networks, and organizations to specifically targeted to support families and learners with moderate to severe exceptionalities. Candidate discusses roles of professional groups and referral agencies in identifying, assessing, and providing services to learners with moderate to severe exceptionalities.
Professional Resources CEC/IIC Standard 6	Candidate accesses information but identifies limited professional organizations and publications reporting current research-validated practices that may not be specifically relevant to learners with moderate to severe exceptionalities.	Candidate accesses information to identify professional organizations and publications reporting current research-validated practices relevant to learners with moderate to severe exceptionalities.	Candidate accesses information to identify a range of professional organizations and publications reporting current research-validated practices specifically targeted to learners with moderate to severe exceptionalities.