George Mason University College of Education and Human Development Early Childhood Education

ECED 491.DL1 Seminar in Early Childhood Education for Diverse Learners 3 Credits, Spring 2024, Online Bichronous 1/16/2024-5/8/2024; Wednesdays/ 4:30-7:10 pm (Synchronous online meetings: 1/17, 1/31, 2/14, 2/28, 3/13, 3/20, 4/24)

Faculty

Name: Stephanie Calabrese, MEd

Office Hours: By appointment

Office Location: Thompson Hall 1200, Fairfax Campus

Office Phone: (703) 993-3844 Email Address: scalabr@gmu.edu

Required Prerequisites

ECED 490

May be taken concurrently.

University Catalog Course Description

Provides opportunity to evaluate and reflect upon classroom practices and interactions with diverse young children, families, and other professionals. Examines evidence-based practices used in early childhood classrooms to respond to the individual and group strengths, needs, and interests of young children with varied abilities from culturally, linguistically, and socioeconomically diverse backgrounds.

Course Delivery Method

This course will be delivered online using a synchronous seminar format using 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, 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

https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting_Started/Browser_Support#supported-browsers

To get a list of supported operation systems on different devices see 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 will need a headset microphone for use with the Blackboard Collaborate web conferencing tool.
- Students may be asked to create logins and passwords on supplemental websites and/or to download trial software to their computer or tablet as part of course requirements.
- The following software plug-ins for PCs and Macs, respectively, are available for free download:
- Adobe Acrobat Reader: https://get.adobe.com/reader/
- Windows Media Player: https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/help/14209/get-windows-media-player
- Apple Quick Time Player: www.apple.com/quicktime/download/

Expectations

- <u>Course Week:</u> Our week will start on Wednesday and finish on Tuesday as indicated on the Schedule of Classes.
- <u>Log-in Frequency:</u> 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 four times per week.
- <u>Participation</u>: 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.
- <u>Technical Competence:</u> 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.
- <u>Technical Issues:</u> 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.
- <u>Instructor Support:</u> 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.

- <u>Netiquette</u>: 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.
- <u>Accommodations</u>: Online learners who require effective accommodations to ensure accessibility must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services.

Learner Outcomes or Objectives

This course is designed to enable students to do the following:

- 1. Describe the legal status of teachers and students, including federal and state laws and regulations; school as an organization/culture; contemporary issues and current trends in education, including technology in education; local, state, and federal governance of schools, including the roles of teachers and schools in communities; and *Virginia's Guidelines for Uniform Performance Standards and Evaluation Criteria for Teachers*.
- 2. Discuss and reflect on examples from student teaching of various school crisis management and safety plans and identify ways they have worked to create a safe, orderly, inclusive classroom environment that engages individual children, including children with diverse abilities, in meaningful learning activities and social interactions.
- 3. Discuss examples from student teaching of research-based classroom and behavior management techniques, classroom community building, positive behavior supports, and individual interventions, including techniques that promote emotional well-being and teach and maintain behavioral conduct and skills consistent with norms, standards, and rules of the educational environment.
- 4. Discuss examples from student teaching of diverse, age-appropriate classroom and behavior management approaches based on culturally responsive behavioral, cognitive, affective, social, and ecological theory and practice that support professionally appropriate practices that promote positive redirection of behavior, development of social skills, and development of self-discipline.
- 5. Identify and reflect on strategies used during student teaching that demonstrate effective classroom management skills through methods that build responsibility and self-discipline, promote self-regulation, and maintain a positive learning environment.
- 6. Identify examples of modifying and managing the learning environments and experiences during student teaching to meet the individual needs of children, including children with disabilities, gifted children, children who are English learners, and children with diverse cultural backgrounds.
- 7. Identify a variety of age-appropriate techniques used during student teaching, informed by learning principles and knowledge of child development, that teach social and emotional skills to individual children and groups of children to assist with behavior management.
- 8. Provide examples from student teaching of the ways data were collected, analyzed, and used to inform instruction and guide children's behavior.
- 9. Discuss evidence-based instructional practices implemented during student teaching that promoted positive learning outcomes for young children.

- 10. Discuss ways they differentiated instruction in their student teaching experience to respond to the individual strengths, needs, and interests of young children.
- 11. Reflect critically on their practice and collaborations and discuss ways they engage in continuous learning.
- 12. Explain how historical, philosophical, and sociological foundations underlying the role, development, and organization of public education in the United States influence current teaching practices and environments and discuss ways to navigate school environments.
- 13. Exhibit standards of professionalism, ethical standards, and personal integrity with children, families, and professionals in the field and in interactions with classmates, the instructor, the field experience coordinator, and others.
- 14. Use writing as an instructional and assessment tool to generate, gather, plan, organize, and to communicate for a variety of purposes; integrate correct written conventions (i.e., grammar, usage, mechanics, and spelling); and format using current APA style.

Professional Standards

Interstate Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (InTASC) Teaching Standards, Division of Early Childhood (DEC) Initial Practice-Based Professional Preparation Standards for Early Interventionists/Early Childhood Special Educators (EI/ECSE), National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Professional Standards and Competencies for Early Childhood Educators, Virginia Professional Studies Endorsement Competencies, Virginia Early Childhood Special Education Endorsement Competencies, and Virginia Early/Primary Education PreK-3 Endorsement Competencies

Upon completion of this course, students will have met the following professional standards:

Virginia Professional Studies Endorsement Requirements

Classroom and Behavior Management Foundations of Education and the Teaching Profession

Virginia Early Childhood Special Education Endorsement Competencies

Behavior Management Standards of Professionalism

Virginia Early/Primary Education PreK-3 Endorsement Competencies

Methods

Required Texts

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). Author. ISBN: 978143383216-1

Recommended Texts

Fields, M., Merritt, P., & Fields, D. (2018). *Constructive guidance and discipline: Birth to age eight* (7th ed.). Pearson. ISBN: 9780134547916

Tyminski, C. (2014). Your early childhood practicum and student teaching experience: Guidelines for success (3rd ed.). Pearson. ISBN: 9780132869959

Required Online Documents

Council for Exceptional Children. (2015). What every special educator must know: Professional ethical and standards. Author. Retrieved from

https://www.cec.sped.org/Standards/Ethical-Principles-and-Practice-Standards

Council for Exceptional Children Division for Early Childhood (2020). Initial practice-based professional preparation standards for early interventionists/early childhood special educators (EI/ECSE) (initial birth through age 8). Retrieved from https://d4ab05f7-6074-4ec9-998a-

232c5d918236.filesusr.com/ugd/95f212 6e8952cda15f48b3935a7729dddcb50d.pdf

National Education Association for the Education of Young Children. (2020). Professional standards and competencies for early childhood educators. Retrieved from https://www.naeyc.org/sites/default/files/globally-shared/downloads/PDFs/resources/position-statements/professional standards and competencies for early childhood educators.pd

National Association for the Education of Young Children. (2019). *NAEYC position statement:*

Advancing equity in early childhood education. Retrieved from

https://www.naeyc.org/sites/default/files/globally-

shared/downloads/PDFs/resources/position-

statements/naeycadvancingequitypositionstatement.pdf

Virginia Department of Education. (2021). Virginia's guidelines for uniform performance standards and evaluation criteria for teachers. Retrieved from https://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/performance evaluation/teacher/

Virginia Department of Education. (2021). Virginia tiered systems of support. Retrieved from https://vtss-ric.vcu.edu/

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).

Assignments	Due Date	Points
Attendance and Participation	Ongoing	25
Readings and Reading Log	Weekly	
Self-Evaluation	April 24	
Classroom Management and Guidance	Ongoing and based on weekly	15
Analyses	readings (submit to Bb before class)	
• Video Analysis 1 Chapter/Article	1/31	5
reflections		
• Video Analysis 2 Chapter/Article	2/28	5
reflections		
• Video Analysis 3 Chapter/Article	3/20	5
reflections		
Internship Reflections	Submit to Bb before class:	20
• Video 1: Tour	1/24	5

Daily Plan and Video Clip 1	3/13	5
• Video 2: Tour and Update	4/3	5
• Daily Plan and Video Clip 2	4/24	5
Professional Resume	Draft – 3/13	
	Final – 4/10	10
Summative Reflective Statement	Draft – 3/20	
Paper	Final – 4/24	30
TOTAL		100

Assignments and/or Examinations

Classroom Management and Guidance Analyses (15 points)

This assignment is designed to assist students to explore and develop their own guidance and management practices. Students will (a) complete weekly readings and reflections related to classroom management and guidance philosophies, (b) maintain a reading log with quotes from each chapter, (c) engage in video analysis reflective experiences, and (d) engage in a Socratic seminar to analyze and discuss a particular guidance situation. Students are expected to follow the schedule and complete assignments according to the schedule.

Internship Reflections (20 points)

Students will identify select artifacts from their internship to upload to Blackboard to be used during seminar discussions. Artifacts include the following:

Introducing the Internship Placement (Video Tours)

Students will upload two videos to *Blackboard* introducing their internship at two points during the semester (see class schedule). For both videos, they will narrate the video as they video record the various aspects of the internship (e.g., organization's mission and vision, age/grade level of the children in the classroom, provide a tour of the internship setting). In their second video, they will also explain any changes they have made to their internship setting and goals.

Daily Plans with Videos

Students will upload to Blackboard and discuss during seminar two daily plans implemented during internship, one in the first 8 weeks and one in the second 8 weeks of the internship. They will be prepared to discuss (a) the planning process; (b) what they considered before, during, and after implementing the plan; (c) their reflections on the process and implementation of the plan; and (d) how the outcomes of this plan informed their future directions.

Students will select a video clip from the implementation of each of the two daily plans and upload to *Blackboard* for discussion. During seminar, students will present their video and reflections.

Professional Resume (10 points)

Students will prepare a resume relevant to the positions they plan to seek. They will participate in feedback sessions, use feedback to revise their resume, and submit a final draft of their resume

to Blackboard.

Summative Reflective Statement Paper (30 points)

Students will prepare a two-three page, single-spaced paper aligning chosen artifacts to each of the 6 NAEYC standards. Over the course of the semester, the intern will select at least 1 artifact each week and align the artifact to 1 NAEYC standard to upload to Bb. Upon completion of the internship experience, the intern will complete a Summative Reflective Statement. To complete the Summative Reflective Statement, the intern will select at least one artifact from their internship to demonstrate their understanding and implementation of each of the six NAEYC's Early Childhood Higher Education Professional Preparation Standards and Competencies (NAEYC Standards and Competencies.)

For each reflective analysis, the intern will (a) describe the artifact and why it was chosen; (b) align the artifact with 1 of the NAEYC standards, identify the standard, and discuss how the artifact demonstrates their understanding of the identified professional standard; and (c) articulate how they will use this knowledge in the future to support young learners, their families, and other professionals in the field.

Note: If the intern engages in more than one professional internship experience a Summative Reflective Statement will be completed for each placement.

This paper is designed to help students organize their talking points for interviews, conversations with families, and collaborating with colleagues and other professionals. The paper will include the following:

- Cover page
- An introduction that provides an overview of the 6 NAEYC standards and competencies. Discuss the importance of understanding each standard as an early childhood educator.
- For each standard, write 1-2 paragraphs identifying and discussing the artifact, the NAEYC standard, elaborating on each of the ways the artifact demonstrates alignment with the standard.
- Conclusion paragraph that provides a summary of the 6 NAEYC standards and the important role understanding each contributes to providing quality early childhood education.
- APA- In-text citations and a reference list written in APA style to support the introduction, the 6 NAEYC standards and artifacts, and the conclusion.

• Other Requirements

Attendance and Participation (25 points)

Because active participation and engagement are imperative for optimal learning, preparation for and participation in in-class and online activities will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Students attend class, arrive on time, and stay for the entire class period.
- Students use laptops and personal devices for instructional purposes only.
- Students complete readings and prepare for class activities prior to class as evidenced by their ability to discuss and write about the concepts presented and examined in the texts as well as participate fully in related activities.

- Students are actively involved in in-class and online learning experiences as evidenced by (a) participating in all activities, (b) engaging in small- and large-group discussions, (c) completing written work related to the activities, and (d) supporting the participation and learning of classmates.
- Students show evidence of critical reflective thinking through in-class and online discussions, activities, and written reflections.
- Students display professional dispositions at all times while interacting with the instructor and other students.
- Students complete participation activities across the semester that complement the scheduled course topic. Instructors will periodically collect artifacts from the activities. Students in attendance and who actively engage in the learning experience will receive credit for their efforts. Graded participation activities are not announced and are implemented at the discretion of the instructor.
- Students submit attendance and participation self-evaluation.

Written Assignments

All formal written assignments will be evaluated for content <u>and</u> presentation. The American Psychological Association, Seventh Edition (APA) style will be followed for all written work. All written work unless otherwise noted must be completed on a word processor and should be proofread carefully. (Use spell check!) If students are not confident of their own ability to catch errors, they should have another person proofread their work. When in doubt, they should check the APA manual. Portions of the APA manual appear at the Style Manuals link on the Mason library website at http://infoguides.gmu.edu/content.php?pid=39979. Students may consult the Writing Center for additional writing support.

Students will do the following:

- 1. Present ideas in a clear, concise, and organized manner. (Avoid wordiness and redundancy.)
- 2. Develop points coherently, definitively, and thoroughly.
- 3. Refer to appropriate authorities, studies, and examples to document where appropriate. (Avoid meaningless generalizations, unwarranted assumptions, and unsupported opinions.)
- 4. Use correct capitalization, punctuation, spelling, and grammar.
- 5. Type the paper with double spacing, indented paragraphs, 1-inch margins all around, and 12-point Times New Roman font.

Grading

$$A + = 98 - 100$$
 $A = 93 - 97$ $A - = 90 - 92$ $B + = 87 - 89$ $B = 83 - 86$ $B - = 80 - 82$ $C + = 77 - 79$ $C = 73 - 79$ $C - = 70 - 72$ $D = 60 - 69$ $F = < 60$

Incomplete (IN): This grade may be given to students who are passing a course but who may be unable to complete scheduled coursework for a cause beyond reasonable control.

All CEHD students are held to the university grading policies as described in the Academic Policies section of the current catalog, which can be accessed at http://catalog.gmu.edu. Those students seeking Virginia initial teaching licensure must earn a C or better in all undergraduate licensure coursework.

Professional Dispositions

Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times. See https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/policies-procedures/.

Class Schedule

Date	Topics	Readings and Assignments Due
Week 1	Engaging in Critical Reflection on	Review the following:
Jan. 17	Teaching, Professional	CEC Initial Preparation
	Collaborations, and Opportunities for	Standards & ECSE Specialty
Online Synch	Continuous Learning	Set
Zoom Meeting		NAEYC Initial Preparation
		Standards and
	Professionalism, Ethical Standards,	Developmentally Appropriate
	and Personal Integrity	Practices Position statement
		Virginia's Guidelines for
		Uniform Performance
		Standards and Evaluation
		Criteria for Teachers
		Student Teaching Evaluation
		Materials
Week 2	The role of the early childhood	Read:
Jan. 24	environment and setting in promoting	Fields et al, Chapter 1: Upload
Asynchronous	development and learning	reading log with 5 Quotes
		D (DI) 1/24 I () 1:
	Considering Guidance and Discipline	Due to Bb by 1/24: Internship
	of Diverse Young Children in the Classroom	Reflections: Video Tour #1
	Classroom	
	Virginia Tiered Systems of Supports	
Week 3	Writing a Daily /Weekly/	Read:
Jan. 31	Plan/Lesson plan	• Gadkari (2023). <i>Inclusive</i>
Jan. 31	Tran/Lesson plan	l '
Online Synch	Effect of Physical, Emotional, Social,	preschool settings: Strategies
Zoom Meeting	and Intellectual Development on the	to support children's
200m Meeting	Behavior and Discipline of Diverse	development in the physical
	Young Children	domain.
		• Collet (2017). "I can do
	Preparing for and Learning from	that!" Creating classrooms
	Student Teaching Observations and	that foster resilience.
	Evaluations	
		Due to Bb by 1/31: Video
	Virginia's Guidelines for Uniform	Analysis #1: Chapter/Article
	Performance Standards and	reflections
	Evaluation Criteria for Teachers	

Date	Topics	Readings and Assignments Due
Week 4	Classroom Management:	Read and upload reading log with
Feb. 7	Environment, Routines, Timing,	5 Quotes
Asynchronous	Interpreting and Using Assessment of Diverse Young Children to Inform Practice	Holland & Ohle (2020). "How can I help you?": Reconsidering behavior management.
		• Blessing (2019).
		Assessment in
		kindergarten: Meeting children where they are.
Week 5 Feb. 14 Online Synch Meeting	Teaching Desirable Behavior Through Example • Building inclusive classroom community • Promoting well-being Implementing Evidence-Based Instructional Practices	Read: Fields, et al., Chapter 5: Upload reading log with 5 Quotes
Week 6	Communication Strategies with	Read and upload reading log with
Feb. 21 Asynchronous	students, families, staff, and the community Collaborating with Diverse Families and Communities	 S Quotes: Xu (2020). Engaging families of young children with disabilities through family-school-community Partnerships. Steen (2023), Chapter 2, "Building Reciprocal Family Partnerships"
Week 7		Read:
Feb. 28	Preparing for a Professional Career in Early Childhood Education –	• Hickey (2019). Becoming your best: Building
Online Synch	Reference Letters	professional competencies.
Meeting	Resume writing Interview protocol Professionalism	 Feeney et al. (2020). Professional boundaries in early childhood education: Working with families. Due to Bb by 2/28: Video Analysis #2 Chapter/article reflections

Date	Topics	Readings and Assignments Due
Week 8 March 6	Spring Break, NO CLASS	
Week 9 March 13 Online Synch Meeting	Using Plans and pacing guides to inform instructional, curricular, assessment, and partnership decisions	Read: Fields et al., Chapter 9: Upload reading log with 5 Quotes Due to Bb by 3/13: Professional Resume Draft Due to Bb by 3/13: Internship Reflections: Daily Plan and Video Clip #1
Week 10 March 20 Online Synch Meeting	Preparing for a Professional Career in Early Childhood Education – NAEYC and DEC standards and competencies Code of Practice	Read: Fields et al., Chapter 10. Due to Bb by 3/20: Video Analysis #3: Chapter/article reflections Due to Bb by 3/20: Draft of Summative Reflective Statement Paper
Week 11 March 27 Online Synch Meeting	Role of the Culture and Climate of the Early childhood setting Responding to Trauma • Addressing children's stress and vulnerabilities	Read and upload reading log with 5 Quotes • Galinsky (2020). Words matter: Moving from trauma-informed to assetinformed care. • Kroeger et al. (2019). Tate and the pink coat: Exploring gender and enacting anti-bias principles.
Week 12 April 3 Asynchronous	Meeting the Diverse Needs of Young Children • Culturally responsive approaches • Universal Design for Learning	Read and upload reading log with 5 Quotes Rice & Dunn (2020). Supporting children's writing in inclusive classrooms with artsbased strategies.

Date	Topics	Readings and Assignments Due
Week 13 April 10 In-person meeting WOLF TRAP (location TBD)	Preparing for a Career in Early Childhood Education • Understanding how historical, philosophical, and sociological foundations underlying the role, development, and organization of public education in the United States influence current teaching practices and environments	 Wanless & Crawford (2016). Reading your way to a culturally responsive classroom. Due to Bb by 4/3: Internship Reflections: Video #2 Tour and
Week 14 April 17 Asynchronous	Navigating and advocating for the Early childhood field	
Week 15 April 24 Online Synch Meeting (Last Meeting)	Course reflection	Due to Bb by 4/24: Internship Reflections: Daily Plan and Video Clip #2 Due to Bb by 4/24: Attendance and Participation Self- Evaluation Due to Bb by 4/24: Final Paper: Summative Reflective Statement Paper
Reading Days	No class	

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

Core Values Commitment

The College of Education and Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles: http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/.

GMU Policies and Resources for Students

Policies

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

Campus Resources

- Support for submission of assignments to VIA should be directed to wiahelp@gmu.edu or https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/assessments. Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to https://its.gmu.edu/knowledge-base/blackboard-instructional-technology-support-for-students/.
- For information on student support resources on campus, see https://ctfe.gmu.edu/teaching/student-support-resources-on-campus.

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 Student (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: http://cehd.gmu.edu.