

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

ECED 781.600/601 Seminar in Early Childhood Education
3 Credits, Spring 2024, Online Bichronous
3/11/2024-5/5/2024, Thursdays/ 5:00 pm-7:40 pm

Faculty

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Required Prerequisites

ECED 788 or 789
May be taken concurrently.

University Catalog Course Description

Provides opportunities to evaluate and reflect upon instructional practices and interactions with culturally, linguistically, socioeconomically, and ability diverse young children, their families, and other professionals. Examines evidence-based practices used in early childhood settings to manage the environment, guide behavior, and provide instruction that responds to each child's strengths, needs, and interests. Emphasizes professionalism and foundations of early education and care.

Course Delivery Method

This course will be delivered using a hybrid lecture/discussion format and via 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 March 11, 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

- Course Week: Our course week will begin on Monday and end on Sunday 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 four 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 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. Examine and 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. Examine and 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, examine, and discuss 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, examine, and discuss 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 and reflect on evidence-based instructional practices implemented during student teaching that promoted positive learning outcomes for young children.
10. Discuss and reflect on 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 and reflect on 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 and reflect on ways to navigate school environments.
13. Exhibit and reflect on 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: 9781433832161
- 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_6e8952cda15f48b3935a7729dddc50d.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.pdf
- 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. (2012). Virginia’s guidelines for uniform performance standards and evaluation criteria for teachers. Retrieved from http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/regulations/2011_guidelines_uniform_performance_standards_evaluation_criteria.pdf
- 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 • Self-Evaluation	Ongoing 5/5	25
Classroom Management and Guidance Analyses • Video Analysis #1 Chapter reflections • Video Analysis #2 Chapter reflections • Video Analysis #3 Chapter reflections	<i>Ongoing and based on readings</i> 4/7 4/21 5/5	15 5 5 5
Instructional Reflections • Classroom Video 1: Tour • Classroom Video 2: Tour and Update	Submit to Bb before class: 3/24 4/21	10 5 5

Professional Resume	Draft: 4/28 Final: 5/5	10
Strength-Based Instruction and Guidance Talking Points Brief	Draft: 4/28 Final: 5/5	40
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, and (c) engage in video analysis reflective experiences. A Classroom Management and Guidance Analyses guide will be available on Blackboard. Students are expected to follow the schedule and complete assignments according to the schedule.

Instructional Reflections (10 points)

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

Introducing Classroom

Students will upload two videos to *Blackboard* introducing their classroom at two points during the semester (see class schedule). They will narrate the video as they video record the various areas of the classroom. If the videos are of two different settings, they will introduce themselves, state the type of classroom and age/grade level of the children, and explain how the environment is set up. If the second video is of the same setting, they will introduce themselves, state the type of classroom and age/grade level of the children, and explain any changes they have made to the environment in response to what they have learned about the children.

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.

Strength-Based Instruction and Guidance Talking Points Brief (40 points)

Students will prepare a two-page, single-spaced, strength-based instruction and guidance talking points brief. This brief is designed to help students organize their talking points for interviews, conversations with families, and collaborating with colleagues and other professionals. The brief will include the following:

- an introduction that provides an overview of their beliefs about strength-based instruction and guidance,
- nine to 12 strengths-based instruction and guidance talking points with a paragraph or bulleted points elaborating on each point, and
- in-text citations and a reference list written in APA style to support the introduction and talking points.

- **Other Requirements**

Attendance and Participation (25 points)

Active participation and engagement are imperative for optimal learning. Therefore, students will prepare for and participate in in-class and online activities. Students will be expected to do the following:

- Attend class, arrive on time, and stay for the entire class period for all in-person and online synchronous class sessions.
- Complete all online asynchronous work by the due dates.
- Use laptops and personal devices for instructional purposes only during in-person and online synchronous class sessions.
- Complete readings and prepare for class activities prior to class as evidenced by the ability to discuss, write about, and engage in activities related to the concepts presented and examined in the texts.
- Complete participation activities across the semester that complement the scheduled course topic. *Note: Instructors will periodically collect artifacts from the activities.*
- Support the participation and learning of classmates. 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.
- Show evidence of critical reflective thinking through in-person, online synchronous, and online asynchronous discussions, activities, and written reflections.
- Display professional dispositions at all times when interacting with the instructor, classmates, and other professionals.
- Submit an attendance and participation self-evaluation.

Written Assignments

All formal written assignments will be evaluated for content and 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 = 95-100 A- = 90-94 B+ = 87-89 B = 80-86 C = 70-79 F = <70

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 enrolled in a CEHD Licensure Graduate Certificate program, however, must earn a B- or better in all graduate licensure coursework. A degree-seeking graduate student will be dismissed after accumulating grades of F in two courses or 9 credits of unsatisfactory grades (C or F) in graduate courses. A 3.0 grade point average is required for completion of the graduate degree.

Professional Dispositions

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

Class Schedule

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

Date	Topics	Readings and Assignments Due
<p>Week 1 Mar 11-17</p> <p>Mar 14 Sync Class 5:00-7:40pm</p>	<p>Engaging in Critical Reflection on Teaching, Professional Collaborations, and Opportunities for Continuous Learning</p> <p>Establishing Professional Relationships</p> <p>Professionalism, Ethical Standards, and Personal Integrity</p> <p>Legal Status of Teachers and Students</p> <p>Crisis Management and Safety Plans</p> <p>Considering Guidance and Discipline of Diverse Young Children in the Classroom</p> <p>Virginia Tiered Systems of Supports</p>	<p><i>Review the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>DEC Initial Practice-Based Professional Preparation Standards for EI/ECSE</i> • <i>NAEYC Professional Standards and Competencies for Early Childhood Educators</i> • <i>Virginia’s Guidelines for Uniform Performance Standards and Evaluation Criteria for Teachers</i> • <i>Student Teaching Evaluation Materials</i> <p>Read: Fields et al, Chapter 1</p> <p>Read: Tyminski Chapter 1/Answer question #1</p>

Date	Topics	Readings and Assignments Due
<p>Week 2 Mar 18-24</p> <p>Mar 21 Sync Class 5:00-7:40pm</p>	<p>Effect of Physical, Emotional, Social, and Intellectual Development on the Behavior and Discipline of Diverse Young Children</p> <p>Preparing for and Learning from Student Teaching Observations and Evaluations</p> <p>Virginia’s Guidelines for Uniform Performance Standards and Evaluation Criteria for Teachers</p> <p>Classroom Management: Environment, Routines, and Discipline Programs in Inclusive Classrooms</p> <p>Interpreting and Using Assessment of Diverse Young Children to Inform Practice</p>	<p>Read: Fields et al, Chapters 2, 3, 4</p> <p>Read: Tyminski Chapter 6 and 7</p> <p>Due to Bb (3/24): Classroom Video Tour #1</p>
<p>Mar 25-31</p>	<p>FCPS Spring Break, No Class</p>	
<p>Week 3 Apr 1-7</p> <p>Apr 4 Sync Class 5:00-7:40pm</p>	<p>Teaching Desirable Behavior Through Example</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building inclusive classroom community • Promoting well-being <p>Implementing Evidence-Based Instructional Practices</p> <p>Communication Strategies for Effective Discipline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redirecting behavior • Positive behavior supports <p>Collaborating with Diverse Families and Communities</p>	<p>Read: Fields et al., Chapter 5, 6</p> <p>Read: Tyminski Chapter 4/Answer question #5</p> <p>Due to Bb (4/7): Video Analysis #1 Fields et al., Chapters 1-4</p>

Date	Topics	Readings and Assignments Due
<p>Week 4 Apr 8-14</p> <p>Apr 11 Sync Class 5:00-7:40pm</p>	<p>Helping Children Understand and Accept Limits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual interventions <p>Preparing for a Professional Career in Early Childhood Education: Reference Letters</p> <p>Supportive instruction</p>	<p>Read: Fields et al., Chapter 7, 8, 9</p> <p>Read: Tyminski Chapter 5/Answer question #4</p>
<p>Week 5 Apr 15-21</p> <p>Apr 18 Sync Class 5:00-7:40pm</p>	<p>Preparing for a Professional Career in Early Childhood Education: Creating An Effective Resume</p> <p>Punishment Versus Discipline</p> <p>Preparing for a Professional Career in Early Childhood Education: Applying for Positions</p>	<p>Read: Fields et al., Chapter 10, 11</p> <p>Read: Tyminski Chapter 8/Answer question #1</p> <p>Due to Bb (4/21): Video Analysis #2 Fields et al., Chapters 5-9</p> <p>Due to Bb (4/21): Classroom Video #2 Classroom Tour/Update</p>
<p>Week 6 Apr 22-28</p> <p>Apr 25 Sync Class 5:00-7:40pm</p>	<p>Childlike Behaviors and Unmet Needs</p> <p>Preparing for a Professional Career in Early Childhood Education: Interviewing for Positions</p> <p>Meeting the Diverse Needs of Young Children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Culturally responsive approaches Addressing children’s stress and vulnerabilities <p>Preparing for a Professional Career in Early Childhood Education: Articulating a Code of Practice</p>	<p>Read: Fields et al., Chapter 12, 13</p> <p>Read: Tyminski Chapter 9/ Answer question #6</p> <p><i>Due to Bb (4/28): Draft of Professional Resume</i></p> <p><i>Due to Bb (4/28): Draft of Strengths-based Instruction and Guidance Talking Points Brief</i></p>
<p>Week 7 Apr 29-May 5</p> <p>May 2 Sync Class 5:00-7:40pm</p>	<p>Analyzing Discipline Challenges</p> <p>Preparing for a Career in Early Childhood Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding how historical, philosophical, and sociological foundations 	<p>Due to Bb (5/5): Professional Resume</p> <p>Due to Bb (5/5): Strengths-Based Instruction and Guidance Talking Points Brief</p>

Date	Topics	Readings and Assignments Due
	underlying the role, development, and organization of public education in the United States influence current teaching practices and environments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Navigating school environments 	Due to Bb (5/5): Video Analysis #3 Fields et al., Chapters 10-13 Due to Bb (5/5): Attendance and Participation Self-Evaluation

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 viahelp@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](#)

[Support and Advocacy Center](#) (SSAC) at 703-380-1434 or [Counseling and Psychological Services](#) (CAPS) at 703-993-2380. You may also seek assistance or support measures from Mason's Title IX Coordinator by calling 703-993-8730 or emailing titleix@gmu.edu.

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

Strengths-Based Instruction and Guidance Talking Points Brief Evaluation Guide

- /2 Prepared a two-page, single-spaced, strength-based instruction and guidance talking points brief designed to help students organize their talking points for interviews, conversations with families, and collaborating with colleagues and other professionals.
- Focused on strength-based instruction and guidance
 - Addressed the intended purpose and audience
 - Wrote two single-spaced pages
- /6 Provided an introduction to the strengths-based instruction and guidance talking points brief.
- Used strengths-based language
 - Provided an evidence-based introduction to the instruction and guidance talking points
- /12 Provided nine to 12 strengths-based instruction and guidance talking points with a paragraph or bulleted points elaborating on each talking point.
- Stated talking points using strengths-based language
 - Included talking points meaningful and relevant to working in early childhood education settings
 - Provided evidence-based support for each talking point
- /5 Wrote the talking points in a clear, concise, and cohesive manner using correct spelling and mechanics.
- Presented ideas in a clear, concise, and organized manner
 - Developed talking points coherently, definitively, and thoroughly
 - Cited appropriate authorities, studies, and examples are cited where appropriate
 - Used correct capitalization, punctuation, spelling, and grammar
 - Followed APA style in the text and in the reference list
- /25