

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

Summer 2024
EDSE 501 C01: Introduction to Special Education
CRN: 40068, 3 – Credits

Instructor: Dr. Carolyn Iguchi	Meeting Dates: 6/24/24 – 8/1/24
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Office Hours: Virtual office hours by	Meeting Location: N/A; Online
appointment	
Office Location: N/A	Other Phone: N/A

Note: This syllabus may change according to class needs. Teacher Candidates/Students will be advised of any changes immediately through George Mason e-mail and/or through Blackboard.

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None

Co-requisite(s):

None

Course Description

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

Course Overview

EDSE 501 is a foundational course exploring essential concepts regarding individuals with disabilities within the context of human growth and development across the life span. The course includes information about historical factors, legal aspects, etiology, characteristics, assessment, evidence-based practices, and support services for individuals with disabilities having needs for

intervention ranging from mild to severe. Students will examine the impact of disabilities on academic, social, and emotional performances framed within the teaching profession as a whole.

Advising Contact Information

Please make sure that you are being advised on a regular basis as to your status and progress in your program. Students in Special Education and Assistive Technology programs can contact the Special Education Advising Office at 703-993-3670 or speced@gmu.edu for assistance. All other students should refer to their assigned program advisor or the Mason Care Network (703-993-2470).

Advising Tip

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

Course Delivery Method

Learning activities include the following:

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

This course will be delivered online (76% or more) using an asynchronous format via the Blackboard Learning Management system (LMS) housed in the MyMason portal. You will log in to the Blackboard (Bb) course site using your Mason email name (everything before @masonlive.gmu.edu) and email password. The course site will be available on June 24, 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: <u>Browser support</u> (<u>https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Ultra/Getting_Started/Browser_Support</u>)
- Students must maintain consistent and reliable access to their GMU email and Blackboard, as these are the official methods of communication for this course.

- Students may be asked to create logins and passwords on supplemental websites and/or to download trial software to their computer or tablet as part of course requirements.
- The following software plug-ins for PCs and Macs, respectively, are available for free download:
 - o Adobe Acrobat Reader: https://get.adobe.com/reader/
 - Windows Media Player: https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/help/14209/get-windows-media-player
 - o Apple Quick Time Player: www.apple.com/quicktime/download/

Expectations

Course Week:

Because asynchronous courses do not have a "fixed" meeting day, our week will start on Monday at 12:00 am ET, and finish on Sunday at 11:59 pm ET. Our course week will begin on the day that our synchronous meetings take place as indicated on the Schedule of Classes.

• Log-in Frequency:

Students must actively check the course Blackboard site and their GMU email for communications from the instructor, class discussions, and/or access to course materials at least 2 times per week.

• Participation:

Students are expected to actively engage in all course activities throughout the semester, which includes viewing all course materials, completing course activities and assignments, and participating in course discussions and group interactions.

• Technical Competence:

Students are expected to demonstrate competence in the use of all course technology. Students who are struggling with technical components of the course are expected to seek assistance from the instructor and/or College or University technical services.

• Technical Issues:

Students should anticipate some technical difficulties during the semester and should, therefore, budget their time accordingly. Late work will not be accepted based on individual technical issues.

Workload:

Please be aware that this course is not self-paced. Students are expected to meet *specific deadlines* and *due dates* listed in the Class Schedule section of this syllabus. It is the student's responsibility to keep track of the weekly course schedule of topics, readings, activities and assignments due.

• Instructor Support:

Students may schedule a one-on-one meeting to discuss course requirements, content or other course-related issues. Those unable to come to a Mason campus can meet with the instructor via telephone or web conference. Students should email the instructor to schedule a one-on-one session, including their preferred meeting method and suggested dates/times.

• Netiquette:

The course environment is a collaborative space. Experience shows that even an innocent remark typed in the online environment can be misconstrued. Students must always re-read their responses carefully before posting them, so as others do not consider them as personal offenses. *Be positive in your approach with others and diplomatic in selecting your words*. Remember that you are not competing with classmates but sharing information and learning from others. All faculty are similarly expected to be respectful in all communications.

• Accommodations:

Online learners who require effective accommodations to ensure accessibility must be registered with George Mason University Disability Service.

Learner Outcomes

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

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

and traumatic situations.

Professional Standards

(Council for Exceptional Children [CEC] and the Interstate Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium [InTASC]). Upon completion of this course, students will have met the following professional standards: CEC Standard 1: Learner development and individual learning differences (InTASC 1,2) & CEC Standard 3: Curricular content knowledge (InTASC 4,5).

Required Texts

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

Recommended Texts

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

Required Resources

On Blackboard

Additional Readings

On Blackboard

Course Performance Evaluation

Students are expected to submit all assignments on time in the manner outlined by the instructor (e.g., Blackboard, VIA, hard copy).

VIA Performance-Based Assessment Submission Requirement

It is critical for the special education program to collect data on how our students are meeting accreditation standards. Every teacher candidate/student registered for an EDSE course with a required Performance-based Assessment (PBA) is required to upload the PBA to VIA/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 501: No requirement to upload a Performance-based Assessment (PBA) to VIA/SLL.

Assignments and/or Examinations

Performance-based Assessment (VIA submission required) N/A

College Wide Common Assessment (VIA submission required)

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

Beginning of semester disposition survey should be submitted to VIA in week 1.

Other Assignments

Assignment Summary

Course Action Items	Earned Points	Possible Points
Beyond the Modules Activities		25 (10, 10, 5 points)
Reading Checks		150 (10 points each)
Lesson Checks		150 (10 points each)
Reflections		200 (50 points each)
Teaching Philosophy		125
Poster		125
Disability in Pop Culture		75
Final Paper		150
TOTAL POINTS FOR THE COURSE		1000

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

All coursework will be online in an asynchronous format.

Late Work

Work is considered on time if it is submitted by 11:59 p.m. EST on the date that it is due. Work can be turned in early, but all late work will receive a 10%-point deduction off the resulting grade for each calendar day. For example, on a 25-point Reading Check, there would be a 2.5-point deduction (10%) per day, so if a student submitted the Reading Check one day late and earned 20 out of 25 points, their final grade would be 17.5 points. After one week from the due date or after the last day of class (whichever comes first), assignments will no longer be accepted and a score of zero will be entered into the grade book for that assignment. Given the short length of the course, it is particularly important to turn in work by the assignment due date to avoid falling behind.

Other Requirements

Written Work Policy: Students earning a master's degree should demonstrate competence in written communication. All written submissions should be free of errors in spelling, grammar, and punctuation. Assignments with excessive mistakes will be returned to the student for revision with an automatic 15% grade deduction. Students will be given 48 hours to resubmit work for evaluation and feedback. Students are not permitted to submit work from previous courses. All work must be original to this course.

Grading

To compute your final course grade, divide the total earned points by the total possible points to calculate the percentage. In can view your running total and final total grade on the Blackboard "My Grades" tab.

A	95-100%
A-	90-94%
B+	86-89%
В	80-85%
B-	77-79%
С	73-76%
F	<73%

*Note: The George Mason University Honor Code will be strictly enforced. See <u>Academic Integrity Site</u> (https://oai.gmu.edu/) and <u>Honor Code and System</u>

(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 <u>Policies and Procedures</u> (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.

Class Schedule

*Note: Faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule as necessary, with notification to students. Items with an asterisk must be completed to pass the course.

EDSE 501 Course Schedule (5-Week Version)					
Week (Starts on Monday at 12:00 am)	Module	Topic(s)	Activities and Readings	Deliverables (Due Sunday by 11:59 pm)	
Week 1 6/24-6/30	A	Introduction to Course	 □ Getting to know the course □ Capturing your thinking □ Review Teaching Philosophy Paper 	 □ Purchase/Rent Textbook □ Child abuse and Neglect Certification* □ Professional Disposition Survey □ Reflection 1 □ Cultural Competency Module* □ Disability in Pop-Culture 	
	В	Foundations of Special Education	 □ Read: Ch. 1 □ Read: Ch. 2 □ Lesson: Historical Foundations and Special Education Law 	 □ Reading Check: Ch. 1 □ Reading Check: Ch. 2 □ Lesson Check: Historical Foundations and Special Education Law 	
Week 2 7/1-7/7	C	The Cognitive Continuum: ID, Multiple Disabilities, and Giftedness	 □ Read: Ch. 13 □ Lesson: Severe Disabilities □ Read: Ch. 5 □ Lesson: Intellectual Disabilities □ Read: Ch. 15 □ Lesson: Giftedness □ Review Poster Assignment 	 □ Reading Check: Ch. 13 □ Lesson Check: Severe/multiple disabilities □ Reading Check: Ch. 5 □ Lesson Check: ID □ Reading Check: Ch. 15 □ Lesson Check: Giftedness □ Teaching Philosophy Paper 	
Week 3 7/8-7/14	D	The Dynamic Duo: LD and EBD	□ Read: Ch. 6□ Lesson: LD□ Read: Ch. 8□ Lesson: EBD	 □ Reading Check: Ch. 6 □ Lesson Check: LD □ Reading Check: Ch. 8 □ Lesson Check: EBD □ Reflection 2 □ Dyslexia Awareness Certification* 	

Week 3 7/8-7/14	E	The Spectrum of Considerations: SLI and ASD	Read: Ch. 9 Lesson: ASD Read: Ch. 10 Lesson: Speech/Language and communication disorders	Reading Check: Ch. 9 Lesson check: ASD Reading Check: Ch. 9 Lesson check: ASD Lesson check: SLI Reflection 3
	F	The Physical Realm: OI, OHI, ADHD, and TBI	Read: Ch. 14 Lesson: Orthopedic Impairments Introduce Poster Assignment Read: Ch. 7 Lesson ADHD Lesson: TBI	Reading Check: Ch. 14 Lesson Check: Orthopedic Impairments Reading Check: Ch. 7 Lesson Check: ADHD Lesson Check: TBI
Week 4 7/15-7/21	G	The Sensory Arena: VI and HI	Read: Ch. 12 Lesson: Visual Impairments Read: Ch. 11 Lesson: Hearing Impairments Review Final Paper	Reading Check: Ch. 12 Lesson Check: Visual Impairments Reading Check: Ch. 11 Lesson Check: Hearing Impairments Poster Assignment: Comparing and Contrasting, Disability Profiles, Organizations, and Resources
Week 5 7/22-7/29	Н	Creating Opportunities for All Learners: Exploring Multicultural Perspectives and Collaboration in Special Education	Read: Ch. 3 Lesson: Cultural Competency Read: Ch. 4 Lesson: Families	Reading Check: Ch. 3 Lesson Check: Cultural Competency Reading Check: Ch. 4 Lesson Check: Families Reflection 4 Special Education Disposition Survey Final Paper Due

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/).

GMU Policies and Resources for Students

Policies

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the Mason Honor Code. See <u>Honor Code and System (https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/)</u>.
- 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/).
- 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/).
- 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 <u>viahelp@gmu.edu</u> or https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/assessments.
- Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to <u>Blackboard Instructional Technology Support for Students</u> (https://its.gmu.edu/knowledge-base/blackboard-instructional-technology-support-for-students/).
- <u>Learning Services (learningservices@gmu.edu)</u> 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 <u>University Policy 1202</u>. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason's confidential resources, such as the <u>Student Support and Advocacy Center (SSAC)</u> at 703-380-1434 or <u>Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)</u> 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 <u>titleix@gmu.edu</u>.

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/).

Appendix

Assessment Rubric(s)

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

Poster Assignment	Earned Points	Possible Points
Disability Characteristics (Describe & Analyze) Disability characteristics for the		45
chosen primary disability are described. The following topics are addressed:		
prevalence, diagnosis, physical or medical considerations, and social/behavioral		
implications are addressed. Considerations of learning needs are addressed		
including: areas of learning impacted, beneficial teaching strategies, IEP		
considerations, service location, and requisite teacher skills		
Contrasting Disabilities (Analyze & Judge) Disability characteristics are		45
compared and contrasted across three disabilities (one primary and two others). The		
following topics are addressed: prevalence of the disabilities, similarities and		
differences in disability characteristics, IEP team considerations, prominent		
advocacy groups related to the selected disabilities, and instructional strategies		
Poster Product is straightforward, clear, purposefully organized, visually appealing,		20
and meets the structural requirements of an academic poster. The Venn diagram or		
similar figure is legible and clear.		
APA Style Writing is clear and easy to understand. There are few to no grammar		15
errors/typos. Additional resources for students with disabilities and their families		
are included. References for all cited information, including organization websites		
follow APA formatting.		
		125

Disability in Pop Culture	Earned Points	Possible Points
Describe the Piece of Media (Describe & Analyze) The popular press article, book,		15
television show, film, documentary, cartoon, podcast, poignant image, etc. is		
summarized. The student explains why they chose this particular piece of media.		
Questions (Analyze & Judge) At least five of the listed questions are thoughtfully		45
answered in the body of the 1-2-page essay. Deep consideration regarding the impact		
of the representation of the disability is evident.		
APA Style Writing is clear and easy to understand. There are few to no grammar		15
errors/typos. References for all cited information, including the piece of media		
follow APA formatting.		
		75

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