

College of Education and Human Development

Division of Special Education and disAbility Research

Summer 2024 EDSE 627: Assessment Section: 685; CRN: 43552

3 - Credits

Instructor: Dr. Cheryl Bragg	Meeting Dates: 5/16/24 – 7/18/24
Phone:	Instructional Method: Mix of online
	synchronous and asynchronous online
Phone/Zoom Meeting may me individually	instruction. See the synchronous online video
arranged via e-mail	meeting dates below. The synchronous online
	video meetings will be supplemented by
	asynchronous online coursework.
E-Mail: Cbragg@gmu.edu	Meeting Day(s)/Date(s) & Time: Thursday;
	5/16/24 from 5 pm – 7:30 pm /Other
	synchronous sessions scheduled as needed.
Office Hours: Virtual; as-needed weekly	Meeting Location: N/A; Online

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

Prerequisite(s): None

Co-requisite(s): None

Course Description

Offers knowledge and experiential learning activities related to assessment of students with mild disabilities. Includes statistical and psychometric concepts in assessment. Addresses norm-referenced, criterion-referenced, curriculum-based, and informal assessment for instructional and placement decisions.

Advising Contact Information

Please make sure that you are being advised on a regular basis as to your status and progress in

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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

Do you need to apply for internship? Students completing special education teacher licensure programs apply ahead of time for internships so supervisors, and sites if needed, can be arranged. Check your program plan or talk with your advisor if you are unsure when you should be applying for internship.

Course Delivery Method

Learning activities include the following:

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

This course will be delivered online using synchronous and/or asynchronous instruction 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 Monday, May 13th at 5:00 pm.

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> (https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Ultra/Getting_Started/Browser_Support)
- Students must maintain consistent and reliable access to their GMU email and Blackboard, as these are the official methods of communication for this course.
- Students may be asked to create logins and passwords on supplemental websites and/or to download trial software to their computer or tablet as part of course requirements.
- The following software plug-ins for PCs and Macs, respectively, are available for free download:

- 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 Thursday, and finish on Wednesday. Synchronous sessions, when scheduled, will take place on Thursdays at 5:00-7:30pm.

• 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. In addition, students must log-in for all scheduled online synchronous meetings.

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, as well as attending all synchronous offerings

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. You may arrange to meet directly with the Instructor and/or viz 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. Provide the definition of assessment and the purposes and assumptions regarding assessment of exceptional children.
- 2. Compare and contrast the terms assessment and testing.
- 3. Describe relevant ethical standards, litigation, and legislation related to assessment.
- **4.** Describe the characteristics of norm-referenced, criterion-referenced, curriculum-based and informal teacher-made tests, their similarities and differences, and their respective roles in the assessment process.
- **5.** Demonstrate knowledge of basic measurement concepts and evaluate the psychometric properties of individual tests.
- **6.** Create graphic displays of data in appropriate formats including: stem and leaf plot, scatterplot, and line graph using a computer spreadsheet.
- 7. Calculate descriptive statistics using a computer spreadsheet.
- **8.** Interpret test results, generate appropriate educational goals and objectives based upon these results, and report test results in a professional written format.
- 9. Select, administer, and score of a variety of educational tests.
- 10. Use assessment information in making eligibility, program, and placement decisions for individuals with exceptional learning needs, including those from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds. § Write assessment reports of academic achievement tests.
- 11. Conduct curriculum-based assessments to guide instructional decision-making. § Explain the benefits and limits of different forms of assessment (e.g., individual, norm-referenced assessment vs. continuous progress measures).
- **12.** Explain the benefits and limits of different forms of data collected for assessment (e.g., standard scores vs. grade equivalents).
- **13.** Score and interpret behavior observation protocols from time sampling, event recording, and interval recording procedures.
- 14. Describe the procedures and purposes of Response to Intervention (RTI).
- 15. Critique assessment and instructional accommodations relative to specific learning characteristics.

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 4: Assessment (InTASC 6) & CEC Standard 5: Instructional Planning and Strategies (InTASC 7,8).

This course contains at least on 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).

Required Text:

~ Overton, T. (2016). Assessing learners with special needs: An applied approach (8th Ed.). Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Merrill/Pearson. [ISBN: 9780133856415]

Recommended Text:

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

Additional Readings: As assigned. Provided weekly in the Content Folder 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, In TASC 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 627, the required PBA is Curriculum-Based Measurement Project. 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)

Please see Blackboard:

Curriculum-Based Measurement Project fulfills this requirement. You will upload the same document twice on blackboard, once in the assessment spot for VIA and once in the assignment slot (labeled VIA). The assessment version will use a rubric that is necessary to ensure program integrity. It has no bearing on your grade other than if you fail to upload it, you get and

incomplete that will automatically turn into an F unless you take care of the deficiency. You will not see the score on the rubric for this upload; however, you will see the score on the rubric that is provided in the syllabus for the version that you upload in the assignments slot. That score is the one that will be used in calculating your grade.

Students will create, implement, and share a *Curriculum-Based Measurement* procedure for a student. The project will include a rationale/need for the skill improvement / mastery, plan for educational intervention and monitoring progress, implementation chart/graph, and results of the project. [40 pts total)].

Details of the Curriculum-Based Measurement Project will be given to you as this class proceeds. You will complete a CBM Project without directly working with a child.

College Wide Common Assessment (VIA submission required)

Please see Blackboard

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: Midpoint Self-Rated Dispositions.

Other Assignments - Assignment Summary

Participation	10 pts
Readings	25 pts
CBM Project	40 pts
Protocol Analyses	25 pts
Total Points:	100 pts

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

10% of Grade, based upon timely work completion and attendance of synchronous sessions.

Late Work Loss of 10% of grade for late work unless there has been a pre-arrangement made with Professor.

Grading

Please retain a copy of your assignments in addition to the one you submit. All assignments should reflect graduate level spelling, syntax, and grammar.

*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,

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.

EDSE 627 Summer 2024 Class Schedule

[Subject to revision as course proceeds]

Session Topic Assignment Due

1 May 16	 SYNCHRONOUS Course Overview Assessment Process History of Assessment Legal / Ethical Considerations Multicultural Considerations 	- Text: Chpts 1, 2, 7 & 9 - Readings – posted under "Content" Folder in Blackboard
2 May 23	 Response to Intervention (RTI) Criterion-Referenced Testing Curriculum-Based Assessment (CBA) Observation 	- Text: Chpt 6 - Readings – posted under "Content" Folder in Blackboard
3 May 30	Continued	- Assigned: CBM Project - Readings – posted under "Content" Folder in Blackboard
4 Jun 6	 Descriptive Statistics/Standardized Assessment: basic statistical concepts Scoring, Normative Data, Reliability, Validity 	- Text: Chpts 3, 4 & 5 - Readings – posted under "Content" Folder in Blackboard
5 Jun 13	 Possibly Synchronous Norm-Referenced Assessments Interpreting Assessment for Educational Interventions 	- Text: Chpts 8 & 13 - Readings – posted under "Content" Folder in Blackboard - Due - CBM Module-1
6 Jun 20	 Cont Interpreting Assessment for Educational Interventions Assessment of Intelligence 	- Assigned: Achievement Protocol Analysis - Text: Chpt 10 - Readings – posted under "Content" Folder in Blackboard - Due - CBM Module-2
7 Jun 27	 Speech & Language Assessments Early Childhood Assessment Sensory issues 	- Text: Chpt 11 - Readings – posted under "Content"

		Folder in Blackboard - Due: Achievement Protocol Assignment I
8 Jul 4	 Adaptive Behavior Assessments Alternative Assessments / Transition Assessments Portfolio Assessments Misc. Assessments 	- Text: Chpt 12 - Readings – posted under "Content" Folder in Blackboard Due - CBM Module-3
9 Jul 11	 From Assessment to the IEP Process Communicating Assessment Findings to IEP Team 	- Readings – posted under "Content" Folder in Blackboard Due: Achievement Protocol Assignment II with CBM Component
Tuesda y Jul 16 th		- Due: Combined CBM Project
Jul 18 th	Possibly Synchronous ■ Wrap-Up	

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 (<a href="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 <u>https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/assessments</u>.
- 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)

${\bf Assessment} \sim {\bf Curriculum\text{-}based\ Measurement\ Project}$

Assessment Rubric (Without Direct intervention with Student)

	Does Not Meet Expectations	Meets Expectations 2	Exceeds Expectations 3
Reason for Assessment CEC Standard 3 Candidate uses knowledge of general and specialized curricula to individualize learning for individuals with exceptionalities.	 Candidate omits or provides unclear/limited explanation of any of the following (re: student from Case History): area of general curriculum of concern for student. reason for prioritizing chosen area of the general curriculum. student's current level of performance in the general curriculum area of concern. how the student's current level of performance differs from average performing peers. 	Referenced student = from case history: Candidate identifies area of general curriculum of concern for student. Candidate states reason for prioritizing chosen area of the general curriculum. Candidate describes the student's current level of performance in the general curriculum area of concern. Candidate describes how the student's current level of performance differs from average performing peers.	Referenced student = from case history: Candidate identifies area of general curriculum of concern for student. Candidate states reason for prioritizing chosen area of the general curriculum. Candidate describes the student's current level of performance in the general curriculum area of concern. Candidate describes how the student's current level of performance differs from average performing peers. Candidate presents an innovative application of the concepts OR provides unusual depth and integration to the description of all areas.
Description of the Target Behavior CEC Standard 1 Candidate understands how exceptionalities may	 Candidate omits or provides unclear/limited explanation of any of the behavioral objective. Candidate DOES NOT 	 Candidate describes how behavioral objectives for students to show mastery and fluency in selected skill. Candidate demonstrates 	 Candidate describes how behavioral objectives for students to show mastery and fluency in selected skill. Candidate demonstrates

interact with development and learning and uses this knowledge to provide meaningful and challenging learning experiences for individuals with exceptionalities.	Does Not Meet Expectations 1 demonstrate understanding of how behavioral objectives include task, condition, and/or criterion directly related to general education curriculum.	Meets Expectations 2 understanding of how behavioral objectives includes task, condition, and criterion directly related to general education curriculum.	Exceeds Expectations 3 understanding of how behavioral objectives includes task, condition, and criterion directly related to general education curriculum. Candidate presents an innovative application of the concepts OR provides unusual depth and integration to the description of all areas.
Description of assessment procedure and example of probes CEC Standard 4 Candidate uses multiple methods of assessment and data sources in making educational decisions.	 Candidate DOES NOT identify and describe assessment procedures that directly related to individualized behavioral objective OR candidate identifies and describes assessment procedures that ARE NOT directly related to the behavioral objective. Candidate DOES NOT describe and provide examples of CBM probes that: Use constant time Contain constant number of items Remain constant in 	 Candidate identifies and describes assessment procedures that directly related to individualized behavioral objective. Candidate describes and provides examples of CBM probes that: Use constant time Contain constant number of items Remain constant in difficulty level Candidate demonstrates clear understanding of instructional decision-making. 	 Candidate identifies and describes assessment procedures that directly related to individualized behavioral objective. Candidate describes and provides examples of CBM probes that: Use constant time Contain constant number of items Remain constant in difficulty level Candidate demonstrates clear understanding of instructional decision-making.

	Does Not Meet Expectations 1 difficulty level	Meets Expectations 2	Exceeds Expectations 3
	OR Candidate DOES NOT demonstrate understanding of instructional decision- making.		Candidate presents an innovative application of the concepts OR provides unusual depth and integration to the description of all areas.
Changing the Behavior CEC Standard 5 Candidate selects, adapts, and uses a repertoire of evidence-based instructional strategies to advance learning of individuals with exceptionalities.	 Candidate describes an instructional plan for the individual student that DOES NOT: Directly addresses the target behavior, OR Is based on student current level of performance as evidenced by functional assessments, OR Shows evidence of task analysis of the skill area, Candidate DOES NOT demonstrate understanding of how to make responsive adjustments to instruction based upon potential changes from Case Student's responsivity. 	 Candidate describes an instructional plan for the individual student that: Directly addresses the target behavior, Is based on student current level of performance as evidenced by functional assessments, Shows evidence of task analysis of the skill area, and Proposes responsive adjustments to instruction based upon potential changes from Case student's responsivity. 	 Candidate describes an instructional plan for the individual student that: Directly addresses the target behavior, Is based on student current level of performance as evidenced by functional assessments, Shows evidence of task analysis of the skill area, and Proposes responsive adjustments to instruction based upon potential changes from Case student's responsivity. Candidate describes innovative or highly responsive instruction that directly addresses the target behavior and is based upon student data.
	Candidate provides a		• Candidate provides a performance

	Does Not Meet	Meets	Exceeds
	Expectations 1	Expectations 2	Expectations 3
Summary of Results CEC Standard 4 Candidate uses multiple methods of assessment and data sources in making educational decisions.	performance graph that: Is NOT clear to the reader, DOES NOT include baseline, aimline, or phaseline and DOES NOT INCLUDE clear indication of data decision points. Candidate DOES NOT show evidence of interpretation of data and clear communication by: NOT/NOT THOROUGHLY summarizing student response to instruction NOT/NOT THOROUGHLY identifying any decisions made using the data decision rules, and NOT/NOT THOROUGHLY providing recommendations for further instruction.	 Candidate provides a performance graph that: Is clear to the reader, Includes baseline, aimline, and phaseline and has Clear indication of data decision points. Candidate shows evidence of interpretation of data and clear communication by: Summarizing student response to instruction Identifying any decisions made using the data decision rules, and Providing recommendations for further instruction. 	graph that: Includes baseline, aimline, and phaseline Is clear to the reader with clear indication of data decision points. Candidate shows evidence of interpretation of data and clear communication by: Summarizing student response to instruction / Identifying any decisions made using the data decision rules, and Providing recommendations for further instruction. Candidate provides a strong example of professional thinking and writing in the integration of all required components.

	Does Not Meet Expectations 1	Meets Expectations 2	Exceeds Expectations 3
Project Reflection CEC Standard 6 Candidate uses foundational knowledge of the field and his/her ethical principles and practice standards to inform special education practice, to engage in lifelong learning, and to advance the profession.	 Candidate DOES NOT use learner data to reflect on the target student's response to the behavior change process, and DOES NOT include evidence of: Self-evaluation of the instruction provided OR Reflecting on one's practice to improve instruction and guide professional growth, OR Commitment to use of evidence-based practices in assessment and instruction. 	 Candidate uses learner data to reflect on the Case Student's potential responses to the behavior change process, including evidence of: The capacity to self-evaluation or reflect on one's practice to improve instruction and guide professional growth. Commitment to use of evidence-based practices in assessment and instruction. 	 Candidate uses learner data to reflect on the Case Student's potential responses to the behavior change process, including evidence of: The capacity to self-evaluation or reflect on one's practice to improve instruction and guide professional growth. Commitment to use of evidence-based practices in assessment and instruction. Candidate provides a strong example of professional thinking and writing in the integration of all required components.