



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

Summer 2024

EDSE 544: Adapted Instructional Methods and Transition for Secondary Learners

Section: D01; CRN: 43067

Section: 601; CRN: 43859

3 – Credits

Instructor: Dr. Rajiv Satsangi	Meeting Dates: 5/15/24 – 7/17/24
Phone: 703-993-1746	Instructional Method: Mix of online synchronous and asynchronous online instruction. The synchronous online video meetings will be supplemented by asynchronous online coursework.
E-Mail: rsatsang@gmu.edu	Meeting Day: Wednesday
Office Hours: By email appointment	Meeting Time(s): 5 pm – 7:30 pm
Office Location: Fairfax – Finley 209	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

Provides strategies for teaching functional academics and social/life skills, facilitating the transition to postsecondary environments. Focuses on all aspects of transition and alternative assessments for secondary learners with disabilities.

Advising Contact Information

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

Advising Tip

Check out the scholarship opportunities for graduate students in CEHD at <https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/funding/scholarships>.

Course Delivery Method

Learning activities include the following:

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

This course will be delivered online (76% or more) using 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 5/15/24.

Under no circumstances, may candidates/students participate in online class sessions (either by phone or Internet) while operating motor vehicles. Further, as expected in a face-to-face class meeting, such online participation requires undivided attention to course content and communication.

Technical Requirements

To participate in this course, students will need to satisfy the following technical requirements:

- High-speed Internet access with standard up-to-date browsers. To get a list of Blackboard's supported browsers see: [Browser support \(https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Ultra/Getting_Started/Browser_Support\)](https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Ultra/Getting_Started/Browser_Support)
- Students must maintain consistent and reliable access to their 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/): <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>
 - [Windows Media Player](https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/help/14209/get-windows-media-player): <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/help/14209/get-windows-media-player>
 - [Apple Quick Time Player](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/): www.apple.com/quicktime/download/

Expectations

- **Course Week:**
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 3 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, 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. Identify, describe, and design alternate assessments for secondary learners with disabilities to demonstrate learning outcomes and postsecondary interests and aptitudes.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of evidence-based strategies for facilitating transition into the community, workplace, and postsecondary environments.
3. Demonstrate how to implement cognitive strategies in self-regulation, study skills, attention, memory, motivation, and self-determination.
4. Understand the principles of online learning and online instructional strategies and the application of skills to deliver online instruction.
5. Demonstrate proficiency in the use of educational technology for instruction.
6. Demonstrate knowledge of the federal and Virginia laws, Standards of Learning, and agencies that require and provide for transition, vocational, and rehabilitation services for students with disabilities at the secondary school level (middle & high school).
7. Identify the role and responsibilities of the Individual Education Plan (IEP) teams as they strive to incorporate transition requirements into the IEP and principles of person-centered planning.
8. Identify organizations, services, networks, and the variety of state and local agencies that maximize the interagency effort involved in the transition process for students with disabilities.

Professional Standards

(Council for Exceptional Children [CEC] and the Interstate Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium [InTASC]). Upon completion of this course, students will have met the following professional standards: CEC Standard 1: Learner development and individual learning differences (InTASC 1,2); CEC Standard 2: Learning environments (InTASC 3); CEC Standard 3: Curricular content knowledge (InTASC 4,5); CEC Standard 4: Assessment (InTASC 6); CEC Standard 5: Instructional planning and strategies (InTASC 7,8) & CEC Standard 7: Collaboration (InTASC 10).

Evidence-Based Practices

This course will incorporate the evidence-based practices (EBPs) relevant to self-determination, facilitating transitions, alternative assessments, and social skills. Evidence for the selected research-based practices is informed by meta-analysis, literature reviews/synthesis, the technical

assistance networks which provide web-based resources, and the national organizations whose mission is to support students with disabilities. We address both promising and emerging practices in the field of special education. This course will provide opportunities for teacher candidates/students to take an active, decision-making role to thoughtfully select, modify, apply, and evaluate EBPs in order to improve outcomes for students with disabilities.

Required Texts

Morningstar, M. E., & Clavenna-Deane, B. (2018). *Your Complete Guide to Transition Planning and Services*. Brookes Publishing Company. PO Box 10624, Baltimore, MD 21285. ISBN-13: 978-1598573114

Recommended Texts

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

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 544, the required PBA is Transition Plan with Assistive Technology. 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)

ASSESSMENT 1: Transition Plan with Assistive Technology (40 points)

This assessment's purpose is to have candidates show knowledge of the individualized planning process required for the development of a transition plan for secondary students with mild to moderate exceptional learning needs. Candidates will demonstrate their understanding of the components of the transition plan. Based on case information provided, candidates will build a

transition plan legally sufficient and educationally appropriate for the described student. Candidates will use curricular resources and evidence-based practices to demonstrate their ability to plan appropriately for the student with mild to moderate exceptional learning needs.

Directions: In this assignment/project, you will demonstrate your ability to develop a Transition Plan for a hypothetical secondary student with a mild to moderate exceptional learning need. You will be presented with one case study and one Transition Plan document (both found on Blackboard). Using the information in your selected case study, you will write a transition plan that thoroughly and appropriately addresses the needs of the student in the case scenario and integrates at least one form of assistive technology which increases the student's ability to access the general curriculum and work towards his or her transition goals.

As you write the transition plan, you will:

- Complete a thorough review of the case study facts
- Complete all components of the transition planning forms, using specific instructions provided by the instructor
- Infuse appropriate augmentative and assistive communication or assistive technology strategies into the transition goals and short-term objectives.

PART 1: Present Levels of Performance

- **Transition Assessment Information:**

Interests, strengths/capabilities, and career goals (include training, education, employment, and where appropriate independent living)

- Consider the information presented in the vignette as well as any assessment data (formal or informal) and present levels of performance as you develop these statements.
- Consider the impact of the student's academic and social abilities, attitudes, interests, and values on instruction and career development.

PART 2 & 3: Transition Plan & Rationale

- **Measurable Postsecondary Goals:**

- Write *one measurable postsecondary goal* for each domain: employment, education/training, and independent living skills. Base each goal on the information from the vignette and peer-reviewed research. Each goal is a specific statement of what the student wants to achieve after high school written as an "I will" statement. These goals should be based on the student's interests, preferences, and strengths.
- Select and adapt instructional strategies and materials according to the characteristics of the student with exceptional learning needs and integrate evidence-based practices (from a minimum of TWO peer-reviewed journal articles) that have been validated to promote successful transitions for the specific characteristics of the learner and setting.
 - **What appropriate augmentative and assistive communication or assistive technology would help the student reach their post-secondary goals?**

- **How could that technology be integrated into the instruction in a natural and meaningful way?**
- Ensure that *each* postsecondary goal is based on an age-appropriate transition assessment (functional vocational evaluations, state assessments, or other more informal methods like daily living skills checklists and interest inventories and that you consider the principles of normalization and concept of least restrictive environment when making decisions about post-secondary outcomes.
- **Short-Term Transition Objectives:**
 - Write *one* short-term objective or benchmark for each of the following: employment, education/training, and independent living skills. Integrate evidence-based practices that have been validated for the specific characteristics of the learner and setting.
 - At least TWO of your objectives must contain a form of appropriate augmentative/assistive communication or assistive technology as a component.
 - You may want to consider the following questions:
 - What specific models, theories, philosophies, and research methods, which form the basis for special education practice, can be utilized?
 - What culturally, linguistically, and gender responsive instructional content, resources and strategies can be implemented?
 - What appropriate augmentative and assistive communication or assistive technology would help the student reach their post-secondary goals? How could that technology be integrated into the instruction in a natural and meaningful way?
 - What evaluation measures (indicators of progress toward meeting the goal) will be implemented intermittently during the year?
 - What strategies can be used to integrate student-initiated learning experiences into the instruction to maximize opportunities to increase self-determination?
- **School and Post-Secondary Services:**
 - Identify a minimum of two post-secondary resources that would be helpful for your student (e.g., Woodrow Wilson Training Center, ARC, Community Services Board).
 - Identify a minimum of one in-school employment preparation option (e.g., Academies in Fairfax County Public Schools, Monroe Center in Loudoun County Public Schools, Davis Center, Pulley Center, WAT, OAT).
- **Rationale:**
 - In addition to identifying goals, objectives, activities, and services, you are required to write a DETAILED analysis within the Transition Plan document (i.e., the right-hand column labeled “Rationale”) which outlines a comprehensive, longitudinal individualized program for your secondary student, including:

- A justification for the services selected. Relate the level of support to the student's needs. Why are these services necessary for the student? Ensure that the rationale takes the continuum of placement and services available for students with exceptional learning needs as well as the legal, judicial and educational systems to assist students with exceptional learning needs into consideration.
- Do you recommend a job coach? Enclave? Any other special support?
- A detailed explanation of what skills, experiences, activities, opportunities and connections the student needs to reach their post-secondary goals and the “action plan” to reach them.
- A detailed explanation of resources, techniques, and recommendations for educational, community, vocational, and post-school adult living experiences which should be used to transition the student with exceptional learning needs out of school and into the postsecondary environment. This should include an explanation of the selected forms of appropriate augmentative and assistive communication or assistive technology which would benefit the student and a discussion of how these technological skills can be introduced and taught.
- Articulate how you would review this document with the learner and how you would help the student understand how things change when they are no longer covered by IDEA.

***NOTE:** All materials for this assignment will be posted on Blackboard for your reference.

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

N/A

Field Experience Requirement

A field experience is a part of this course. A field experience includes a variety of early and ongoing field-based opportunities in which candidates may observe, assist, and/or teach. Field experiences may occur in off-campus settings, such as schools (CAEP, 2016). In EDSE 544/EDSE 451, the field experience is a site visit to a transition service/agency or organization in the community. The site visit is coordinated with your instructor, and additional details will be provided in class.

Other Assignments

ASSESSMENT 2: Site Visit to a Community Agency or School Resource that Facilitates Transition Skills (30 points)

Contact/visit a transition resource either in the community or within the school system and describe the services available to youth with disabilities. Your write-up should include services, accommodations, population(s) served, description of the agency/office, and your questions for staff. Your “lens” for this visit should be, “What opportunities exist for youth with mild

disabilities through this avenue during and/or after high school?” Include copies of materials available at the center, agency, or office. You will need to make an appointment.

Acceptable options for this assignment include a school career center, interview with a school or county transition coordinator, One-Stop Center, vocational evaluation site, Virginia Department of Rehabilitation Services office, local Community Services Board, Job Placement/Training program, and other suggestions from your professor.

Your write up must include a synthesis section that integrates the information from your site visit with professional literature on transition and career education.

*NOTE: Please use the template provided on Blackboard to complete your paper. It may be helpful to write up your questions ahead of time and have them available to submit with your paper. The length of this paper is 5 full pages double-spaced (not including your heading on Page 1, references, and appendices).

ASSESSMENT 3: Attendance, Participation, and Handouts (30 points)

Participation includes the asking of questions and participation in interactive discussion. Students are to complete the required handout for every unit following class meetings. Students must complete the required readings and assignments before the relevant class meetings. Reading checks may be given during any class session to assess your preparation for that day’s discussion. Be aware that any points earned through classroom activities during a time of absence will NOT be earned and cannot be made up.

Points for class attendance and participation are positively impacted by:

1. Attending class and being psychologically available to learn
2. Completing and handing in all class assignments
3. Participating in class discussions/activities
4. Thoughtfully contributing to class discussions
5. Listening to the ideas of other peers
6. Demonstrating an enthusiasm for learning.

Participation points are negatively affected by being late to class, demonstrating a disinterest in the material/discussions (e.g., reflection activities, small group activities, discussions, etc.), and/or absences. Points are also deducted for a lack of digital etiquette during class sessions.

*NOTE: All assignments should reflect graduate-level spelling, syntax, and grammar, as well as APA style guidelines. If you experience difficulties with the writing process, you must document your work with the GMU Writing Center during this course to improve your skills.

Assignment Summary

Assessment	Individual	Small Group	Total Points
Transition Plan	X		40

Site Visit Paper	X		30
Attendance, Participation, Handouts	X		30

Student Evaluations of Teaching:

The student evaluation of teaching, or SET, is an online course survey. You are strongly encouraged to complete this form for each course as this feedback helps instructors and administrators improve your class experiences. Towards the end of the course, you will receive email and Blackboard notifications when the evaluations open. Your anonymous and confidential feedback is only shared with instructors after final grades have been submitted. More information about the SET can be found on The Institute of Effectiveness and Planning website at <https://oiep.gmu.edu/set/>

Course Policies and Expectations

Attendance/Participation

Students are expected to (a) attend all classes during the course, (b) arrive on time, (c) stay for the duration of the class time, and (d) complete all assignments. Attendance, timeliness, and professionally relevant- active participation are expected. Attendance and professional participation at all sessions is very important because many of the activities in class are planned in such a way that they cannot necessarily be recreated outside of the class session. Be aware that any points earned for participation in class activities during a time of absence will not be earned and cannot be made up. **One absence will result in a loss of 11 points to your overall grade. Two or more absences will result in a loss of 21 points. Repeated tardiness and/or leaving early will result in a loss of 3 points per incidence.** Please notify me in advance by email if you cannot attend class.

*Note: It is impossible to participate fully in this class while texting, tweeting, working on documents, etc. Please be *fully* present in class.

You are expected to be present, prepared, and exhibit professional dispositions for each class session. Activities resulting in points toward your final grade will be completed during class sessions. Quality of product and completion of the activity within class will impact points earned. Points missed due to absences during class activities cannot be made up.

Quality participation includes:

- (a) Arriving on time, including back from break(s)
- (b) Staying in the classroom/activity area for the duration of the class time,
- (c) Participating in all class activities (face-to-face and outside of class, including by electronic means)
- (d) Having on hand all materials required for the class session as per course assignments and the syllabus

Late Work

All assignments are due on the dates indicated (at the beginning of class). Consult with me in advance if there is a problem. In fairness to students who make the effort to submit papers on time, **5 points per day will be deducted from your assignment grade for late papers unless I have agreed to an extension (may be granted one time only for one assignment only)**. A maximum extension of 1 calendar week may be granted. Please retain a copy of your assignments in addition to the ones you submit.

Other Requirements

This is a 3-credit graduate level course. Traditionally, 3-credit courses across a 15-week semester require an average of 45 hours of in-class time and approximately 90 hours of independent reading and assignment completion. Be prepared to put in that amount of time into this class and plan your schedule accordingly.

Some assignments require you to synthesize material from the course and outside sources into coherent statements of your ideas. In such cases, your writing should be databased— meaning that you must support statements and ideas with evidence from these sources, giving these sources credit. The standard format for writing in the field of education is outlined in the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th edition* (www.apastyle.org). Specifically, the final version of your Instructional Program should be written in APA style, including a cover page, running head, pagination, headings (as needed), citations (as needed), and reference pages. The citation for this manual is included in the section entitled “Recommended Texts”. For an online resource, see www.apastyle.org.

You should know how to paraphrase and cite information appropriately to meet both APA guidelines and to avoid plagiarism. This website provides some useful information on how to avoid plagiarism in your writing: <http://www.plagiarism.org/>

Communication: The most efficient way to contact me is through email. I check email daily Monday-Friday from 9:00am-9:00pm. Keep in mind that I teach from 6:00- 10:30pm. On weekends, I check my Mason account on Sunday evenings and will respond to all emails received then. Do not email me an hour before an assignment is due and expect a response. If you would prefer to meet with me either before or after class (or at another time during the day), please do not hesitate to contact me.

Written Language: Students at the graduate level are expected to compose with accuracy (grammar, spelling, other mechanics, form, structure, etc.) and at a conceptual level commensurate with advanced degree study. APA Style is the standard format for any written work in the College of Education and Human Development. If you are unfamiliar with APA format, it would benefit you to purchase the current edition of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. You must use APA guidelines for all course assignments as noted in the assignment descriptions. This website links to APA format guidelines: <http://apastyle.apa.org> .

Oral Language: Use “person-first language” in class discussions and written assignments (and, ideally, in professional practice). In accordance with terminology choices in the disability community, strive to replace the term “Mental Retardation” with “Intellectual Disabilities” in oral and written communication and to avoid language labels by stating, for example, a “student with disabilities” (SWD) rather than a “disabled student”. Please refer to guidelines for non handicapping language in APA Journals, including information available at: <http://www.apa.org/pi/disability/resources/policy/resolution-ada.pdf> and <http://supp.apa.org/style/pubman-ch03.15.pdf> .

Inclement Weather

If classes are cancelled at George Mason University, a message will be posted on the class Blackboard site and all class members will receive an email. Because such cancellations are often at the last minute, it may be difficult to get this message prior to leaving for class. If in doubt, dial the University phone number (703-993-1000) or visit the university website (www.gmu.edu). I will email you regarding weather as soon as it is announced. *Please note, the cancellation of classes due to inclement weather is determined by the decision of the instructing university only. If the instructing university is open and operational, then you are expected to attend class.*

Grading

95-100% = **A**

90-94% = **A-**

80-89% = **B**

70-79% = **C**

< 70% = **F**

***Note:** The George Mason University Honor Code will be strictly enforced. See [Academic Integrity Site \(https://oai.gmu.edu/\)](https://oai.gmu.edu/) and [Honor Code and System \(https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/\)](https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/). Students are responsible for reading and understanding the Code. “To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the university community, have set forth this honor code: Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.” Work submitted must be your own new, original work for this course or with proper citations.

Professional Dispositions

Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times. See [Policies and Procedures \(https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/policies-procedures/\)](https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/policies-procedures/). Professional dispositions are an essential function of a special educator’s job, indicating that these dispositions are critical to develop and assess in special education licensure programs. In the College of Education and Human Development, dispositions are formally and separately evaluated in at least three points

in each student’s program – a self-evaluation at the start of their program, a self-evaluation at the mid-point of their program, and a university supervisor’s evaluation during internship. In special education graduate licensure programs, the initial self-evaluation is completed in a designated course (EDSE 501), the mid-point self-evaluation is completed in designated courses (EDSE 627, EDSE 661, and EDSE 616), and the internship evaluation is completed by instructors in EDSE 783, EDSE 784, and EDSE 785. In addition to these three designated evaluation times, instructors may complete instructor-rated disposition assessments other times throughout the program. When dispositions are assessed, it is important that for areas where a positive disposition is rated as “not proficient,” the student takes steps to grow as an educator.

Class Schedule

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

Class Session	Topics Addressed	Readings to be Done in Advance	Assignments Due on Blackboard by 5:00pm
5/15	Unit 1: Syllabus review Foundations of transition planning Transition research: NLTS 1-2	Syllabus	
5/22	Unit 1: Syllabus review Foundations of transition planning Transition research: NLTS 1-2	Morningstar Textbook: Chapters 1–2	
5/29	Unit 2: Early Phases of Transition From Entitlement to Eligibility: IDEA, ADA, 504 Person-centered Planning	Morningstar Textbook: Chapters 3–4	Unit 1 Handout
6/5	Unit 2: Early Phases of Transition From Entitlement to Eligibility: IDEA, ADA, 504 Person-centered Planning	Morningstar Textbook: Chapters 3–4	Site Visit Paper

6/12	Unit 3: Goal writing Transition assessments	Morningstar Textbook: Chapters 5–6	Unit 2 Handout
6/19	Unit 3: Goal writing Transition assessments	Morningstar Textbook: Chapters 5–6	
6/26	Unit 4: Post-secondary education planning*	Morningstar Textbook: Chapters 7–9	Unit 3 Handout
7/3	Unit 4: Post-secondary education planning*	Morningstar Textbook: Chapters 7–9	
7/10	Unit 5: Transition to employment* Job placement	Morningstar Textbook: Chapter 10	Transition Plan Unit 4 Handout
7/17	Unit 6: Student motivation Self-Regulation/self- determination for students/families*	None	Handout 5

Core Values Commitment

The College of Education and Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles: See [Core Values](http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/) (<http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/>).

GMU Policies and Resources for Students

Policies

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the Mason Honor Code. See [Honor Code and System](https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/) (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/>).
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing. See [Responsible Use of Computing](http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/) (<http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>).
- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their Mason email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students

solely through their Mason email account.

- Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services. Approved accommodations will begin at the time the written letter from Disability Services is received by the instructor. See [Disability Services \(https://ds.gmu.edu/\)](https://ds.gmu.edu/).
- Students must silence all sound emitting devices during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

Campus Resources

- Support for submission of assignments to VIA should be directed to viahelp@gmu.edu or <https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/assessments>.
- Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to [Blackboard Instructional Technology Support for Students \(https://its.gmu.edu/knowledge-base/blackboard-instructional-technology-support-for-students/\)](https://its.gmu.edu/knowledge-base/blackboard-instructional-technology-support-for-students/).
- [Learning Services \(learningservices@gmu.edu\)](mailto:learningservices@gmu.edu) - Provides a variety of experience-based learning opportunities through which students explore a wide range of academic concerns. Services include support to students with learning differences, individual study strategy coaching, individualized programs of study, and referrals to tutoring resources. Presentations on a variety of academic topics such as time management, reading, and note taking are available to the university community. The programs are open to all George Mason University students free of charge.

Notice of mandatory reporting of sexual assault, sexual harassment, interpersonal violence, and stalking:

As a faculty member, I am designated as a “Non-Confidential Employee,” and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, sexual harassment, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason’s Title IX Coordinator per [University Policy 1202](#). If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason’s confidential resources, such as the [Student Support and Advocacy Center \(SSAC\)](#) at 703-380-1434 or [Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#) at 703-993-2380. You may also seek assistance or support measures from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator by calling 703-993-8730, or emailing titleix@gmu.edu.

For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, please visit our website [College of Education and Human Development \(http://cehd.gmu.edu/\)](http://cehd.gmu.edu/).

Appendix
Assessment Rubric(s)

Transition Plan with Assistive Technology

	Does Not Meet Expectations 1	Meets Expectations 2	Exceeds Expectations 3
<p>Transition Assessment Information</p> <p>CEC/IGC Standards 1 & 4</p> <p>Candidate understands how exceptionalities may interact with development and learning and uses this knowledge to provide meaningful and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate writes an incomplete description of the student’s interests, OR strengths and capabilities OR career goals in any of the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Education/training ○ Employment ○ Independent living (as appropriate). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate interprets information from formal and informal assessments to write a clear description of the student’s interests, strengths and capabilities, and career goal for the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Education/training ○ Employment ○ Independent living (as appropriate) with reference to age-appropriate transition assessments. • The candidate includes evidence of an understanding of the educational implications of the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate interprets information from formal and informal assessments to write a clear description of the student’s interests, strengths and capabilities, and career goal for the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Education/training ○ Employment ○ Independent living (as appropriate) Including direct evidence and examples from the student’s age-appropriate transition assessment data. • The candidate includes evidence of an understanding of the educational implications of the characteristics of various exceptionalities, sensory impairments, and

<p>challenging learning experiences for individuals with exceptional ities. Candidate uses multiple methods of assessment and data sources in making educational decisions.</p>		<p>characteristics of various exceptionalities, sensory impairments, and variations in beliefs, traditions, and values across and within cultures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate describes the impact the learner’s characteristics may have on auditory and information processing skills (as appropriate). 	<p>variations in beliefs, traditions, and values across and within cultures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate describes the impact the learner’s characteristics may have on auditory and information processing skills (as appropriate).
<p>Measurable Postsecondary Goals and Instructional Strategies CEC/IGC Standards 3 Candidate uses knowledge of general and specialized curricula to individualize learning for</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate fails to demonstrate understanding of models, theories, and philosophies specific to transition by writing postsecondary goals that are not measurable or age appropriate or responsive to variations in beliefs, traditions, and values across and within cultures. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate writes goals that fail to reflect the learner’s present levels of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate demonstrates understanding of models, theories, philosophies, and philosophies specific to transition by writing postsecondary goals that are measurable, age appropriate, and responsive to variations in beliefs, traditions, and values across and within cultures. • Candidate integrates affective, social, and life skills with academic curricula to write goals for each area (employment, education, independent living) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate demonstrates understanding of models, theories, philosophies, and philosophies specific to transition by writing postsecondary goals that are measurable, age appropriate, and responsive to variations in beliefs, traditions, and values across and within cultures. • Candidate integrates affective, social, and life skills with academic curricula to write goals for each area (employment, education, independent living) that reflect the learner’s present levels of performance. • Candidate identifies <i>several</i> evidence-based

<p>individuals with exceptional ities.</p>	<p>performance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OR • Candidate does not write goals for all areas of consideration (employment, education, independent living). • OR • Candidate does not identify and describe evidence-based practices to assist student in achieving goals. 	<p>that reflect the learner’s present levels of performance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate identifies <i>one</i>evidence-based instructional strategy for each goal that reflects the learner’s present levels of performance and show positive growth towards what the student wants to achieve after high school. 	<p>instructional strategies for each goal that reflect the learner’s present levels of performance and show positive growth towards what the student wants to achieve after high school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate shows evidence of scholarship by citing additional sources to support recommendations.
<p>Transition Objectives CEC/IGC Standards 3 & 5 Candidate uses knowledge of general and specialized curricula to individualize learning for individuals with exceptional ities. Candidate selects, adapts, and uses a repertoire</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate fails to sequence age and ability appropriate individualized transition objectives and/or fails to directly relate objectives to the postsecondary goals. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate writes objectives that fail to integrate models, theories, philosophies and research methods that form the basis for special education practice. <p>OR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate sequences age and ability appropriate individualized transition objectives that respond to cultural, linguistic and gender differences, address independent living and career education, enhance social participation across all environments, and relate directly to postsecondary goals. Affective, social, and life skills should be integrated with academic curricula. • Candidate writes one objective for each area (education/training, employment, and independent living, as appropriate) that integrates models, theories, philosophies and research methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate sequences age and ability appropriate individualized transition objectives that respond to cultural, linguistic and gender differences, address independent living and career education, enhance social participation across all environments, and relates all benchmarks directly to postsecondary goals. Affective, social, and life skills should be integrated with academic curricula. • Candidate writes one objective for each area (education/training, employment, independent living) that integrates models, theories, philosophies and research methods that form the basis for special education practice. • Candidate shows evidence of scholarship

<p>of evidence-based instructional strategies to advance learning of individuals with exceptionalities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate does not write one objective for each area (education/training, employment, independent living). 	<p>that form the basis for special education practice.</p>	<p>by citing additional sources to support objectives or their sequence in relation to the goal.</p>
<p>Assistive Technology CEC/IGC Standard 5 Candidate selects, adapts, and uses a repertoire of evidence-based instructional strategies to advance learning of individuals with exceptionalities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate fails to integrate appropriate forms of augmentative, alternative and assistive technologies to support and enhance communication skills of the student with mild to moderate exceptional learning needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on assessment information, candidate integrates appropriate forms of augmentative, alternative and/or assistive technologies to support and enhance communication skills and/or outcomes of the individual with an exceptionality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate integrates appropriate forms of augmentative, alternative and/or assistive technologies and specific communication strategies and resources to support and enhance communication skills and/or outcomes of the individual with an exceptionality. • Candidate provides a rationale for all forms of technology chosen. • Candidate shows evidence of scholarship by citing additional sources to support recommendations.
<p>School and Post-Secondary Services CEC/IGC Standards 1 & 4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate lists inappropriate programs, services, and supports that do not align with areas of need based on present level of performance. <p>OR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate identifies appropriate program and primary services which demonstrate an understanding of the continuum of placement and services available for individuals with 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate identifies appropriate program and primary services which demonstrate an understanding of the continuum of placement and services available for individuals with exceptional learning

<p>Candidate understands how exceptionalities may interact with development and learning and uses this knowledge to provide meaningful and challenging learning experiences for individuals with exceptionalities. Candidate uses multiple methods of assessment and data sources in making educational decisions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate fails to provide a clear plan for evaluating instruction and monitoring progress of the learner with an exceptionality. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate fails to provide a clear plan for explaining the transition plan to the learner or fails to consider the impact of the learner’s academic and social abilities, attitudes, interests, and values. 	<p>exceptional learning needs, and the concept of the least restrictive environment within the framework of transition planning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate aligns services and supports with areas of need based on present levels of performance and assessment information. • Candidate provides a clear plan for evaluating instruction, monitoring progress, and explaining the transition plan to the learner with consideration given to the impact of the learner’s academic and social abilities, attitudes, interests, and values. • Candidate includes in-school and post-school or community service options. 	<p>needs, and the concept of the least restrictive environment within the framework of transition planning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate aligns services and supports with areas of need based on present levels of performance and evidence-based practices. • Candidate provides a clear plan for enhancing the learning of critical thinking, problem solving and performance skills, evaluating instruction and monitoring progress of the student and explaining the transition plan to the learner with consideration given to the impact of the learner’s academic and social abilities, attitudes, interests, and values. • Candidate includes in-school and post-school or community service options. • Candidate shows evidence of scholarship by citing additional sources to support recommendations.
<p>Legal Compliance of Transition Plan CEC/IGC Standard 6</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate writes an incomplete transition plan which fails to comply with all relevant laws and policies, including FAPE and LRE (and the history of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate writes a comprehensive transition plan which complies with all relevant laws and policies, including FAPE and LRE (and the history of these points of view) and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate writes a comprehensive transition plan which complies with all relevant laws and policies, including FAPE and LRE (and the history of these points of view) and other human issues that have historically

<p>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.</p>	<p>these points of view) or other human issues that have historically influenced and continue to influence the field of special education.</p> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate fails to include a list of services, goals and objectives, and post-secondary outcomes. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate writes the transition plan using biased, inflammatory language, with a lack of clarity, numerous acronyms, illegibility, or inaccuracies (including spelling). 	<p>other human issues that have historically influenced and continue to influence the field of special education.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate includes a list of services, goals and objectives, and post-secondary outcomes. • Candidate writes areas of need, goals, objectives/benchmarks, placements and services with a connection to the present levels of performance. • Candidate demonstrates commitment to developing the highest education and quality-of-life potential for the individual with an exceptionality as well as sensitivity for the culture, language, religion, gender, disability, socioeconomic status, and sexual origination of the individual. • Candidate writes the plan using neutral, non-inflammatory language, with clarity, minimal use of acronyms, legibility, and accuracy (including spelling). 	<p>influenced and continue to influence the field of special education.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate includes a list of services, goals and objectives, and post-secondary outcomes. • Candidate writes areas of need, goals, objectives/benchmarks, placements and services with a strong connection to the present levels of performance. • Candidate demonstrates commitment to developing the highest education and quality-of-life potential for the individual with an exceptionality as well as sensitivity for the culture, language, religion, gender, disability, socioeconomic status, and sexual origination of the individual. • Candidate writes the transition plan using neutral, non-inflammatory language, with clarity, minimal use of acronyms, legibility, and accuracy (including spelling). • Candidate shows evidence of scholarship by citing additional sources to support conclusions.
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