



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

Spring 2016

EDSE 590 686: Special Education Research

CRN: 18475, 3 - Credits

Instructor: Dr. Nicole Conners	Meeting Dates: 01/14/16 - 03/17/16
Phone: 571-423-4178 (wk) 703-309-9232 (c)	Meeting Day(s): Thursdays
E-Mail: nconners@gmu.edu ; naconners@fcps.edu	Meeting Time(s): 5:00 pm-9:00 pm
Office Hours: by appointment only	Meeting Location: Off-campus/Other County Location (Fairfax High School- Room C123)

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

Course Description

Describes fundamental concepts and practices in educational research in special education. Covers specific applications of educational research methods to problems in special education. Emphasizes review and critique of special education research, and applied classroom research for teachers.

Hours of Lecture or Seminar per week: 3

Hours of Lab or Studio per week: 0

Prerequisite(s): None

Co-requisite(s): None

Advising Contact Information

Please make sure that you are being advised on a regular basis as to your status and progress through your program. Mason M.Ed. and Certificate students should contact the Special Education Advising Office at (703) 993-3670 for assistance. All other students should refer to their faculty advisor.

Nature of Course Delivery

Learning activities may 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

Learner Outcomes

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

- Identify and understand different methods of educational research suitable for different research purposes in special education.
- Describe and discuss basic theories and methods of quantitative experimental and quasi-experimental research in special education.
- Describe and discuss basic theories and methods of survey research in special education.
- Describe and discuss basic theories and methods of single subject research in special education.
- Describe and discuss basic theories and methods of qualitative research in special education.
- Critically evaluate education research and describe implications for educational practice.

Required Textbooks

McMillan, J.H. (2016) Educational Research: Fundamentals for the Consumer, 7th edition, Washington DC: Pearson. ISBN 9780134013497

American Psychological Association. (2010). Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th edition, Washington DC: American Psychological Association. ISBN 9781433805615 [Make sure you get the "2nd printing." First printing had errors.]

Digital Library

Effective summer 2015, the Division of Special Education and disAbility Research will discontinue the use of the Pearson Digital Library. No further registrations will be accepted. Students who hold current subscriptions will continue to have access to the library for the remainder of their subscription time. However, no further updates will be made to the digital library. During this time, should a textbook be revised or a new book is adopted for a class where the text is included in the digital library, Pearson will have options available to you and will provide you with an individual e-text or, if there is no e-text, a printed copy. Students, who have purchased a 3-year subscription directly through Pearson Education, will also have an

option to obtain a prorated refund. However, 3-year subscription access cards purchased via the GMU bookstore will need to speak with a George Mason Bookstore Representative. Please be aware that the issuance of a refund, in this case, is at the discretion of the George Mason bookstore. Concerns or questions may be directed to Molly Haines at Molly.Haines@pearson.com.

Recommended Textbooks

n/a

Required Resources

Efron, S.E & Ravid, R. (2013). Action research in education: A practical guide. New York, NY: Guilford Press. ISBN: 9781462509614

Additional Readings

Other readings, including special education research studies, will be assigned by the instructor and posted on Blackboard.

Course Relationships to Program Goals and Professional Organizations

This course is part of the George Mason University, Graduate School of Education (GSE), Masters in Special Education Program. This program complies with the standards for teacher licensure established by the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), the major special education professional organization. The CEC standards that will be addressed in this class include Standard 5: Instructional planning and strategies; Standard 6: Professional learning and ethical practice.

GMU Policies and Resources for Students:

a. Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code/>].

b. Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>].

c. Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University 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.

d. The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance [See <http://caps.gmu.edu/>].

- e. Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services and inform their instructor, in writing, as soon as possible. Approved accommodations will begin at the time the written letter from Disability Services is received by the instructor. <http://ods.gmu.edu/>].
- f. Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.
- g. The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing [See <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>].

Professional Dispositions

Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

Core Values Commitment

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

For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, Graduate School of Education, please visit our website [See <http://gse.gmu.edu/>]

Course Policies & Expectations

Attendance.

Students are expected to (a) attend all classes during the course, (b) be actively involved in activities, and (c) arrive on time and stay for the duration of class time. Lack of attendance and professional participation at all sessions will significantly diminish the impact of the course and interfere with creating a collaborative learning community. As such, absences from any portion of the course are strongly discouraged. **Please notify me in advance by phone or email if you will not be able to attend class**

Late Work.

In-depth reading, study, and work on course requirements require outside class time. Students are expected to allot class study and preparation time weekly in addition to time spent on papers and assignments. **The result of late work will be the loss of 10 points per day until the assignment is received by the instructor.** Individual situations will be addressed with students outside of class

Withdraw.

If you are unable to meet the participation requirements of the course(s) it is strongly recommended that you drop the course. Withdrawing from the course is not an automatic process. You must inform the instructor in writing if you wish to withdraw from the course and follow GMU withdrawal processes. Failure to notify the instructor will result in an “F” on your official George Mason University transcript.

Written and Oral Language.

APA Style is the standard format for any written work in the College of Education. If you are unfamiliar with APA, it would benefit you to purchase the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th Ed.) **You are required to use APA guidelines for all course assignments.** This website links to APA format guidelines: <http://apastyle.apa.org>

Academic Integrity.

Students in this course are expected to exhibit academic integrity at all times. Be aware that plagiarism is presenting someone else's work as your own. Whether the act is deliberate or unintentional is irrelevant. You must take great care to give credit to an author when you borrow either exact words or ideas. Generally, if you use 4 or more words in a row you should use quotation marks and a proper APA citation. Remember that plagiarism is a very serious offense and can result in dismissal from the University. Evidence of plagiarism or any other form of cheating in the class will result in a zero on that assignment and a report of the incident to the Dean's Office.

Tk20 Performance-Based Assessment Submission Requirement

Every student registered for any Special Education course with a required performance-based assessment is required to submit the (*NO ASSESSMENT REQUIRED FOR THIS COURSE*) to Tk20 through Blackboard (regardless of whether the student is taking the course as an elective, a onetime course or as part of an undergraduate minor). Evaluation of the performance-based assessment by the course instructor will also be completed in Tk20 through Blackboard. Failure to submit the assessment to Tk20 (through Blackboard) will result in the course instructor reporting the course grade as Incomplete (IN). Unless the IN grade is changed upon completion of the required Tk20 submission, the IN will convert to an F nine weeks into the following semester.

Grading Scale

95-100% = A

90-94% = A-

86-89 = B+

80-85 = B

76-79%=C+

70-75%= C

>70%=F

(Total points for class: 490 POINTS)

Assignments

Performance-based Assessment (TK20 submission required).

No assessment is required for EDSE 590. (n/a)

Performance-based Common Assignments (No TK20 submission required).

Research Paper: Completion of 1 of 2 options (100 points):

Option 1: Research Application Project (100 points) (you may work with a partner on the final project) DUE: March 17

The research application project is designed to provide experience in designing, implementing, and evaluating a research application project in special education. Any of the research designs covered are appropriate. Specific guidelines for the assignment will be provided. **Be sure to have your research question and design approved by the instructor PRIOR to beginning implementation of your project. A hard copy AND an electronic copy of the project should be submitted by 4:30 pm on the due date.**

Scoring Rubric for Research Application Project (100 points)

Exemplary paper (95-100 points): Appropriate topic, thorough and thoughtful review of previous research, appropriate and clearly described implementation procedures, careful measurement and evaluation of results, thorough and appropriate discussion of implications of findings. Good writing style, free of mechanical or stylistic errors, appropriate use of APA format.

Adequate paper (85-94 points): Good overall paper, lacking in one or two of the criteria for an exemplary paper. Not entirely reflective or thoughtful, or minor writing style errors may be present.

Marginal paper (70-84 points): Overall, acceptable but with one or more significant problems. Contains some useful information, but may have substantial problems with evaluation, writing style, or implementation of project.

Inadequate paper (1-69 points): Paper with substantial problems in important areas such as writing, implementation of intervention, evaluation of results, overall thoughtfulness. Contains little or no information of value to special education practice.

Unacceptable/no paper (0 points): Paper with no value whatsoever relative to the assignment, or no paper turned in at all. May describe a project of no value that was not approved for this assignment.

Exemplary paper	Adequate paper	Marginal paper	Inadequate paper	Unacceptable/no paper
95-100	85-94	70-84	1-69	0

Option 2: A 15-20 page literature review paper (100 points--*based on current literature) DUE: March 17

You may select to complete a literature review. You may select to complete a traditional research literature review paper of a **selected intervention area**. You will need to collect 15-20 original research studies on a particular topic to include in your review paper (from journals or electronic journals). Specific guidelines will be provided. **Have your topic approved prior at the beginning of your research process. A hard copy AND an electronic copy of the project should be submitted by 4:30 pm on the due date.**

Scoring Rubric for Library Research Literature Review

Exemplary paper (95-100 points): Appropriate topic, thorough and thoughtful review of previous intervention research. Good writing style, free of mechanical or stylistic errors, appropriate use of APA format.

Adequate paper (85-94 points): Good overall paper, lacking in one or two of the criteria for an exemplary paper. Not entirely reflective or thoughtful, or minor writing style errors may be present.

Marginal paper (70-84 points): Overall, acceptable but with one or more significant problems. Contains some useful information, but may have substantial problems with evaluation, writing style, or review of relevant literature.

Inadequate paper (1-69 points): Paper with substantial problems in important areas such as writing, evaluation of research, overall thoughtfulness. Contains little or no information of value to special education practice.

Unacceptable/no paper (0 points): Paper with no value whatsoever relative to the assignment, or no paper turned in at all. May describe a literature of no value or relevance, or that was not approved for this assignment.

Exemplary paper	Adequate paper	Marginal paper	Inadequate paper	Unacceptable/no paper
95-100	85-94	70-84	1-69	0

Other Assignments.

Class Attendance and Participation (10 points each class= 90 points). Completion of weekly class activities, participation in class discussions, and project presentation update discussions throughout the semester. Weekly warm-ups and closure activities will be included in class participation points. Points missed due to absences cannot be made up. Excessive absences can result in additional penalties and potential withdrawal from class.

Research Article Summary (50 points) Completion of a summary of a recent research study (last five years) that you could possibly extend and replicate for your own application study. Please use the “how to summarize research article” to understand the components of a good article summary. You will use this similar format for your literature review in your final project. You must identify the purpose of the study, the participants and methods, results of the study, discussion and limitations, and future research implications. Be sure to address the major components of a study: purpose, methods- participants, materials, process/procedures, results of study, discussion, etc....

DUE: February 4th

Final exam (Take home exam/100 points) Provided on the second night of class and may be worked on throughout the course. You will choose when to work on the exam~ either through the length of the course or at the end of the semester. My recommendation is that you work on the final exam through the entire length of the course as topics/questions are discussed. **DUE: March 10th**

Research Study Poster (100 points) *see class examples and template. More details will be provided about the format for posters. *Examples of projects/posters will be provided in class.* **DUE: March 17th**

Poster Session Presentation of research project or literature review paper. (50 points) Make a brief (15-minute) poster presentation that summarizes your written research project or literature review. Be prepared to answer questions about your project. **DUE: March 17th**

Schedule

Date	Class Topic & Reading Assignments	Class Activities/Assignments
Class 1 Thursday, January 14	Introduction to Research in Education and Course Overview: Becoming a critical consumer of educational research Review syllabus Quantitative/Qualitative Research Methodology Overview What teachers think of research-based practices (research article discussion)-teacher perspectives Basics of action research	Assignments Due: n/a Varied Class Activities Quantitative/Qualitative Word Sorts Research-based practices article and summary Action research article and activity
Class 2 Thursday, January 21	Ethical Research Practices/ Choosing and Learning about your research topic Overview of Research Designs & reviewing the literature and defining a question to explore Overview of research designs & developing a literature review Replicating and extending an existing study: Writing an introduction (include purpose for study) & writing a literature review section Action Research- is your teaching effective? If not, now what? Informing instructional practice	Assignments Due: (for this class) Efron & Ravid- Ch. 1 &2 McMillan- Ch. 1, 2 (pp.32-41), 4, & 14
Class 3 Thursday, January 28	Qualitative Research Design and Analysis Practice with qualitative coding Research Projects - we will spend time getting started on this process Writing a methods section: setting, participants, materials, procedures...	Assignments Due: (for this class) Efron & Ravid- Ch. 3 & 4 McMillan- Ch. 11 & 12 Come to class with a topic or idea for final project
Class 4 Thursday,	Quantitative Research: Research Designs Spotlight on survey designs and creating	Assignments Due: (for this class) Research Study Summary due

February 4	<p>surveys for your application project</p> <p>Approaching action research/differences between traditional research and action research</p> <p>Writing a methods section: setting, participants, materials, procedures...</p>	<p>Efron & Ravid- Ch. 3 & 4</p> <p>McMillan- Ch. 7, 8, & 9</p>
<p>Class 5</p> <p>Thursday, February 11</p>	<p>Quantitative Research: Research Designs continued...</p> <p>Nonexperimental and experimental research designs: survey, single subject, experimental and correlational designs)</p> <p>Writing a methods section: setting, participants, materials, procedures...</p>	<p>Assignments Due:</p> <p>Work on application project or literature review</p> <p>Efron & Ravid- Ch. 3 & 4</p> <p>McMillan- Ch. 7, 8, & 9</p>
<p>Class 6</p> <p>Thursday, February 18</p>	<p>Foundations of Educational Measures: Basic statistical analysis and statistical inferences</p> <p>Data collection tools and using assessment data in action research</p> <p>Educational Measurement and Measures- basic statistics and statistical inferences</p> <p>Writing a results section: Quantitative/Qualitative Research Data Analysis</p>	<p>Assignments Due:</p> <p>Work on application project or literature review</p> <p>Efron & Ravid- Ch. 5 & 6</p> <p>McMillan- Ch. 6 & 10</p>
<p>Class 7</p> <p>Thursday, February 25</p>	<p>Foundations of Educational Measures: Basic statistical analysis and statistical inferences</p> <p>Educational Measurement and Measures- basic statistics and statistical inferences</p> <p>Writing a results section: Quantitative/Qualitative Research Data Analysis (data analysis and interpretation)</p>	<p>Assignments Due:</p> <p>Work on application project or literature review</p> <p>Efron & Ravid- Ch. 5 & 6</p> <p>McMillan- Ch. 6 & 10</p>
<p>Class 8</p> <p>Thursday, March 3</p>	<p>Writing, Sharing, and Implementing Research Findings</p> <p>Data analysis and interpretation</p> <p>Writing your discussion, conclusions, and further research section</p> <p>Bring in draft papers/projects – working time on</p>	<p>Assignments Due:</p> <p>Work on application project or literature review</p> <p>Efron & Ravid- Ch. 7 & 8</p> <p>McMillan- Ch. 15</p>

	project, poster, etc...	
Class 9 Thursday, March 10	Writing, Sharing, and Implementing Research Findings Data analysis and interpretation Writing your discussion, conclusions, and further research section Bring in draft papers/projects – working time on project, poster, etc...	Assignments Due: Work on application project or literature review and poster Take home final exam due Efron & Ravid- Ch. 7 & 8 McMillan- Ch. 15
Class 10 Thursday, March 17	Poster Presentations in rotations & online evaluations	Assignments Due: Research paper, research poster, presentation due

Appendix

Scoring Rubric for Research Application Project (100 points)

Exemplary paper (95-100 points): Appropriate topic, thorough and thoughtful review of previous research, appropriate and clearly described implementation procedures, careful measurement and evaluation of results, thorough and appropriate discussion of implications of findings. Good writing style, free of mechanical or stylistic errors, appropriate use of APA format.

Adequate paper (85-94 points): Good overall paper, lacking in one or two of the criteria for an exemplary paper. Not entirely reflective or thoughtful, or minor writing style errors may be present.

Marginal paper (70-84 points): Overall, acceptable but with one or more significant problems. Contains some useful information, but may have substantial problems with evaluation, writing style, or implementation of project.

Inadequate paper (1-69 points): Paper with substantial problems in important areas such as writing, implementation of intervention, evaluation of results, overall thoughtfulness. Contains little or no information of value to special education practice.

Unacceptable/no paper (0 points): Paper with no value whatsoever relative to the assignment, or no paper turned in at all. May describe a project of no value that was not approved for this assignment.

Exemplary paper	Adequate paper	Marginal paper	Inadequate paper	Unacceptable/no paper
95-100	85-94	70-84	1-69	0

Scoring Rubric for Intervention Research Literature Review (100 points)

Exemplary paper (95-100 points): Appropriate topic, thorough and thoughtful review of previous research. Good writing style, free of mechanical or stylistic errors, appropriate use of APA format.

Adequate paper (85-94 points): Good overall paper, lacking in one or two of the criteria for an exemplary paper. Not entirely reflective or thoughtful, or minor writing style errors may be present.

Marginal paper (70-84 points): Overall, acceptable but with one or more significant problems. Contains some useful information, but may have substantial problems with evaluation, writing style, or review of relevant literature.

Inadequate paper (1-69 points): Paper with substantial problems in important areas such as writing, evaluation of research, overall thoughtfulness. Contains little or no information of value to special education practice.

Unacceptable/no paper (0 points): Paper with no value whatsoever relative to the assignment, or no paper turned in at all. May describe a literature of no value or relevance, or that was not approved for this assignment.

Exemplary paper	Adequate paper	Marginal paper	Inadequate paper	Unacceptable/no paper
95-100	85-94	70-84	1-69	0

Scoring Rubric for Poster (100 points)

Exemplary poster (95-100 points): Poster clearly describes major elements of the project; poster reflects clarity, organization, knowledge and interest in the content being presented; reflects a high level of preparation; makes effective use of visual format and presents an interesting, attractive appearance; describes very clearly the methods under consideration; presentation keeps the audience engaged; provide information of interest and value to audience. Presenter is able to answer basic audience questions about the proposal with poise, clarity, and thoughtfulness.

Adequate poster (85-94 points): Good overall poster, but may be lacking in one or two of the criteria specified in exemplary response.

Marginal poster (70-84 points): Poster provides relevant information, but demonstrates only a limited understanding of the topic or project. Style, organization, or visual elements may be less than adequate.

Inadequate poster (1-69 points): Weak overall poster that reflects very little knowledge of topic or project. May appear very poorly prepared, or may not have followed directions. Style or visual elements may be inadequate or lacking.

Unacceptable/no poster (0 points): Completely unsatisfactory presentation, with no reasonable reference to topic or project; or no presentation made.

Exemplary poster	Adequate poster	Marginal poster	Inadequate poster	Unacceptable/no poster
95-100	85-94	70-84	1-69	0