



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

Fall 2019

EDSE 501: Introduction to Special Education

Section: DL2 CRN: 72509

Section: 6V1 CRN: 82649

3 – Credits

<b>Instructor:</b> Dr. Carolyn Iguchi	<b>Meeting Dates:</b> 08/26/2019 – 12/18/2019
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<b>Office Hours:</b> By appointment	<b>Meeting Location:</b> On-line
<b>Office Location:</b> N/A	<b>Other Phone:</b> N/A

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

**Prerequisite(s):** None

**Co-requisite(s):** None

**Course Description**

Provides a survey of current knowledge on individuals with disabilities within the context of human growth and development across the lifespan. Includes historical factors, legislation, etiology, characteristics, needs, educational strategies, assessment, and support services for individuals with disabilities ranging from mild and moderate to severe levels of varying disabilities. Includes the impact of disabilities on academic, social, and emotional performances.

**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 teacher candidates/students should contact the Special Education Advising Office at (703) 993-3670 for assistance. All other teacher candidates/students should refer to their faculty advisor.

### **Advising Tip**

Did you know that students in "quick admit" and non-degree status are restricted in the number of classes they can take? Students planning to complete a program should apply as soon as possible. Apply at <http://cehd.gmu.edu/admissions/steps>.

### **Course Delivery Method**

Learning activities include the following:

1. Online 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 asynchronous format via the Blackboard Learning Management system (LMS) housed in the MyMason portal. You will log in to the Blackboard (Bb) course site using your Mason email name (everything before @masonlive.gmu.edu) and email password. The course site will be available on August 26, 2019.

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

### *Technical Requirements*

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

- High-speed Internet access with standard up-to-date browsers. To get a list of Blackboard's supported browsers see: [https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting\\_Started/Browser\\_Support#supported-browsers](https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting_Started/Browser_Support#supported-browsers)

To get a list of supported operation systems on different devices see:

[https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting\\_Started/Browser\\_Support#tested-devices-and-operating-systems](https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting_Started/Browser_Support#tested-devices-and-operating-systems)

- Students must maintain consistent and reliable access to their GMU email and Blackboard, as these are the official methods of communication for this course.
- Students may be asked to create logins and passwords on supplemental websites and/or to download trial software to their computer or tablet as part of course requirements.
- The following software plug-ins for PCs and Macs, respectively, are available for free download:
  - Adobe Acrobat Reader: <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>

- Windows Media Player:  
<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/help/14209/get-windows-media-player>
- Apple Quick Time Player: [www.apple.com/quicktime/download/](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/)

### *Expectations*

- Course Week:  
Because asynchronous courses do not have a “fixed” meeting day, our week will start on Monday, and finish on Sunday.
- Log-in Frequency:  
Students must actively check the course Blackboard site and their GMU email for communications from the instructor, class discussions, and/or access to course materials at least 2 times per week
- Participation:  
Students are expected to actively engage in all course activities throughout the semester, which includes viewing all course materials, completing course activities and assignments, and participating in course discussions and group interactions.
- Technical Competence:  
Students are expected to demonstrate competence in the use of all course technology. Students who are struggling with technical components of the course are expected to seek assistance from the instructor and/or College or University technical services.
- Technical Issues:  
Students should anticipate some technical difficulties during the semester and should, therefore, budget their time accordingly. Late work will not be accepted based on individual technical issues.
- Workload:  
Please be aware that this course is **not** self-paced. Students are expected to meet *specific deadlines* and *due dates* listed in the **Class Schedule** section of this syllabus. It is the student’s responsibility to keep track of the weekly course schedule of topics, readings, activities and assignments due.
- Instructor Support:  
Students may schedule a one-on-one meeting to discuss course requirements, content or other course-related issues. Those unable to come to a Mason campus can meet with the instructor via telephone or web conference. Students should email the instructor to schedule a one-on-one session, including their preferred meeting method and suggested dates/times.
- Netiquette:  
The course environment is a collaborative space. Experience shows that even an innocent remark typed in the online environment can be misconstrued. Students must always re-read their responses carefully before posting them, so as others do not consider them as personal offenses. *Be positive in your approach with others and diplomatic in selecting your words.* Remember that you are not competing with classmates, but sharing

information and learning from others. All faculty are similarly expected to be respectful in all communications.

- Accommodations:

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

### **Learner Outcomes**

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

1. Describe how educators and other professionals determine the difference between “normal” and “atypical” behaviors.
2. Describe the legal and historical development of the field of special education.
3. Describe various theoretical models and perspectives in the field of special education.
4. Describe research in etiological factors associated with all disability areas.
5. Describe social, cognitive, behavioral and academic characteristics associated with all disability areas.
6. Describe historical points of view and contribution of culturally diverse groups to the field of special education.
7. Describe the role of families in the educational process.
8. Describe past, present, and future models of assessment and intervention, including use of innovative technology.
9. Discuss issues and trends in special education, including legislation and litigation, and use of innovative technology.
10. Examine ethical considerations for the treatment of all children.

### **Professional Standards**

This course is part of the George Mason University, Graduate School of Education (GSE), Special Education Program for teacher licensure in the Commonwealth of Virginia in the special education areas of Special Education: Students with Disabilities who Access the General Curriculum K-12. This program complies with the standards for teacher licensure established by the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), the major special education professional organization, as well as those established by the Interstate Teacher Assessment and Support consortium (InTASC). The standards addressed in this class include CEC Standard 1: Learner development and individual learning differences (InTASC 1,2) & CEC Standard 3: Curricular content knowledge (InTASC 4,5).

### **Required Textbooks**

Hallahan, D. P., Kauffman, J. M., & Pullen, P. C. (2015). *Exceptional Learners: An Introduction to Special Education* (14th Ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson. ISBN-13:978-0-13-480693-8

### **Recommended Textbooks**

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

### **Required Resources**

BlackBoard course site

## **Additional Readings**

As assigned on the BlackBoard course site

## **Course Performance Evaluation**

Students are expected to submit all assignments on time in the manner outlined by the instructor (e.g., Blackboard, Tk20, hard copy).

### **Tk20 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 Tk20 (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 Tk20.

For *EDSE 501*, the required PBA is (NO ASSESSMENT REQUIRED FOR THIS COURSE). Please check to verify your ability to upload items to Tk20 before the PBA due date.

## **Assignments and/or Examinations**

### **Performance-based Assessment (Tk20 submission required)**

N/A

### **College Wide Common Assessment (TK20 submission required)**

N/A

## **Performance-based Common Assignments (No Tk20 submission required)**

### **Final Paper**

The final paper is an opportunity to show growth in your knowledge about learners with disabilities. You will select one disability area and demonstrate your knowledge of (a) the characteristics of the disability, (b) learning needs of individuals with the disability, (c) lifespan issues related to the disability (including impact of a disability on the individual and the family), and (d) how the disability is similar and different to other types of disabilities (e.g., mild, severe, sensory). To show this growth you will combine what you have learned from coursework (lectures, discussions, articles, and textbook readings) with independent learning activities (IRIS modules, field experiences, and exploratory activities).

Your paper should be 5 to 10 pages and will address the following areas:

#### **A. Disability Characteristics**

What are some characteristics of the disability, for example:

- What is its prevalence? Is it a high- or low- incidence disability?
- How is it diagnosed?
- Are physical/medical issues associated with this disability?
- Are there social or behavioral implications associated with this disability?

#### **B. Learning Needs**

How does the disability affect learning? For example:

- What areas of learning might be impacted by this disability?
- What teaching strategies might benefit learners with this disability?
- What IEP considerations might be needed? • What accommodations might students with this disability need?
- Where might a student with this disability receive services? (Think LRE.)
- What skills will teachers need to work with students who have this disability?

#### **C. Lifespan Issues (including Impact on Individual and Family)**

How does having this disability impact an individual? For example:

- What are early childhood issues that need to be considered?
- What are community issues that need to be considered?
- What post-secondary (after high school – job, college, independent living) factors need to be considered?
- What impact does having this disability have on social and familial relationships? What is the impact of the disability on family?
- What daily living skills might be impacted by this disability?
- How does this disability impact family dynamics?
- What information do families need to advocate for their children who have disabilities?

#### D. Similarities and Differences to Other Disabilities

How is this disability similar and different to other disabilities (or other disability areas)? For this section, you should contrast your selected disability with TWO other disabilities or disability areas. For example:

- Is there a difference in the prevalence of the chosen disabilities?
- What are differences in possible school placements for students with the selected disabilities?
- What types of instructional strategies or accommodations/modifications may be different for students with the chosen disabilities?

E. Appendices In addition, you will provide evidence of the following learning activities as appendices to your paper:

1. The IRIS module Perceptions of Disability located at <http://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/da/chalcycle.htm>. Start the module at “CHALLENGE.” Answer the questions under the headings of “Challenge,” “Assessment,” and “Wrap Up.”

2. *At least one field* experience designed to further your understanding on the impact of a disability on a student’s learning, his/her family, and his/her school experience. These experiences might include:

a. Observation of a student with a disability. If you are already teaching, take this opportunity to explore a disability with which you are less familiar (in other words, do not observe your own classroom).

b. Interview of a parent, administrator, or teacher of a student with a disability.

c. Completion of additional IRIS modules  
(<http://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/resources.html>)

d. Other instructor approved activity.

3. At least one exploratory activity designed to better understand the experience of having a disability. These activities might include watching a full-length movie or several episodes of a television show, reading a book (e.g. fictional/memoir), or reviewing how disability is represented in the media that help you explore of the impact of a disability on a person's life. You may choose to visit the following websites for ideas:

[http://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/resource\\_TOOL\\_film/film.html](http://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/resource_TOOL_film/film.html)

[http://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/resource\\_TOOL\\_irismedia/irismedia.html](http://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/resource_TOOL_irismedia/irismedia.html)

<http://www.nlcdd.org/resources-books-movies-disability.html>

<http://lits.columbiasc.edu/edenslibrary/disabilities.htm>

### **Dyslexia Awareness Module** (graded as complete or incomplete).

All students must complete the online Dyslexia Awareness Module available at <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/licensure/index.shtml>. This is a mandatory assignment that is part of the second module for the course. After completing the training module, you will post a copy of the certificate of completion to BlackBoard.

### **Child Abuse Reporting Module** (also required for licensure; Blackboard Submission).

All students are to complete the online Child Abuse Recognition training module available at [http://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/cups/mandated\\_reporters/cwse5691/story.html](http://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/cups/mandated_reporters/cwse5691/story.html). If you have already completed the training module, you will post your certificate (or evidence of completion on your teaching license) to BlackBoard.

### **Other Assignments**

- Reading Checks (16 at 25 points each/400 points total). At the end of each lesson there is a reading check assignment. In most lessons, these checks are 5-10 multiple choice questions. These reading checks assess your understanding and recall of the chapter in the textbook you were assigned. You may not use materials such as books or notes to help you, but you may take each assessment multiple times.
- Module Assignments (4 at 150 points each/600 points). All directions and rubrics are posted on the BlackBoard site

## Course Policies and Expectations

### Attendance/Participation

This is an asynchronous course, however, students are expected to (a) check BlackBoard at least 2-3 times per week, (b) check Mason email at least once daily and respond within one business

### Late Work

Assignments are due on the date indicated in the syllabus. The schedule provides due dates for the entire semester. Work may be submitted early for any module. Late work will receive a 15% penalty for each day late.

## Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	93% to 100%
A-	90% to <92%
B	83% to <90%
B-	80% to <83%
C	70% to <80%
F	<70%

\*Note: The George Mason University Honor Code will be strictly enforced. 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 or with proper citations (see <https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/>).

## Professional Dispositions

Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times. In the College of Education and Human Development, dispositions are formally and separately evaluated in at least two points in each student’s program – a self-evaluation at the start of their program, and a university supervisor’s evaluation during internship. In special education licensure programs, the self-evaluation is an online survey distributed via email upon program entry, and the internship evaluation is completed by instructors in EDSE 783, EDSE 784, and EDSE 785. When dispositions are assessed, it is important that for areas where a positive disposition is ‘occasionally evident’ or ‘rarely evident,’ the student takes steps to grow as an educator. See <https://cehd.gmu.edu/epo/candidate-dispositions>.

## Class Schedule

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

Item	Due Date
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Child Abuse Module – upload certificate of completion	09/09/2019
Module 1 paper, quizzes and activities	09/23/2019
Module 2 paper, quizzes and activities	10/21/2019
Module 3 paper, quizzes and activities	11/18/2019
Module 4 final paper, quizzes and activities	12/16/2019

### Core Values Commitment

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

### GMU Policies and Resources for Students

#### Policies

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the Mason Honor Code (see <https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/>).
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing (see <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 <http://ods.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 Tk20 should be directed to [tk20help@gmu.edu](mailto:tk20help@gmu.edu) or <https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/tk20>. Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to <http://coursessupport.gmu.edu/>.
- For information on student support resources on campus, see <https://ctfe.gmu.edu/teaching/student-support-resources-on-campus>

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

## Appendix

### Assessment Rubric(s)

#### Final Paper Rubric

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>
Disability Characteristics	25
Learning Needs	25
Lifespan Issues/Family Issues	25
Similarities and Differences to Other Disabilities	25
Synthesis	20
APA formatting and grammar	10
ISIS Module and Exploratory Activities	20