

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION**

EDCI 559: Research and Assessment in Elementary Education (3 credits)

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Office Hours: By appointment

Date and Time: May 21 – June 22, 6:45-10:05p.m.

Class Location: Research Hall 202

Course Description

- A. Prerequisites: Admission into GMU Elementary Education Graduate program; capstone course for degree and must be taken last in sequence.
- B. This course is designed to help teacher candidates understand various research paradigms utilizing research literature and systematic evidence to improve teacher practice and to further their skills at assessment of learning outcomes. Course emphasizes linking research and practice and making instructional decisions based on systematically collected data.

Nature of Course Delivery

This course includes multiple instructional strategies. Individual session formats vary and may include lecture; small group/large group discussion; hands-on, interactive work; student presentations; and cooperative learning. Practical applications of theory are explored in group activities.

Standards

- A. National Board for Professional Teaching Standards:
 - Proposition 1: Teachers are committed to students and learning
 - Proposition 3: Teachers are responsible for managing and monitoring student learning
 - Proposition 4: Teachers think systematically about their practice and learn from their experience.
- B. National Technology Standards:
 - Standard IV: Teachers apply technology to facilitate a variety of effective assessment and evaluation strategies.
 - Standard V: Teachers use technology to enhance their productivity and professional practice.
- C. The [Virginia State Technology Standards for Instructional Personnel](#):
 - 1. Instructional personnel shall be able to demonstrate effective use of a computer system and utilize computer software.
 - 2. Instructional personnel shall be able to apply knowledge of terms associated with educational computing and technology.
 - 3. Instructional personnel shall be able to apply computer productivity tools for professional use.

4. Instructional personnel shall be able to use electronic technologies to access and exchange information.

Learning Outcomes

A. Students will be able to:

1. Articulate the role of systematic evidence in the improvement of teaching and learning.
2. Use educational research literature as a basis for reflecting on and improving their teaching practice.
3. Make explicit linkages between research and assessment practice.
4. Distinguish between the purposes and methods of theoretical, applied, and action research as well as quantitative and qualitative research.
5. Explain the fundamentals of validity and reliability, and articulate the potential threats to validity within various research paradigms.
6. Critique the quality of research studies within various paradigms.
7. Describe the purpose and cycle of action research, specifically in relationship to assessment of their learners.
8. Design appropriate and authentic assessments and analyze student data.
9. Design an action research study based on research and student assessments.
10. Use technology to assist in locating, using, conducting research, and analyzing data.

B. Outcomes and Standards

Learning Outcomes	NBPTS Propositions	NETS Standards
1	1, 3	V
2	1, 3, 4	IV & V
3	1, 3, 4	IV & V
4	4	V
5	4	V
6	4	V
7	1, 3, 4	IV & V
8	1, 3	IV & V
9	4	IV & V
10	4	V

Required Texts

Jones, W. P., & Kottler, J. A. (2008). *Understanding Research: Becoming a Competent and Critical Consumer*. New York, NY: Pearson.

Mills, G. E. (2008). *Action research: A guide for the teacher researcher (4th Ed.)*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Merrill Prentice Hall.

Recommended Text

American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (6th ed.)*. Washington, DC: Author.

Course Requirements

Assignments:

Assignment	Points
Action Research Proposal Components 1. Rationale and research question(s) (Due: 5/30) 2. Literature review (Due: 6/4) 3. Context and Intervention (Due: 6/8) 4. Data Collection Plan/Student Assessment (Due 6/13) 5. Data Analysis Plan (Due 6/15)	30
Final Action Research Proposal (PBA) (Due: 6/21)	25
Action Research Proposal Presentation (6/20)	6
Quantitative Data Collection/Report/Reflect (Survey Due for approval 6/1; Report Due 6/11)	12
Qualitative Data Collection/Report/Reflect (Due 6/18)	12
Chapter Discussions/Class Participation	15
Total	100

Action Research Proposal (25 points) (Due: Thursday, 6/21)

This is the major assignment for this class and is the Performance Based Assessment (PBA) for the course. The final written proposal will include the **five components plus a short reflection**. See attached rubric.

Action Research Proposal Presentation (6 points) (6/20, "Gallery Walk," Location TBA)

The presentation will be based on the written proposal. We will participate with other sections of EDCI 559 in a Gallery Walk/Poster session. **Students will prepare a one-page summary for distribution to peers.** Students are encouraged to prepare a poster for this gallery walk although other options may be acceptable.

Components of Action Research Proposal (30 points)

- Part One: Rationale and research question (6 points)
- Part Two: Literature review (6 points) (in preparation, an analysis of three research articles will be submitted on **Sunday 5/27**)
- Part Three: Context and Intervention – description of the school, community, classroom and student population, and description of instructional intervention (6 points);
- Part Four: Data Collection and Student Assessment Plan: specific plan on the data you will collect to answer your research question(s), and formative and summative student assessments designed to gather those data (6 points)
- Part Five: Data Analysis Plan – describe how you would you analyze the data, if you collected them (6 points)

Class participation and leadership of chapter discussion (15 points)

Students, in pairs or small groups, will devise an active-learning activity to engage class members in a discussion of chapters covering the types of research. Assigned chapters will be determined at the start of the course. Attendance is mandatory, and students are expected to

participate in small and large group discussions and submit written work on time. Points will be deducted for not doing so. Emergency situations may be discussed with the instructor. Students will be evaluated on their level of class participation. Attention will be paid to their level of interaction in discussions of the readings, group work, and other learning activities. Readings must be completed before class, and assignments are due by the start of class on the due date unless otherwise noted on the syllabus. Attendance, punctuality, preparation and engagement are essential.

Quantitative Data Collection and Report (12 points) (DUE: Survey 6/1; Report 6/11)

Groups of students will develop a short survey instrument with 10-12 questions, collect data from at least 15 people, analyze the data using basic statistics, and write up a short report. This does not have to be related to the focus of your Action Research Proposal (see scoring).

Qualitative Data Collection and Report (12 points) (DUE: 6/18)

Individually, students will collect qualitative data through interviews, observation, or a focus group, code and interpret the data and write a short report. This does not have to be related to the focus of your Action Research Proposal (see scoring); however, most individuals who tie them together feel they have a better handle on their topic.

Please Note: Your assignments are only accepted electronically. You must name your file in the following way:

Yourlastname_assignment

For example, for the quantitative assignment, mine would be: Reilly_quant

Final Grading Scale

94-100 = A

90-93 = A-

88-89 = B+

81-87 = B

70-80 = C

Below 70 = F

CEHD Values

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

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS:

- Students must follow the guidelines of the University Honor Code. See <http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/honorcode/> for the full honor code.

- Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the Mason Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform the instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester. [See <http://ods.gmu.edu>].
- Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offers a wide range of services to students that are provided by a staff of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors. The Center provides individual and group counseling, workshops, and outreach programs – experiences to enhance a student’s personal and academic performance. [See <http://caps.gmu.edu>].
- All students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing. [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/1301gen.html>].
- All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students through their Mason e-mail account only. Students are responsible for the content of university communication sent to their Mason e-mail account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly.
- University policy states that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the professor.

University and Elementary Program Policies

Attendance. This is an advanced graduate level course, therefore the quality of work, attendance, and informed participation are expected to be of the highest caliber. Unless it is an emergency situation, no absences are excused. Should you need to miss a class, it is your responsibility to inform the instructor ahead of time, turn in your assignments, collect any notes/assignments from a colleague, and do your utmost to remain current in the class. (See GMU Catalog, page 32.)

Late Assignments. Points will be deducted from assignments submitted late without the prior consent of the instructor.

Quality of Written Work. Written work should be word-processed in 12-point font. Legibility, organizational clarity, and standard English usage and mechanics are expected. Unacceptable work may be returned for editing prior to grading. Quotations, paraphrases, and references must appear in proper APA format. If you require special assistance, see the instructor.

Cell Phones. The university has a policy that requests students to turn off pagers and cell phones before class begins. One cell phone will remain on in class that is registered with the Mason Alert System.

Honor Code. To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of George Mason University and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, George Mason University has set forth a code of honor that includes

policies on cheating and attempted cheating, lack of participation in group work, plagiarism, lying and stealing. Detailed information on these policies is available in the GMU Student Handbook.

Individuals with Disabilities. The university is committed to complying with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 by providing reasonable accommodations for applicants for admission, students, applicants for employment, employees, and visitors who are disabled. Students requiring specific accommodations for a disability should contact the Disability Resource Center at 993-2474, or the University Equity Office at 993-8730.

EDCI 559, Reilly
Tentative Course Schedule
Summer 2012

Date	Readings	Topics and Activities	Deliverables
M 5/21		Introduction to syllabus Overview of Action Research Organize Leading Discussion; Groups for supporting our Action Research (AR)	
W 5/23	Jones Chapter 1; Mills Chapter 1, 3	Library Searching; asking good research questions; narrowing a topic See: http://infoguides.gmu.edu/content.php?pid=7745&sid=327054 Explore possible rationales and research question(s) to coincide with topics of interest.	Come to class prepared with three possible research topics of interest to you and within your sphere of influence
F 5/25	Jones Chapter 2	ONLINE : Reviewing the Literature; Component 1: Rationale and Research Questions Intro to APA	Summary of 3 research articles related to your topic <i>DUE via email, 8 pm Sun, 5/27</i>
M 5/28	Research articles on your topic	Happy Memorial Day! (no class meeting)	Continue your literature review (10 RELEVANT articles required for final PBA)
W 5/30	Mills , Ch. 2	Continue Component 2 : Review and Synthesis of Literature Introduction: Types of Research Designs Groups formed and begin planning for Quantitative Activity	Component 1 : Introduction, research question(s)
F 6/1	Jones : 3 and Appendix A	Component 3 : Context and Intervention. Student Assessment as evidence. Designing Formative and Summative Assessments Finish planning Quantitative Activity	Draft of survey
M 6/4	Mills Ch. 4; Jones 4	Component 4 : Research Design, Methods, Quantitative Data Collection; Continue your efforts on Quantitative Activity	Component 2 : Literature Review Draft with at least 5 (out of ten required for PBA) scholarly references
W 6/6	Mills Chapter 5; 6	Stats, stats and some more stats	TBD
F 6/8	Jones 5; Appendix B	Component 4 : Data Collection, organization, and reading research reports; spend time analyzing quantitative data	Component 3 : Context, population, intervention.

M 6/11	Mills Appendices B and C	Component 5: Introduction to Data Analysis Begin qualitative, and start dialogue on qualitative activity;	Quantitative Data Collection Results and Interpretation
W 6/13	Mills Chapter 7; Jones Chapter 6	Qualitative Research; Activities to get us started; Activities on Analyzing Qualitative Data	Component 4: Method and data sources and formative and summative assessment plans.
F 6/15	Jones Chapter 7 & Appendix C	Displaying results, summarizing data; Ethics, Human Subjects	Component 5: Data analysis plan
M 6/18	Mills Chapters 8, 9	Individuals present qualitative reports (5 minutes each) Action Research: Findings, Conclusions, Implications; how to write a report; summary of all things research	Qualitative Data Collection Results and Interpretation
W 6/20		Poster Fair and Gallery Walk – all 559 classes (SUB II Ballroom)	Action Research Proposal (PBA) due Thursday 6/21, midnight
F 6/22		Negotiable: Peer feedback; research considerations; debrief	