



College of Education and Human Development

Early Childhood Education Program  
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<https://gse.gmu.edu/programs/earlychildhood/>

**ECED 405.001: Introduction to Early Childhood Special Education**

**(3:3:0)**

**Fall 2014**

**Wednesdays, 4:30pm-7:10pm**

**Thompson Hall L004**

**Instructor: Nadine Bolkhovitinov, NBCT, PhD**

**Telephone:**

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**Office hours: by appointment**

**Course Description**

Surveys current knowledge about young children with disabilities within the context of human growth and development and learning expectations during the preschool years. Includes historical factors and legislation affecting service delivery.

**Notes:** Field experience required.

**Nature of Course Delivery**

This course utilizes a distributed learning format requiring active participation of all students. Students are expected to complete all class readings prior to each session so as to engage in active dialogue, productive learning, and critical reflection. Activities will include instructor presentation, small-group and large-group discussions and work, videos, and whole class sharing to support course content. In addition, a Blackboard (Bb) online component of coursework is required.

**Learner Outcomes**

This course is designed to enable students to do the following:

1. Explore the philosophical, social, cultural and legal factors that have shaped and continue to affect education, and specifically early childhood special education, in the United States.
2. Describe the legal and historical development of the field of special education and in education in general.
3. Discuss issues and trends in special education, including legislation and litigation, including legislative and judicial mandates related to education and special education (e.g., the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, § 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Assistive Technology Act) and use of innovative technology.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of evidence-based principles that influence education, including early childhood special education.

5. Describe factors that place young children at-risk for disabilities.
6. Describe characteristics of major handicapping conditions.
7. Describe the role of assessment in identification, eligibility, and service delivery for young children and their families.
8. Describe current regulations and procedures governing special education to include individualized education program (IEP) development and individualized family service plan (IFSP).
9. Describe disciplinary practices, policies, and procedures and alternative placements in schools.
10. Describe typical settings and service delivery models appropriate for work with infants, toddlers, and young children who are at-risk or who have disabilities and their families.
11. Demonstrate an understanding of models of interpersonal and inter-professional collaboration in working with families on behalf of their young children.
12. Explore the role of students' own personal, social, and cultural experiences and perspectives in their professional decision making.
13. Demonstrate person-first respect and understanding of young children and their families.
14. Consider course topics and readings through the lens of services for children and families from diverse cultural and linguistic communities.
15. Explore social development issues related to major disabling and at-risk conditions.
16. Explain the standards of professionalism related to serving young children with disabilities and at-risk conditions.
17. Analyze current research in the field.

### **Professional Standards**

This course is aligned with the standards established by the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC).

### **Required Text**

Deiner, Penny Low (2013). *Inclusive Early Childhood Education: Development, Resources and Practice, 6<sup>th</sup> edition*. Wadsworth, Cengage Learning, Belmont, CA. ISBN-13: 978-1-111-83715-0, ISBN-10: 1-111-83715-5.

### **Required Articles**

Cerros, C. (2009, August). *Group friendship activities to support membership* (Research Brief Vol 1, No. 1). Seattle: WA: University of Washington, Head Start Center for Inclusion. Retrieved from <http://depts.washington.edu/hscenter/resources/research-briefs>

Division for Early Childhood [DEC]. (2007). *DEC code of ethics*. Retrieved from [http://www.dec-sped.org/About\\_DEC/Position\\_Statements\\_and\\_Papers](http://www.dec-sped.org/About_DEC/Position_Statements_and_Papers)

National Association for the Education of Young Children [NAEYC]. (2003). *Code of ethical conduct and statement of commitment*. Retrieved from <http://www.naeyc.org/positionstatements>

## Recommended Text

Dunlap, L.L. (2009). *An introduction to early childhood special education: Birth to age five*. Saddlebrook, NJ: Pearson. ISBN: 9780205488728

Anderson, W., Chitwood, S., Hayden, D., & Takemoto, C. (2008). *Negotiating the special education maze: A guide for parents and teachers*. Woodbine House. ISBN: 1890627461

## George Mason University Policies and Resources for Students

- Academic integrity (honor code, plagiarism) – Students must adhere to guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code/>].
- Mason Email – 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, division, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>].
- Counseling and Psychological Services – 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/>].
- Office of Disability Services – Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor in writing at the beginning of the semester <http://ods.gmu.edu/>.
- Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.
- The Writing Center (Optional Resource) – 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/>].
- University Libraries (Optional Resource) – The George Mason University Libraries provide numerous services, research tools, and help with using the library resources [See <http://library.gmu.edu/>].

## Professional Dispositions

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

**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.

### *Collaboration*

Collaboration is an important human activity that involves shared responsibility in promoting healthy, productive lives, and educational success. We commit ourselves to work toward these

goals in genuine partnerships with individuals, families, community agencies, schools, businesses, foundations, and other groups at the local, regional, national, and international levels.

### ***Ethical Leadership***

In all professions represented by the college, leadership is an essential component denoting ability and willingness to help lead professional practice to higher levels. We commit ourselves to practice ethical leadership through deliberate and systematic attention to the ethical principles that guide all leaders in a moral society.

### ***Innovation***

We have a history of creating dynamic, innovative programs, and we are dedicated to continue creating innovative approaches in all areas of our work. We commit ourselves to seeking new ways to advance knowledge, solve problems, improve our professional practice, and expand on our successes.

### ***Research-Based Practice***

The best practice in any discipline is based upon sound research and professional judgment. We commit ourselves to basing our instruction, scholarship, and policy recommendations on well-established principles that, wherever possible, emerge from research and reflection on its implications for professional practice.

### ***Social Justice***

Social justice embodies essential principles of equity and access to all opportunities in society, in accordance with democratic principles and respect for all persons and points of view. We commit ourselves to promoting equity, opportunity, and social justice through the college's operations and its missions related to teaching, research, and service.

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 Requirements**

### **General Requirements**

1. The completion of all readings assigned for the course is assumed. Because the class will be structured around discussion and small group activities, it is imperative that students keep up with the readings and participate in class.
2. Attendance in class and/or online is important to students' learning; therefore, students are expected to make every effort to attend class sessions within the designated timeframe. Absences, tardiness, leaving early, and not completing online modules in the designated timeframe may negatively affect course grades. If, due to an emergency, students will not be in class, they must call the instructor and leave a message or send an email before class. The following policy is from the university course catalog:

Students are expected to attend the class periods of the courses for which they register. In-class participation is important not only to the individual student, but also to the class as a whole. Because class participation may be a factor in grading, instructors may use absence, tardiness, or early departure as de facto evidence of nonparticipation. Students who miss an exam with an acceptable excuse may be penalized according to the individual instructor's grading policy, as stated in the course syllabus.

3. In line with Mason's policy that students should not be penalized because of observances of their religious holidays, students shall be given an opportunity to make up, within a reasonable time, any academic assignment that is missed due to individual participation in religious observances. It is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor of any intended absences for religious observations in advance of the class that will be missed. Notice should be provided in writing as soon as possible.
4. During face-to-face and live online meetings, cell phones, pagers, and other communicative devices are not allowed in this class. Students must keep them stowed away and out of sight. Laptops or tablets (e.g., iPads) may be permitted for the purpose of taking notes only. Engaging in activities not related to the course (e.g. gaming, email, chat, etc.) will result in a significant deduction in their participation grade.
5. It is expected that assignments will be turned in on time. However, it is recognized that students occasionally have serious problems that prevent work completion. If such a dilemma arises, students should speak to the instructor prior to the assignment due date (when possible). If the student does not communicate with the instructor, a late penalty will be applied.
6. Mason is an Honor Code university; please see the Office for Academic Integrity for a full description of the code and the honor committee process. The principle of academic integrity is taken very seriously and violations are treated gravely. What does academic integrity mean in this course? Essentially this: when responsible for a task, students will perform that task. When students rely on someone else's work in an aspect of the performance of that task, they will give full credit in the proper, accepted form. Another aspect of academic integrity is the free play of ideas. Vigorous discussion and debate are encouraged in this course, with the firm expectation that all aspects of the class will be conducted with civility and respect for differing ideas, perspectives, and traditions. When in doubt (of any kind), students will ask for guidance and clarification.

### **Written Assignments**

All formal written assignments will be evaluated for content and presentation. The American Psychological Association, Sixth Edition (APA) style will be followed for all written work. All written work unless otherwise noted must be completed on a word processor and should be proofread carefully. (Use spell check!) If students are not confident of their own ability to catch errors, they should have another person proofread their work. When in doubt, they should check the APA manual. Portions of the APA manual appear at the Style Manuals link on the Mason library web guide at <http://infoguides.gmu.edu/content.php?pid=39979>. Students may consult the Writing Center for additional writing support.

Students will do the following:

1. Present ideas in a clear, concise, and organized manner. (Avoid wordiness and redundancy.)
2. Develop points coherently, definitively, and thoroughly.
3. Refer to appropriate authorities, studies, and examples to document where appropriate. (Avoid meaningless generalizations, unwarranted assumptions, and unsupported opinions.)
4. Use correct capitalization, punctuation, spelling, and grammar.

### Grading Criteria

A = 95 – 100	A- = 90 – 94	B+ = 87 – 89	B = 83 – 86
B- = 80 – 82	C = 70 – 79	D = 60 – 69	F = < 60

### Grading Policy

All CEHD undergraduate and graduate students are held to the university grading policies as described in the Academic Policies section of the current catalog, which can be accessed at <http://catalog.gmu.edu>. Those students enrolled in a CEHD Licensure Graduate Certificate program, however, must earn a B- or better in all licensure coursework. A degree-seeking graduate student will be dismissed after accumulating grades of F in two courses or 9 credits of unsatisfactory grades (C or F) in graduate courses. A 3.0 grade point average is required for completion of the graduate degree.

### Submission of Performance-Based Assessment

Every student registered for any Early Childhood Education course with a required performance-based assessment is required to submit this assessment, CAEP 1: Early Childhood Special Education Take-Home Final Examination, to TaskStream (regardless of whether a course is an elective, a onetime course, or part of an undergraduate minor). Evaluation of the performance-based assessment by the course instructor will also be completed in TaskStream. Failure to submit the assessment to TaskStream will result in the course instructor reporting the course grade as Incomplete (IN). Unless this grade is changed upon completion of the required TaskStream submission, the IN will convert to an F nine weeks into the following semester.

### Specific Course Assignments

Assignments	Due Dates	Points
Attendance & Participation	Ongoing	15
Curriculum Content Area: Exploration and Resources Presentation	As Assigned	25
Curriculum Content Area Hand-out		10
Instructional Planning Analysis	Dec 3	50
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>

### Attendance and Participation (15 points)

Because active participation and engagement are imperative for optimal learning, preparation for and participation in in-class activities will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Students attend class, arrive on time, and stay for the entire class period.

- Students complete readings and prepare for class activities prior to class as is evidenced by their ability to discuss and write about the concepts presented and examined in the texts as well as participate fully in related activities.
- Students are actively involved in in-class and online learning experiences as is evidenced by (1) participating in all activities, (2) engaging in small and large group discussions, (3) using laptops and other electronic devices only to support discussion and learning and not for non-academic uses during class time, (4) completing written work related to the activities, and (5) supporting the participation and learning of classmates.
- Students show evidence of critical reflective thinking through in-class and online discussions, activities, and written reflections.

**Note:** To determine whether the campus is closed due to inclement weather, call 703-993-1000 or go to [www.gmu.edu](http://www.gmu.edu).

### **Points Associated With Assignment-Based Course Classes 7, 9, 15**

#### **Class 7 – Curriculum Content Area: Exploration and Research Presentation – 25 points**

Students will respond to a current topic/issue in the field of early intervention and early childhood special education. Pairs of graduate students will research the topic and prepare a Parent Information Session, to help the class better understand the nature of this issue and how it is currently being viewed.

Graduate students only will post a teacher/parent friendly article in the Class 7 discussion board relevant to their topic as well as an annotated resource list containing 10 references. Five of the 10 resources will be peer-reviewed research based articles/book about research. The remaining 5 will be teacher/parent-friendly articles/books.

**All students (graduates and undergraduates) are expected to read the posted article for each topic and participate in a classroom discussion after the group presents their research to the class.**

Critical issues examples include the following: Over-representation of African American children in special education; services to children whose home language is other than English; services for young children with autism; inclusive services in early education; challenging behaviors; response to intervention (RTI); transition; assistive technology.

#### **Class 9 -- Curriculum Content Area Handout – 10 points**

The handout should relate to the area researched by the group and should incorporate the concepts and ideas within the research, in a parent-friendly format that can be presented to the group.

#### **Class 15 – Performance Based Assessment: Early Childhood Special Education Take-Home Final Examination – 50 points**

This is the CAEP 1 Content-Based Assessment that shows evidence of meeting CEC Standards. This assignment must be submitted on TaskStream. *See the assessment description and scoring rubric distributed in class.*

### ECED 405: Class Schedule and Topics

Class Date	Topic	Reading Due
1: Aug 27	Early Childhood Special Education and Early Intervention – History and Legislation	
2: Sept 3	Collaboration in ECSE / EI	Deiner chapter 1 and 2
3: Sept 10	Evaluation, Assessment, and Eligibility	Deiner chapter 3
4: Sept 17	Intervention Process, Curriculum and Standards in Inclusive Settings IEP & IFSP – Team, Meetings, Content, Outcomes, and LRE	Deiner chapter 4
5: Sept 24	IDEA: Discipline, Procedural Safeguards, Due Process, Individualizing Planning	Deiner chapter 5
6: Oct 1	Prenatal development: Typical and Atypical Infants and Toddlers at Risk, and Early Intervention, Transitions	Deiner chapter 6 and 7
7: Oct 8	Current Research Issues Children with Specific Learning Disabilities	Blackboard readings Deiner chapter 8
8: Oct 15	Children with Social Emotional and Behavioral Disorders Professional Ethics and Evidence Based Practice	Deiner chapter 9 Blackboard readings
9: Oct 22	Children with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder Children with Communication / Language Disorders	Deiner chapters 10 and 11
10: Oct 29	Children who are English Language Learners Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders	Deiner chapter 12 and 13
11: Nov 5	Children with Intellectual Delays and Disabilities Children who are Gifted and Talented, or Twice-Gifted	Deiner chapter 14 and 15
12: Nov 12	Children with Special Health Care Needs Children with Orthopedic and Neurological Impairments	Deiner chapter 16 and 17
13: Nov 19	Children with Hearing Impairments Children with Visual Impairments **Performance Based Assessment – Case Study <b><i>Take Home Final Examination distributed, DUE midnight Dec. 3 on Taskstream</i></b>	Deiner chapter 18 and 19
14: Nov 26	No class: Thanksgiving holiday	
15: Dec 3 (last class)	Content Review Discussion of Issues in ECSE Evaluation	Taskstream submission of Take Home Final DUE midnight, Dec. 3