

**VIRGINIA CONSORTIUM FOR TEACHER PREPARATION
IN SPECIAL EDUCATION ADAPTED CURRICULUM**

Fall 2015

Curriculum and Assessment in Severe Disabilities, 3 credits

Consortium Courses

- VCU: SEDP 612 Assessment and Curriculum Development for Students with Severe Disabilities
- RU: EDSP 664 Curriculum and Assessment in Severe Disabilities
- NSU: SPE 613A Assessment and Evaluation
- JMU: EXED 612: Psychoeducational Assessment of Learning and Behavior Problems
- ODU: SPED 672: Curriculum and Assessment in Severe Disabilities
- GMU: EDSE 533 Curriculum and Assessment in Severe Disabilities
 - EDSE 533 001, CRN: 78471; EDSE 633 6U1, CRN 83004

Instructor: Dr. Elizabeth (Liz) Altieri	Meeting Dates: 09/01/15 - 12/8/15
Phone: 540-831-5590 (office) (540) 239-9379 (cell) – Please leave your full name and course site if you text or leave a voice mail.	Meeting Day(s): Tuesday
E-Mail: ealtieri@gmu.edu	Meeting Time(s): 4:30 pm-7:10 pm
Office Hours: Sun. 8-9 pm via Skype at liz.altieri or by appointment late afternoons via phone	Instructing University: Radford University

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.

Consortium Course Description

This is an advanced level course in the Special Education, Adapted Curriculum Course Sequence. It requires prerequisite knowledge and skills in the discipline. The course is designed to help you to develop or enhance your knowledge and skills related to best practices in curriculum and assessment for those preparing to teach individuals with severe disabilities who need an individualized, adapted approach to the general education curriculum. Three major components of the assessment process will be addressed:

- (1) Initial diagnosis and assessment for establishing/maintaining eligibility for services and identifying needed supports and services;
- (2) Assessment to develop standards-based IEPs and to create meaningful, functional, academically- based curriculum within an inclusive framework; and
- (3) Assessment to evaluate student progress for the IEP, the VAAP and state and national assessment mandates.

You will plan, develop, and implement a variety of assessment and curriculum activities with target students with severe disabilities within each of the three assessment components. Applied use of assistive technology will be integrated within the course.

GMU Course Description (GMU Students ONLY)

Addresses best practices in curriculum and assessment for individuals with severe disabilities. Covers the design of assessment and evaluation techniques and procedures for the severe-needs population, including adaptations and accommodations. Covers IEP formulation and implementation with linkage to assessment. Course is equivalent to EDSE 649 for students in the severe disabilities program. Hours of Lecture or Seminar per week: 3 Hours of Lab or Studio per week: 0

Prerequisite(s): While there is no official prerequisite, course participants must have working knowledge of the eligibility and IEP process and the basic characteristics and needs of students with moderate and severe disabilities who require an adapted curriculum.

Co-requisite(s): *Field experience required:* Course participants must identify and work with an appropriate target student with severe disabilities ages 5-21 who is participating in the adapted curriculum. You will need permission to read this student's confidential file, and engage in observation, interview and assessment activities with that student and her/his family and team members in order to complete the major assignments for the class. It is your responsibility to identify an appropriate target student. It is expected that you will need **at least** 20-25 hours across the course of the semester to engage in assessment activities with your target student, their family and team members.

Advising Contact Information (GMU students only)

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

This will be a reading and writing intensive course; I believe strongly in the reading, writing, and talking to learn model. All students will need professional writing and research skills. Students are expected to be proficient at using the Internet to find and access materials and resources for students with severe disabilities. You will be expected to participate actively in class by asking and answering questions, making comments, and completing in-class activities. Please come to class having completed the reading and assignments, and ready to participate. The assignments for this course are designed to give you a chance to demonstrate practical application of the course content. Learning activities in this class will include the following:

1. Lectures and demonstrations
2. Discussion and participation during interactive class sessions via Adobe Connect and asynchronously in Blackboard
3. Presentations of assessment and curriculum tools
4. Small and large group class activities
5. Hands-on interaction and application of assessment and teaching strategies with a student with significant disabilities
6. The development of written reports and curriculum plans which can be shared with family members and other team members.

We will use Video-conferencing and Adobe Connect during class time for the “synchronous” (live) part of this class. We will use Blackboard as our learning management system and for “asynchronous” (on your own time) participation. If you wish to use Blackboard or Adobe Connect with your iPhone or iPad, you will need to go to the App Store and download the free apps. All course participants should choose GMU as your university when prompted in the app download.

Blackboard: http://mymason.gmu.edu	Adobe Connect: http://webcon.gmu.edu/assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GMU students use your username and password. • Students from RU, JMU, VCU, NSU, ODU - your username is x_firstname.lastname (e.g., x_jane.doe) and the password is bbcommunity. • Click on the <i>My Organizations</i> tab, and find Curriculum & Assessment 2015. <p>You should begin by reading the documents in the Technology folder.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student will view the PowerPoints, communicate with the instructor, and interact with others using Adobe Connect • Class discussions will be documented in the Notes pod in Adobe Connect • You may login with the guest username (sdcguest@gmu.edu) and password (sdcsite) or log in as a guest with your own full name and wait for me to give you permission to enter the site • The first time you use Adobe Connect you may be prompted to download a plug in. Click yes -it only takes a few seconds to install.

Learner Outcomes

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

- Locate, read and interpret important assessment reports and IEP documents that comprise a student’s cumulative and confidential files, and explain their role in shaping a student’s educational history and decision-making regarding the IEP including the eligibility label or labels the student receives services under, special education services, related services, the decision to be assessed in the adapted curriculum rather than general curriculum, and placements.
- Effectively use essential components of the assessment process – record review, interview, observation and systematic structured interactions – to gather information and describe in detail a student’s present level of functional and academic performance.
- Effectively use essential components of the assessment process – record review, interview, observation and systematic structured interactions – to gather information and determine starting points for instruction in reading, writing, mathematics, social studies and science.
- Create and evaluate a high-impact, meaningful goal for a target student that enables academic learning, addresses other functional and academic needs, enhances communication competence, and which reflects the students chronological age, and the concerns and priorities expressed by family members.
- Identify needs for assessment and curriculum development of learners who have dual exceptionalities such as ELL and having a moderate/severe disability

Required Textbooks

Courtade, G. & Browder, D. (2011). *Aligning IEPs to the Common Core Standards for Students with Moderate and Severe Disabilities*. Available in Kindle edition for only \$9 from Amazon.

Kleinert, H. L. and Farmer Kearns, J. (2010). *Alternate assessment for students with significant cognitive disabilities: An educator's guide*. Baltimore: Paul H. Brookes

Recommended Textbooks (choose one: we will share practices and plans from these texts)

<http://products.brookespublishing.com/More-Language-Arts-Math-and-Science-for-Students-with-Severe-Disabilities-P735.aspx>

<http://products.brookespublishing.com/Teaching-Language-Arts-Math-and-Science-to-Students-with-Significant-Cognitive-Disabilities-P365.aspx>

Additional Readings

TTAC online resources for teachers of students with significant cognitive disabilities who are working on academic standards that have been reduced in complexity and depth, and who are assessed through the VAAP (VA Alternate Assessment Program). This content is derived from the Standards of Learning (SOL) and is referred to as the Aligned Standards of Learning (ASOL). Three main area of resources will be used for this class – Curriculum-Based Assessment; Understanding the ASOLs; and Teaching Process including Sample Activities and Suggested Instructional Strategies <http://ttaonline.org/vaap>

Virginia Department of Education Policy and Procedures for Participation in Alternative Assessments

<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/participation/index.shtml>

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/alternative_assessments/index.shtml

GMU Students Digital Library Option (GMU students only)

The Pearson textbook(s) for this course **may be** available as part of the **George Mason University Division of Special Education and disAbility Research Digital Library**. Please note that not all textbooks are available through this option. Visit the links below before purchasing the digital library to ensure that your course(s) text(s) are available in this format. The division and Pearson have partnered to bring you the Digital Library; a convenient, digital solution that can save you money on your course materials. The Digital Library offers you access to a complete digital library of **all Pearson textbooks** and MyEducationLabs used across the Division of Special Education and disAbility Research curriculum at a low 1-year or 3-year subscription price. Access codes are available in the school bookstore. Please visit <http://gmu.bncollege.com> and search the ISBN. To register your access code or purchase the Digital Library,

visit: <http://www.pearsoncustom.com/va/gmu/digitallibrary/education/index.html>

- 1 year subscription \$200 ISBN-13: 9781269541411
- 3 years subscription \$525 ISBN-13: 9781269541381
- Individual e-book(s) also available at the bookstore link above or at <http://www.pearsoncustom.com/va/gmu/digitallibrary/education/index.html>

Course Relationships to Program Goals and Professional Organizations

This course is part of The Virginia Consortium for Teacher Preparation in Special Education Adapted Curriculum, a grant from the Virginia Department of Education that includes George Mason University, Virginia Commonwealth University, Radford University, Norfolk State University, James Madison University, and Old Dominion University. Through the completion of the Adapted Curriculum Consortium program, students are eligible for teacher licensure in the Commonwealth of Virginia in the area of Special Education – Adapted 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. The CEC standards that will be addressed in this class include Standard 4: Assessment & Standard 6: Professional Learning and Ethical Practice. (Updated Fall 2014 to align with the revised CEC Standards)

Course Policies & Expectations

Professional Dispositions.

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

Attendance.

Since most of the classes involve activities, film clips, discussion, and small group work, attendance is compulsory and vital to gain maximum benefit. If you must miss a class, you must contact me in advance via email. If you must be somewhere other than your site, but will have a computer with microphone and/or camera and high speed internet access, we can work with you to have you attend class by calling in and participating through Adobe Connect, but we must have at least ONE week notice. If you miss class, you can watch the class through the archived livestream (see below for directions). Anyone who misses more than two classes will lose all attendance points. Significant tardiness or early departure will count as an absence.

Late Work.

There will be a penalty of one letter grade for assignments submitted after the due date. However, I will work with you if there are extenuating circumstances; you must contact me in advance of the due date to *contract* for an extension.

Blackboard Submission for Accreditation

Every student registered for any Special Education course with a required performance-based assessment is required to submit this assessment. (NO ACCREDITATION ASSESSMENT REQUIRED FOR THIS COURSE). **RU and VCU students are strongly encouraged to use the two major assignments in their final portfolio.**

Grading Scale

Total points possible 500. A (94-100%) = 470-500; A-* (91-93%) = 455-469; B+ (88-90%) = 440-454; B (84-87%) = 420-439; B- (81-83%) = 405-419; C+ (78-80%) = 390-404; C (74-77%) = 370-389

*Please note: for universities that do not support a +/- grading scale, grades will be adjusted accordingly.

You are eligible to resubmit assignments **one time** on which you earned the grade of C+ or less (as long as the grade is not due to being turned in late: that is, a paper that would have been a B+ if turned in on time may not be resubmitted). The two scores will be averaged for your final grade on that assignment. You will not receive extensive feedback on your second submission.

Special Addendum for GMU Students enrolled in EDSE 533 Fall 2013

EDSE 533 is a course offered through the Virginia Consortium for Teacher Preparation in Severe Disabilities and Autism. Courses in the consortium are generally capped at lower enrollment than a traditional GMU course because of additional student enrollment from the other participating universities. This semester the enrollment in EDSE 533 is quite large for a class in the adapted curriculum licensure program. Therefore, we will utilize a “grader” to assist the instructor with the large enrollment at GMU.

Dr. Liz Altieri from Radford University is the course instructor. She will conduct all class lectures, design course assignments, and answer content questions. Dr. Ed Lowther from GMU will serve as the course grader for GMU students. This means that Dr. Lowther will grade course assignments and provide assignment feedback for some GMU students. He will collaborate with Dr. Altieri to ensure that grading is consistent across universities. Dr. Lowther will also at times facilitate in-class discussions and activities with some GMU students, such as during presentations.

Faculty contact information:

Dr. Edward Lowther Cell Phone: 703-973-7832

E-mail: elowther@gmu.edu Office hours by appointment

Assignments

1. ***On-line discussion of readings and questions posted by the professor/class members-100 points:*** There will be a total of four on-line discussions related to course topics and assignments. Full participation per the guidelines below will be worth up to 25 points each.
 - a. *By Friday at 8:00 p.m.* of the week of the discussion, you will write and post a well thought through and concise, edited 250-350-word response to the question or subject (may earn up to 10 points).
 - b. Read and respond informally to your peers' postings *by Sunday at 9:00 p.m.* I expect you to read all of them, but a minimum of seven community building postings are required (may earn up to 7 points)
 - c. *By class time on Tuesday*, you will write and post a thoughtful 150-250-word response to *one* of your peer's full responses. Ask questions, confirm, and explore with each other. Discuss what you learned from that person, what they made you think about, and how their understandings and experiences meshed or differed from your own (may earn up to 8 points).

2. Assessment history on target student with critical analysis-150 points:

You will use a process of thorough record review and interviews with family members and past teachers/support persons to create an assessment history on a target individual from your practicum/work setting. This will provide an easy-to-read all-in-one place record of all assessment information that has been gathered about this child and which has played a role in shaping his/her educational history. There will be four major tasks involved in this assignment:

- a. Research and synthesis of major reports and records
- b. Creation of assessment history document
- c. Interview of family member and/or member of Circle of Support, and addition of information to the history document
- d. Critical analysis of child's assessment history and write-up

3. Expanded narrative describing target student's Present Level of Educational and Functional Performance (PLOP) -200 points:

Note to RU and VCU students: This graded project is to be included in your graduate portfolio. Please remember to save your submitted document, your grade, and feedback you receive from your instructor.

You will continue to focus on the target student with significant disabilities that you used for the Assessment History. There will be three major tasks involved in this assignment:

- a. Summary of student's past assessment and IEP information (using information gathered for assessment history)
- b. Functional and curriculum-based assessment activities with your target student and team members to gather new/revised assessment information.
- c. Development of an expanded written narrative with two parts:
 - i. Create a positive portrayal/introduction strong statement of capacity for the student
 - ii. Describe the Present Level of Academic and Functional Performance per new regulations and VDOE procedures and guidelines for the IEP.

4. Class Participation (up to 50 pts.)

Students will earn 2 points for attending from the beginning to the end of class each Tuesday and for participating meaningfully in the class. This means you must be on time and stay for the entire class. Course Facilitators at each site will document attendance. If you do not see your points each week in BB, that means your CF has not provided me with attendance! Additional points will be earned for completion of in-class assignments

Course Schedule

You will find the course schedule in Blackboard under the syllabus tab as a separate document.

CONSORTIUM POLICIES

Honor Code

Each university has its own honor code and it is important for you to review the honor code at your university. However, all students taking this course, regardless of the university they are enrolled in, are expected to follow this honor code and may be asked to pledge all assignments and their exam to indicate that they have followed the honor code. A pledge means that you have not cheated or plagiarized, nor have you given or received assistance that violated the description of how assignments are to be completed for this course. The shortened version may be used: "Pledged" followed by the date and your full name (typed "signatures" will be OK for assignments/tests submitted electronically).

A complete copy of each university's Honor System document is available through

GMU: <http://mason.gmu.edu/~montecin/plagiarism.htm>

VCU: www.students.vcu.edu/rg/policies/rg7honor.html.

Radford: http://www.radford.edu/~dos-web/handbook02-03/Honor_Code.pdf

NSU: http://www.nsu.edu/student_judicial/policy.html

JMU: <http://www.jmu.edu/honor/code.shtml>

ODU: <https://www.odu.edu/about/monarchcitizenship/student-conduct>

Accommodations for Disability

At all the participating universities, accommodations can be made with the instructor if a student has a documented disability. University specific information regarding eligibility, services and accommodations can be found at:

GMU: <http://www.gmu.edu/student/drc/>

VCU: <http://www.students.vcu.edu/dss/index.html>

Radford: <http://www.radford.edu/~dro/>

NSU: <http://www.nsu.edu/disabilityservices/index.html>

JMU: <https://www.jmu.edu/ods/>

ODU: <https://www.odu.edu/life/diversity/accessibility>

Inclement Weather

If classes are cancelled at the teaching 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, visit the teaching university's website. Do not email us; 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.

Cell Phones and Weapons

All cell phones and beepers should be deactivated while in the classroom. Also, University rules at all participating universities prohibit the possession any firearm, other weapon, or explosive. Please consult the student handbook and your university for specific information concerning this policy at your university.

Course Materials

This course gives you access to PowerPoint files, class lecture notes, handouts, and copyrighted articles. All of these materials should be regarded as authored materials, which if used or referred to must be

fully credited through reference to the author, the class, and date. If used beyond citation, permission of the instructor/author is required.

Technology Proficiencies

All students participating in this course are expected to be proficient in several technology skills. Students are expected to be proficient in using the Internet and have reliable and consistent Internet access. Students are expected to have an active university email account and to check email regularly. This course requires students to use Blackboard, which is our online course management system located at <http://mymason.gmu.edu> under the ORGANIZATIONS tab.

NON GMU Students: Your login for Blackboard Organizations is: *x_first name.last name* For example, John Smith's username would be: *x_john.smith*. For **new** students (beginning Summer 2015), you will receive an email (to your university email) with your Blackboard password.

Students are expected to login to this system frequently and be proficient in using its features. Students are expected to be proficient in using the computer, which includes downloading and saving files, typing, and word processing skills. Students participating in this course are expected to use Microsoft Word for all written assignments. Furthermore, students are expected to use Microsoft PowerPoint and Adobe Acrobat Reader for class documents located on the Blackboard website.

Remote Site Student

It is the policy of the consortium that students attending classes at university sites are expected to be present at those university sites during class time. However, there are situations in which students are unable to attend classes at the university sites and may be permitted to take a course as a "remote site" student. To be considered, students must meet the **requirement of more than 90 minutes of one-way travel time to the closest participating university (under normal circumstance). OR have a documented medical need.** In addition, there are several technology and procedural requirements that are detailed on the Consortium website: <http://kihd.gmu.edu/sdc/> and posted on Blackboard. Students must obtain permission from both the course instructor and the consortium coordinator to be considered a remote site student. Students' continued participation as a remote site will be re-assessed each semester.

In **special** circumstances where students would otherwise miss class (in accordance to the attendance policy) students may request to participate as a remote site if they (a) have met all of technical and procedural requirements, (b) have received permission from the instructor at least *one week* prior to class, and (c) have had a successful test session with GMU tech support personnel.

Course Facilitators

Each site will have a facilitator or assistant who will assist with the class. Learn who that person is as they will be taking role and keeping track of class participation and reporting it to me weekly. However, if you think you must miss a class, please email me ahead if at all possible (or later if need be).

Blackboard Assistance

This course requires that you be a regular email user and be able to use various features of Blackboard (sign on, download materials, hand in completed assignments electronically in the drop box). You may direct your questions about Blackboard to the facilitator at the class site as well as to email Marci Kinase Jerome (mkinas@gmu.edu). She will be the best resource. We are all learning this system together and some of us will be faster than others. Expect some snafus along the way, but please help each other out

as you can. You will want to download all the required materials early in the semester or as soon as they are posted. Please note that some handouts/readings may be provided in class that have not yet been posted on Blackboard. Also check Blackboard for announcements. Sometimes we will place handouts for class on Blackboard and will alert you by email or in the previous class; in these cases please download and bring them to class.

Remote Site Viewing

All Consortium courses are recorded and archived on a video-streaming server. Students and faculty are welcome to view previous classes at <http://torrent.gmu.edu> and click on the link for specific class.

Student may also view the PowerPoints, communicate with the instructor, and interact with other at home students using Adobe Connect. Each consortium class has their own Adobe Connect website. To get to your Adobe Connect course site go to:

- Characteristics: <http://webcon.gmu.edu/characteristics/>
- Teaching Strategies: <http://webcon.gmu.edu/teaching/>
- Positive Behavior Supports: <http://webcon.gmu.edu/pbs>
- Curriculum and Assessment: <http://webcon.gmu.edu/assessment>
- Positioning and Handling: <http://webcon.gmu.edu/positioning>

You will login with the guest username (sdcguest@gmu.edu) and password (sdcsite).

The first time you use Adobe Connect you may be prompted to download a plug in, it only takes a few seconds to install.

Policies and Resources Specific for GMU Students:

Advising Tip

Did you know you can evaluate your progress in the program at any time by running a Degree Evaluation in Patriotweb? Step by step instructions are available at <http://registrar.gmu.edu/students/degree-evaluation/>.

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.

- 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 the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester [See <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/>]