



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

Summer 2018

EDSE 637: Autism Across the Lifespan: Collaboration with Critical Partners

3 – Credits

Section B01; CRN: 42838

Section 611; CRN: 43059

<b>Instructor:</b> Dr. Cheryl Bragg	<b>Meeting Dates:</b> 6/4/2018 – 7/28/2018
<b>Phone:</b> 703-993-4002 (messages only)	<b>Meeting Day(s):</b> N/A
<b>E-Mail:</b> cbragg@gmu.edu	<b>Meeting Time(s):</b> N/A
<b>Office Hours:</b> As Needed	<b>Meeting Location:</b> On-line
<b>Office Location:</b> Arranged with student	<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**

Examines characteristics, milestones, critical issues, and areas of need for individuals with autism spectrum disorder across their lifespans. Prioritizes key features of effective collaboration and partnership. Utilizes a strengths-based problem solving perspective to frame collaboration and partnership for individuals with autism spectrum disorder across their lifespans and simulates partnership practices with a variety of stakeholders across the lifespan of an individual with autism spectrum disorder. Offered by Graduate School of Education. May not be repeated for credit.

### **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**

Are you ready to apply for graduation? Students completing their program can apply for graduation on *Patriotweb*. If you are graduating from a Masters and certificate, be sure to apply

to graduate from each program. Visit <http://registrar.gmu.edu/students/graduation/> for more information.

## Course Delivery Method

Learning activities 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

This course will be delivered online (76% or more) using an asynchronous format via **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 June 4<sup>th</sup>.

**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:** This summer course is 8 weeks, broken into 5 modules, and is an asynchronous online courses. As such, we do not have a “fixed” meeting day. A lecture presentation will be offered at the beginning of each module. We will be engaged throughout each week depending upon the material and/or presenting task(s). Assignments are due on the dates put forth on the class assignment schedule by Midnight.
- **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 3 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. Identify essential characteristics of family-professional partnership.
2. Identify, compare and contrast available services and supports for individuals with autism spectrum disorder to achieve academic, social, economic, and independent living skills across their lifespans.
3. Apply a strengths-based problem-solving approach when conceptualizing partnership practices with a variety of stakeholders across the lifespan of an individual with autism spectrum disorder.
4. Summarize federal legislation that mandates and supports individual and family services and partnership practices.
5. Apply ***Bronfenbrenner's Process-Person-Content-Time Model*** to differing family contexts and simulation activities to identify how schools, families, and community agencies contribute to quality of life among individuals with autism spectrum disorders across their lifespans.

## **Course Relationship to Program Goals and Professional Organizations**

This course is part of the George Mason University, Graduate School of Education (GSE), Special Education Program for the Autism Spectrum Disorders Graduate Certificate. This program complies with the skill competencies for professionals and paraprofessionals in Virginia supporting individuals with autism across the lifespan developed by the Virginia Autism Council. The competencies addressed in this class include General Autism Knowledge, Instructional Programming, and Independence and Aptitude.

## **Required Textbooks**

Boutot, E. A. (2017). *Autism spectrum disorders: Foundations, characteristics, and effective strategies* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson.

## Recommended Textbooks

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

## Additional Readings

Students are expected to review readings and resources included on Blackboard.

## 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, In TASC 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 637*, the required PBA is Lifespan Resources and Support Flowchart. Failure to submit the assignment to Tk20 will result in reporting the course grade as Incomplete (IN). Teacher candidates/students have until five days prior to the University-stated grade change deadline to upload the required PBA in order to change the course grade. When the PBA is uploaded, the teacher candidate/student is required to notify the instructor so that the "IN" can be changed to a grade. If the required PBA is not uploaded five days prior to the University-stated grade change deadline and, therefore, the grade not changed, it will become an F. 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)

Assignment	Description	Points	Due date
Lifespan Resources and Support	Identification of people and resources, services and supports throughout the lifespan of a case study individual and consider collaboration among systems	100	<b>Due by 7/27</b> by midnight

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

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Due date</b> [all by midnight]
Discussion board #1	Introduction activity	10	Part 1 ~ 6/8 Part 2 ~ 6/11
Bronfenbrenner's PPCT activity #1	Identify personal characteristics and influencing structures for a target individual	10	6/11
Part 1 of Lifespan Resources and Support Assignment	Identify personal characteristics and microsystem structures	10	6/15
Early Childhood Padlet	Locate resources or strategies to support infants and toddlers with autism	10	6/18
CONNECT activities	Complete activities 4.1a, 4.7a, and 4.13a in Module 4	10	6/21
Part 2 of Lifespan Resources and Support Assignment	Identify early childhood characteristics and exosystem structures	10	6/25
Childhood Padlet	Locate resources or strategies to support children with autism	10	6/29
Bronfenbrenner's PPCT activity #2	Identify personal characteristics and influencing structures for a target individual	10	7/2
Part 3 of Lifespan Resources and Support Assignment	Identify childhood characteristics and macrosystem structures	10	7/2
Adolescence Padlet	Locate resources or strategies to support adolescents with autism	10	7/9
Bronfenbrenner's PPCT activity #3	Identify personal characteristics and influencing structures for a target individual	10	7/13
Part 4 of Lifespan Resources and Support Assignment	Identify adolescence characteristics and adequacy of resources	10	7/16
Adulthood Padlet	Locate resources or strategies to support adults with autism	10	7/17

Bronfenbrenner's PPCT activity #4	Identify personal characteristics and influencing structures for a target individual	10	7/23
Part 5 of Lifespan Resources and Support Assignment	Identify adult characteristics and three collaboration strategies	10	7/25

## Course Policies and Expectations

### Attendance/Participation

All coursework will be online and in an Asynchronous format. There are a total of 5 modules in this course: Modules 1-5 each are about 10 days long and contain 3 assignments each - due within that 10/11 day period. The last few days will be devoted to the **“Wrap-up”** period. Please plan accordingly.

### Late Work

Work is considered on time if it is submitted by 11:59 pm on the date that it is due. *Ten percent of the available points* for the assignment will be deducted each day for late submissions during the first week after the due date. **After one week from the due date, assignments will not be accepted.** Thus, an assignment that is three days late is able to obtain only 70% of the points for the assignment regardless of the quality of the work. After one week, the assignment will no longer be accepted and a score of zero will be entered into the grade book for that assignment.

The date that the assignment was received by the instructor **via email or Blackboard** will be considered the date submitted. Submitting an assignment late does not alter the due dates of the other assignments and prevents timely feedback to students regarding their work that may be of value in later assignments. Strive to keep up with the assignment schedule so that you will be able to have appropriate formative evaluation and feedback from your instructor across the semester.

### Grading Scale

#### **Class Grading Scale:**

100--95% = **A**    94--90% = **A-**    89--80% = **B**    79--75% = **C**    < 75% = **F**

Please retain a copy of your assignments in addition to the one you submit. All assignments should reflect graduate level spelling, syntax, and grammar.

*\*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. See <https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/policies-procedures/>

**Class Schedule**

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

<b>Module Dates</b>	<b>Topics and Readings Covered</b>	<b>Module Assignments</b>
<b>#1</b> June 4 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup>	Families Federal legislation Bronfenbrenner’s model of Human development  See Blackboard for readings	Discussion Board #1  Bronfenbrenner’s PPCT activity #1  Part 1 of Lifespan Resources and Support Assignment
<b>#2</b> June 15 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Diagnosis Part C of IDEA Early intervention Family-professional collaboration See Blackboard for readings	Early Childhood Padlet  CONNECT module activities  Part 2 of Lifespan Resources and Support Assignment
<b>#3</b> June 23 <sup>rd</sup> – July 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Part B of IDEA Childhood services Parent-professional collaboration  Boutot: Chapters 3 & 7	Childhood Padlet  Bronfenbrenner’s PPCT activity #2  Part 3 of Lifespan Resources and Support Assignment
<b>#4</b> July 4 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>	IDEA transition planning requirements Guardianship Inter-agency collaboration  Boutot: Chapters 8 & 13	Adolescence Padlet  Bronfenbrenner’s PPCT activity #3  Part 4 of Lifespan Resources and Support Assignment



<b>#5</b> July 13 <sup>th</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup>	American with Disabilities Act Caregiver aging Collaboration and long-term planning  Boutot: Chapter 14	Adulthood Padlet  Bronfenbrenner’s PPCT activity #4  Part 5 of Lifespan Resources and Support Assignment
<b>#6</b> July 24 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup>	Wrap-up	Lifespan Resources and Support

### 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://coursesupport.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:**

	<b>Does Not Meet Expectations</b>	<b><u>Meets Expectations</u></b>	<b>Exceeds Expectations</b>
<p><b>Part 1: Case study description (20 points)</b></p> <p>1.1.7S</p>	<p>Personal attributes that influence the development of the individual do not reflect the case study learner</p> <p>Important individuals and elements in the micro- and macro-systems not identified</p>	<p>Personal attributes that influence the development of the individual (e.g., nature of disability, strengths and supports needs, disposition, gender) identified accurately reflect the case study individual</p> <p>A minimum of 3 important individuals/elements in the micro- exo- and macro-systems identified</p>	<p>Personal attributes that influence the development of the individual (e.g., nature of disability, strengths and supports needs, disposition, gender) identified are richly described and accurately reflect the case study individual</p> <p>Four or more important individuals and elements in the micro- and macro-systems identified and richly described</p>

<p><b>Early childhood resources, services, and supports (20 points)</b></p> <p>1.1.4S</p>	<p>Two or fewer personal characteristics that influence the case study individual’s development identified and described in 1-3 sentences</p> <p>One or fewer appropriate and available resources identified</p> <p>Fewer than 3 sentences describe the selected resources (e.g., eligibility, services provided)</p> <p>Fewer than 3-5 sentences discuss adequacy of existing resources and supports</p> <p>Fewer than 2 sentences demonstrate how members from the individual’s microsystem can partner to maximize the benefit of the resource</p>	<p>A minimum of 3 personal characteristics during age 0-3 years that influence the case study individual’s development identified and described in 1-3 sentences</p> <p>A minimum of two appropriate and available resources identified</p> <p>A minimum of 3-5 sentences describe the selected resources (e.g., eligibility, services provided)</p> <p>A minimum of 3-5 sentences discuss adequacy of existing resources and supports</p> <p>A minimum of 3-5 sentences indicating your “role” in the individual’s microsystem and how you might partner with others in case study individual’s microsystem to facilitate positive outcomes for the individual</p>	<p>Four or more personal characteristics that influence the case study individual’s development identified and described in 2-5 sentences</p> <p>Three or more appropriate and available resources identified</p> <p>Five or more sentences describe the selected resources (e.g., eligibility, services provided)</p> <p>Five or more sentences discuss adequacy of existing resources and supports</p> <p>Six or more sentences demonstrate how members from the individual’s microsystem can partner to maximize the benefit of the resource</p>
<p><b>Childhood resources, services, and supports (20 points)</b></p> <p>3.4K</p>	<p>One or fewer appropriate and available resources identified</p> <p>Fewer than 3 sentences describe the selected resources (e.g., eligibility, services provided)</p> <p>Fewer than 3-5 sentences discuss adequacy of existing resources and supports</p> <p>Fewer than 2 sentences demonstrate how members from the individual’s microsystem can partner to maximize the benefit of the resource</p>	<p>A minimum of 3 personal characteristics during age ~4-15 years that influence the case study individual’s development identified and described in 1-3 sentences</p> <p>A minimum of two appropriate and available resources identified</p> <p>A minimum of 3-5 sentences describe the selected resources (e.g., eligibility, services provided)</p> <p>A minimum of 3-5 sentences discuss adequacy of existing resources and supports</p> <p>A minimum of 3-5 sentences</p>	<p>Four or more personal characteristics that influence the case study individual’s development identified and described in 2-5 sentences</p> <p>Three or more appropriate and available resources identified</p> <p>Five or more sentences describe the selected resources (e.g., eligibility, services provided)</p> <p>Five or more sentences discuss adequacy of existing resources and supports</p> <p>Six or more sentences demonstrate how members</p>

		<p>indicating your “role” in the individual’s microsystem and how you might partner with others in case study individual’s microsystem to facilitate positive outcomes for the individual</p>	<p>from the individual’s microsystem can partner to maximize the benefit of the resource</p>
<p><b>Adolescence resources, services, and supports (20 points)</b> 3.4.7S</p>	<p>One or fewer appropriate and available resources identified</p> <p>Fewer than 3 sentences describe the selected resources (e.g., eligibility, services provided)</p> <p>Fewer than 3-5 sentences discuss adequacy of existing resources and supports</p> <p>Fewer than 2 sentences demonstrate how members from the individual’s microsystem can partner to maximize the benefit of the resource</p>	<p>A minimum of 3 personal characteristics during age ~16-23 years that influence the case study individual’s development identified and described in 1-3 sentences</p> <p>A minimum of two appropriate and available resources identified</p> <p>A minimum of 3-5 sentences describe the selected resources (e.g., eligibility, services provided)</p> <p>A minimum of 3-5 sentences discuss adequacy of existing resources and supports</p> <p>A minimum of 3-5 sentences indicating your “role” in the individual’s microsystem and how you might partner with others in case study individual’s microsystem to facilitate positive outcomes for the individual</p>	<p>Four or more personal characteristics that influence the case study individual’s development identified and described in 2-5 sentences</p> <p>Three or more appropriate and available resources identified</p> <p>Five or more sentences describe the selected resources (e.g., eligibility, services provided)</p> <p>Five or more sentences discuss adequacy of existing resources and supports</p> <p>Six or more sentences demonstrate how members from the individual’s microsystem can partner to maximize the benefit of the resource</p>
<p><b>Adulthood resources, services, and supports (20 points)</b> 8.1.4S</p>	<p>One or fewer appropriate and available resources identified</p> <p>Fewer than 3 sentences describe the selected resources (e.g., eligibility, services provided)</p> <p>Fewer than 3-5 sentences discuss adequacy of existing resources and supports</p>	<p>A minimum of 3 personal characteristics during age ~24 years or older that influence the case study individual’s development identified and described in 1-3 sentences</p> <p>A minimum of two appropriate and available resources identified</p>	<p>Four or more personal characteristics that influence the case study individual’s development identified and described in 2-5 sentences</p> <p>Three or more appropriate and available resources identified</p> <p>Five or more sentences describe the selected</p>

	<p>Fewer than 2 sentences demonstrate how members from the individual's microsystem can partner to maximize the benefit of the resource</p>	<p>A minimum of 3-5 sentences describe the selected resources (e.g., eligibility, services provided)</p> <p>A minimum of 3-5 sentences discuss adequacy of existing resources and supports</p> <p>A minimum of 3-5 sentences indicating your "role" in the individual's microsystem and how you might partner with others in case study individual's microsystem to facilitate positive outcomes for the individual</p>	<p>resources (e.g., eligibility, services provided)</p> <p>Five or more sentences discuss adequacy of existing resources and supports</p> <p>Six or more sentences demonstrate how members from the individual's microsystem can partner to maximize the benefit of the resource</p>
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