



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

Fall 2018

EDSE 540 651: Characteristics of Students who Access the General Curriculum

CRN: 83466, 3 – Credits

<b>Instructor:</b> Dr. Margaret Weiss	<b>Meeting Dates:</b> 9/13/2018 – 11/15/2018
<b>Phone:</b> 703.993.5732	<b>Meeting Day(s):</b> Thursday
<b>E-Mail:</b> mweiss9@gmu.edu	<b>Meeting Time(s):</b> 4:30 pm – 8:30 pm
<b>Office Hours:</b> By appointment	<b>Meeting Location:</b> Off Campus
<b>Office Location:</b> 213 Finley Hall	<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 the characteristics of students with mild disabilities. Focuses on etiology, contributing factors, conditions that affect learning, the challenges of identifying students with disabilities, and the need for academic, social, and emotional accommodations and support. Notes: Field experience required. 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**

Have you met with an advisor? All students should make an appointment to meet with an advisor to outline a plan for completing coursework and non-course requirements such as testing. To make an appointment by phone or in person, go to <http://gse.gmu.edu/special-education/advising/>.

## **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

## **Learner Outcomes**

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

1. Describe the field of learning disabilities from its origins to policies and practices of today.
2. Compare the history of education for students with emotional and behavioral disorders, students with learning disabilities students with mild intellectual disabilities.
3. Define learning disability, emotional disturbance, and mild intellectual disabilities.
4. Describe how educators and other professionals determine the difference between normal and atypical behaviors.
5. Describe characteristics of K-12 students with learning disabilities, emotional disturbances, and/or mild intellectual disabilities.
6. Compare conceptual models of behavioral deficits with three conceptual models that explain learning disabilities and/or mild intellectual disabilities.
7. Discuss the various etiologies in relation to biological, family, cultural, and school perspectives.
8. Identify various procedures and practices that motivate reluctant learners to complete class work and develop skills that build self- understanding and confidence as learners.
9. Describe and discuss a range of learning disabilities, emotional disturbances, and mild intellectual disabilities for a parent and suggest possible interventions for home and school.
10. Describe how children develop language.
11. Describe informal assessment procedures for determining knowledge and skills of children with various learning disabilities and emotional/behavioral problems.
12. Based on informal assessment procedures, design appropriate clinical teaching strategies for children with various learning disabilities and/or behavior problems.
13. Describe what an Individualized Education Program (IEP) is and how it is developed.

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

Standard 4: Assessment (InTASC 6); CEC Standard 5: Instructional planning and strategies (InTASC 7,8) & CEC Standard 7: Collaboration (InTASC 10).

This course contains at least one Common Assessment developed by the College of Education and Human Development to assess our candidates' performance on nationally accepted standards for beginning teachers (InTASC) and our programs' performance on national accreditation standards (CAEP).

### **Evidence-Based Practices**

This course will incorporate the evidence-based practices (EBPs) relevant to characteristics of students with mild disabilities, etiology of mild disabilities, inclusionary practices. Evidence for the selected research-based practices is informed by meta-analysis, literature reviews/synthesis, the technical assistance networks which provide web-based resources, and the national organizations whose mission is to support students with disabilities. We address both promising and emerging practices in the field of special education. This course will provide opportunities for teacher candidates/students to take an active, decision-making role to thoughtfully select, modify, apply, and evaluate EBPs in order to improve outcomes for students with disabilities.

### **Required Textbooks**

Raymond, E. B. (2017). *Learners with mild disabilities: A characteristics approach* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). Boston: Pearson. (We will use ten of the 12 chapters in this book.)

Archer, A. L., & Hughes, C. A. (2010). *Explicit instruction: Effective and efficient teaching*. New York: Guilford Press. (We will use three of the eight chapters in this book. You will use the book again in subsequent courses.)

### **Recommended Textbooks**

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

### **Additional Readings**

Posted 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, InTASC or other standard connected to the course. A PBA is evaluated in two ways. The first is for a grade, based on the instructor's grading rubric. The second is for program accreditation purposes. Your instructor will provide directions as to how to upload the PBA to Tk20.

For EDSE 540, the required PBA is Observation Student Profile. 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; 100 points)**

The required assignment for this course is the development of an *Observational Student Profile* about a student with disabilities who accesses the general curriculum. See Appendix A for specific details.

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

None

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

None

#### **Field Experience Requirement**

A field experience is a part of this course. A field experience includes a variety of early and ongoing field-based opportunities in which candidates may observe, assist, and/or tutor. Field experiences may occur in off-campus settings, such as schools (CAEP, 2016). Below are REQUIRED PROCEDURES FOR ALL STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THIS COURSE.

Complete the online EDSE Field Experience form. This online form will be sent to your GMU email from EDSEfld@gmu.edu on the first day of the semester. Click on the link and complete the form as soon as possible. ALL students should complete the form, regardless of whether you need assistance in locating a field experience placement or not. This information is required by the state. Please direct any questions about the form to Dr. Kristen O'Brien at EDSEfld@gmu.edu.

If you are arranging your own field experience because you are a full-time contracted school system employee and will complete the field experience at your worksite, you will be asked to specify the school at which you will be completing the field experience.

If you request a field experience placement to be arranged, you will receive information via your GMU email account about your assigned internship placement from the Clinical Practice Specialist in the College's Educator Preparation Office (EPO). Check your GMU email regularly for important information regarding your field experience. Follow all instructions for the necessary Human Resource (HR) paperwork required to access the assigned field experience placement.

2. View the EDSE Field Experience Introduction presentation. On the first week of classes and prior to representing George Mason in off-campus settings, your instructor will show a video presentation or provide a link to the presentation, which includes important information about the registration process for EDSE field experiences and tips for a successful field experience. After the presentation, sign the document provided by your instructor to indicate that you have watched the presentation and are aware of the EDSE field experience professionalism expectations.
3. Document your field experience hours. Your instructor will provide you with access to field experience documentation forms to use. There are two different field experience documentation forms – one for those completing field experience at their worksite and one for those completing field experiences in other classroom settings (e.g., GMU arranged a placement for you). Use the form that is most appropriate for your field experience placement. Your instructor will provide more directions on how to use and submit the documentation form.
4. Complete the field experience end-of-semester survey. Towards the end of the semester, you will receive an email from EDSEfld@gmu.edu with a link to an online survey. This brief survey asks you to report about important features of your field experience placement.

### **Other Assignments**

#### **Participation (100 pts; 10pts/session)**

Participation includes (but is not limited to) (a) participation in all class and group activities, (b) displaying evidence of having read material, and (c) giving project presentation updates throughout the semester. I plan each session with the expectation that all students will be present and will participate. If you are not in class, 10 points will be deducted from your participation grade but you will be eligible to complete the in-class assignments for classwork points. You must finish these assignments before the next class session. Please contact me if you will miss class.

#### **Classwork Assignments (80 pts; 8@10pts each)**

During our 10 course sessions, you will be asked to complete an assignment in class with your classmates. The assignments can be turned in after class or within 48 hours of the class session. The class sessions that include classwork assignments are indicated on the syllabus. Directions for each assignment will be given in class but the intent is for them to be completed in class. Some examples are:

**Article review** You will be given specific articles from which to choose based on the session's topic and will work with a partner to develop a summary. The purpose of this assignment is twofold: first to identify research-based findings that are relevant to students with disabilities and second, to distill the major points of the article to a one-page summary.

**Lesson plan revision.** In the first half of the course, we will be studying explicit instruction and its interaction with the characteristics of students with disabilities. On several

occasions, you will be given sample lesson plans that you will work with a partner to rewrite with explicit instruction components.

**Video teaching review.** In our study of explicit instruction, we will focus on effective lesson development and instructional delivery. You will be asked to try any of the items we discuss. Each student will bring a 3-5 min video of their teaching that provides an example of an Explicit Instruction component. I will group you in small groups to do peer reviews of the video.

**Online simulation.** All students will participate in an online simulation of instruction and assessment, including students with disabilities. Each student will then provide evidence of completion of the simulation.

### **Course Policies and Expectations**

#### **Attendance/Participation.**

Students are expected to (a) attend all classes during the course, (b) arrive on time, (c) stay for the duration of the class time, (d) show evidence of having read/studied material, and (e) complete all in-class assignments to earn points for class participation.

#### **Late Work**

Assignments are due on the date indicated in the syllabus. If I change the due date for reasons related to student need in the course, the change will be discussed in class, posted on the Blackboard site, and confirmed in an email to all students. I will accept late work ONLY in cases approved by me after discussion with the student at least one week before the assignment is due OR in cases of emergency (e.g., you or a loved one/significant other is incapacitated in some way). If you are not in class on the day an assignment is due, you are still responsible for submitting the assignment on or before the due date and time. This sounds harsh but the course is only 10 weeks long and if you get behind, it has a snowball effect that few can recover from before the end.

#### **Other Requirements**

##### *Workload*

Graduate-level courses require in-depth reading, study, and work on course requirements outside of class time. Students are expected to allot class study and preparation time in addition to time spent on assignments.

##### *Written and oral language*

APA Style is the standard format for any written work in the College of Education. If you are unfamiliar with APA, it would benefit you to purchase the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.) You are required to use APA guidelines for all course assignments. Please use the following website for APA format guidelines:

<http://apastyle.apa.org>.

We will use person-first language in our class discussions, written assignments, and ideally in our professional practice.

#### **Blackboard Site**

We will use our course Blackboard website for much of our course work and material. You will be responsible for all material posted on the website. Please check it regularly.

**Communication with Dr. Weiss**

The most efficient way to contact me is through email. I check email daily at least at 9am and 2pm Monday through Friday. If your email has reached me by either of those times, I will respond immediately. Otherwise, I will respond within 24 hours during the week. Keep in mind that I teach most evenings. On weekends, I check my Mason account on Sunday evenings around 9pm and will respond to all received then. Do not email me an hour before an assignment is due and expect a response. If you would prefer to meet with me either before or after class (or at another time during the day/after school), please do not hesitate to contact me.

I am REQUIRED to use your Mason email to correspond to you. If you do not check it frequently, please adjust the settings to forward the messages to your frequently used account.

**Grading Scale**

<i>Grade</i>	<i>%</i>
A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	88-89
B	83-87
B-	80-82
C	70-79
F	<70

**Evaluation**

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Points</i>
Participation	Attend class, participate in all activities, show evidence of preparation	100 pts (10 pts/session;)
Classwork Assignments	Variety of activities described on Blackboard and completed in class	100 pts (10 pts/session)
Student Profile Assignment	See Appendix A	100 pts
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>300 points</b>

\*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/>. In the College of Education and Human Development, dispositions are formally and separately evaluated in at least three points in each student’s program – a self-evaluation at the start of their program, an instructor’s evaluation in the middle of their program, and a university supervisor’s evaluation during internship. When dispositions are assessed, it is important that for areas where a positive disposition is ‘occasionally evident’ or ‘rarely evident,’ the student takes steps to grow as an educator. See <https://cehd.gmu.edu/epo/candidate-dispositions>. In special education licensure programs, the mid-point evaluation is completed by instructors in EDSE 628, EDSE 661, and EDSE 616, and the internship evaluation is completed by instructors in EDSE 783, EDSE 784, and EDSE 785.

### Class Schedule

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

Date	Topic	Readings	Classwork Assignment	Assignments due
9/13	Introduction	Willingham; Lloyd et al	Jigsaw	
9/20	Foundations of EI; cognitive and perceptual characteristics	EI chp 1; Raymond chp 9	Debate	Case study student identified
9/27	Lessons for vocabulary and concepts; language characteristics	EI chp 3; Raymond chp 10	Lesson plan rewrite	Teacher/parent interview arranged; observation arranged
10/4	Lessons for skills and strategies; academic learning characteristics	EI chp 2; Raymond chp 11	Lesson plan rewrite	
10/11	Summary	Read about district for Cook School District activity; read student IEP and/or evaluation information	Simulation	3-5 min video of lesson component *Case study checkpoint
10/18	ID	Raymond 4	Creative ideas	School and student demographic information done



10/25	LD	Raymond 5	Article review	Observation done *Case study check point
11/1	ADHD et al	Raymond 7	Article review	Teacher/parent interview done
11/8	Autism	Raymond 8	Guest speaker (response/feedback)	*Case study check point
11/15	EBD /wrap up	Raymond 6 (optional 12)	TBD	Case study due/uploaded to Tk20

### Core Values Commitment

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

### GMU Policies and Resources for Students

#### Policies

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the Mason Honor Code (see <https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/> ).
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing (see <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>).
- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their Mason email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students **solely** through their Mason email account.
- Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services. Approved accommodations will begin at the time the written letter from Disability Services is received by the instructor (see <http://ods.gmu.edu/>).
- Students must silence all sound emitting devices during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

#### Campus Resources

- Support for submission of assignments to Tk20 should be directed to [tk20help@gmu.edu](mailto:tk20help@gmu.edu) or <https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/tk20>. Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to <http://coursessupport.gmu.edu/>.
- For information on student support resources on campus, see <https://ctfe.gmu.edu/teaching/student-support-resources-on-campus>

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

## Appendix

### **GUIDELINES FOR THE OBSERVATION STUDENT PROFILE**

The observation student profile provides you with the opportunity to get an in-depth understanding of a student with exceptionalities who accesses the general curriculum. You will examine his or her educational history and goals, observe in classroom settings, conduct parent or guardian interviews, and synthesize the information gathered, relating it to the content of the course. The purpose of the student profile is to help you understand the complexity of each individual case of a student with exceptional learning needs. This student profile assignment has six major sections. Each section should be labeled with the heading given below. The paper should be formatted using APA style with related documents and samples in the Appendix.

#### **Part I: Demographic and Background Data**

- A. Select a student with exceptional learning needs who accesses the general curriculum that you would like to study. Verify with school officials that you have permission to access confidential records for that student and that you may contact the student's parents or guardians. If you do not have access to a student with exceptional learning needs, his/her records, or to parents, please talk with your instructor.
- B. Create a pseudonym to use throughout your project. (It is of the utmost importance that the identity of the student remain confidential. If school officials or parents ask, your student profile will be evaluated by your instructor and will be posted to Tk20, Mason's accreditation database. This database is password protected and is only used as a repository for student artifacts. Information from the database is never available for public view.)
- C. Provide a thorough description of your student, including
  1. demographic information,
  2. disability diagnosis and etiology,
  3. any medical conditions that exist,
  4. psychological and social-emotional characteristics, and
  5. any other information relevant to the student's academic achievement (e.g., has moved repeatedly, has significant family changes). Do not include the student's educational history. That is included in Part II.
- D. Identify and provide examples of the skills and characteristics of your student that are (a) similar to the his/her peers (typical growth and development) and (b) those skills and characteristics that are dissimilar (atypical).
- E. Identify the educational implications of the characteristics in C and D.

#### **Part II: Educational History, Goals, Objectives, and Accommodations**

- A. Describe your student's educational history, including
  1. schools attended,
  2. reason for initial referral,
  3. pre-referral interventions (if available),
  4. results of multidisciplinary evaluation,

5. special education classification,
  6. description and location of educational service provision, and
  7. related services provided.
- B. From the student's IEP, summarize or state the educational goals and objectives and identify the classroom accommodations.
  - C. Describe the impact of your student's academic and social abilities, attitudes, interests, and values on instruction and career development. Does your student's disability have an impact on auditory and information processing skills? If so, describe.
  - D. Evaluate how the levels of support correspond to the needs of the individual.

### **Part III: School and Classroom Information**

- A. Give a description of your student's school, including
  1. Demographics of students,
  2. Staffing
  3. Continuum of services for students with exceptional learning needs.
- B. Describe your student's educational placement. What special education and general education services are provided? In what locations or ways are the services provided?
- C. Evaluate how this placement is the Least Restrictive Environment to address the student's specific skills and characteristics, as described in Part I.
- D. Describe the classroom(s) in which the student participates, including
  1. Number of students
  2. Content area
  3. Curriculum standards used

### **Part IV: Student Observation**

Observe at least two class periods of instruction for your student.

- A. Summarize your observations, including
  1. Content area,
  2. Teachers and service providers involved,
  3. Length of observation,
  4. Placement of student in classroom,
  5. Interactions of student with teacher(s) and other students,
  6. Learning activities, and
  7. Level of engagement of student with activities.
- B. Describe how what you observed corresponded to your student's IEP goals, objectives, and accommodations.
- C. Describe the effects your student's exceptional condition(s) appears to have on his or her life in school.
- D. Identify any biases that you may have that may affect how you perceive the classrooms during observations.

### **Part V: Related Personnel or Family Member Interview**

Interview at least one of your student's parents, guardians, family members, or professionals (i.e., teacher, counselor, service provider) who is knowledgeable of the student's goals and needs.

- A. Begin your interview with questions about the family, focusing on developing a collaborative relationship. Ask questions that gather information about the family system and the role of family in the student's development and education, respecting differences across families.
  - B. Ask the parents about their child's educational goals, objectives, and accommodations. What was the process used in developing these? Did they feel they had a role in their development? Do they feel these goals, objectives, and accommodations are appropriate and will provide benefit for their child?
  - C. Effective special educators communicate effectively with families of students with exceptional learning needs from diverse backgrounds. Please be sure that you consider the following as you speak with the parents:
    - a. Ways in which you can foster a respectful and beneficial relationship with the family within the bounds of ethical practice.
    - b. Characteristics and effects of the cultural and environmental milieu of the individual with exceptional learning needs and the family.
    - c. The potential impact of differences in values, languages, and customs between your student's home and school lives.
    - d. Ways in which you can demonstrate your respect for variations in beliefs, traditions, and values across and within cultures. Also consider the effect of these variations on the relationships among individuals with exceptional learning needs, their family, and school personnel.
- Include a statement about how you addressed these items with specific examples.

## **Part VI: Summary, Synthesis and Recommendations**

- A. Summary
 

Write a brief, one paragraph summary (referring to relevant pages in your case study as necessary) of your student including all pertinent information obtained throughout the observations, interviews and background information review. Provide enough detail that a stranger could walk into the classroom and identify your student from your summary alone.
- B. Synthesis
 

Compare your student's characteristics with those described in the textbook or other course readings for a student with that specific exceptional learning need. How are they similar and different? Are the described implications similar or different? How do your student's characteristics compare to typical development? Provide specific examples.
- C. Recommendations
 

Given the information you have compiled about your student and your learning from the course,

  1. Do you think your student is receiving the services and supports he or she needs? Provide a rationale for your response.
  2. If you could provide recommendations to the IEP team about effective instruction to match the characteristics of your student, what would they be? Provide a rationale for your response.
- D. Final reflection
  1. How did your personal cultural biases and differences affect your interactions

- with this student and his or her family during this student profile process?
- How did this assignment help you better understand the needs and complexities of a student with exceptional learning needs?

**Appendix (required)**

Include student work samples relevant to your case study specifics, parent interview questions and answers. Other relevant materials may be included but are optional.

Observation Student Profile Rubric

	Requirements	Points
<b>Part I: Demographic and Background Data</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Candidate discusses the demographic and background information related to the target student inclusive of all of the below:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ etiology and diagnosis,</li> <li>○ any medical conditions that exist, psychological and social-emotional characteristics, and</li> <li>○ the effect these conditions can have on the student’s life.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Candidate discusses skills and typical and atypical human growth characteristics of the learner.</li> <li>• Candidate uses nonbiased language that is sensitive to the culture, language, religion, gender, disability, socioeconomic status, and sexual orientation of the learner to describe his/her background information.</li> <li>• Candidate describes the educational implications of the characteristics of the learner’s exceptionality and the impact of the learner’s exceptional learning needs on the learner, their family, and society.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ____/20</li> </ul>
<b>Part II: Educational History, Educational Goals, Objectives, and Accommodations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Candidate provides a summary of the learner’s educational goals, objectives and classroom accommodations and the impact of the learner’s social abilities, attitudes, interests, and values on instruction and career development (if applicable).</li> <li>• Candidate discusses the educational history related to the target student inclusive of:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ the educational implications of the characteristics of the learner’s exceptionality and</li> <li>○ the effect a learner’s exceptionality can have on his or her life.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Candidate writes a description of the student’s educational history that includes how primary language, culture, and familial backgrounds may interact with the student’s exceptional condition to impact academic and life options.</li> <li>• Candidate describes the impact the learner’s disability has on auditory and/or information processing skills and relates levels of support to the needs of the individual.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ____/15</li> </ul>

	<b>Requirements</b>	<b>Points</b>
<b>Part III: School and Classroom Information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Candidate describes the school and classroom setting in the greater context of               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ organizations in collaboration with special education and</li> <li>○ the continuum of placement and services available for individuals with mild to moderate exceptional learning needs.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Candidate evaluates the environmental context in terms of how well the teacher has integrated the principles of normalization and concept of least restrictive environment.</li> <li>• Candidate clearly describes how the environment’s adaptations impact the quality of learning opportunities for learners with mild to moderate exceptionalities and determines whether or not optimal learning opportunities are being provided.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ____/15</li> </ul>
<b>Part IV: Student Observation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Candidate describes the relationship between their observations and the learner’s goals, objectives, and accommodations and describes the effects the learner’s exceptional condition(s) appears to have on his or her life.</li> <li>• Candidate summarizes their classroom observation experiences inclusive of an analysis of how their personal cultural biases and differences might affect their observation or teaching.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ____/15</li> </ul>
<b>Part V: Parent Interview</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Candidate collaborates with and interviews family who has knowledge of the learner in a culturally responsive way that demonstrates their understanding of legal matters and ethical considerations.</li> <li>• The candidate shows evidence of collecting data on the family system and the role of family in the student’s development and education.</li> <li>• Candidate shows evidence of collecting data on the perceived impact of differences in values, languages, and customs between the learner’s home and school lives and the effect of these variations on the relationships among individuals with exceptional learning needs, their family, and school personnel. Family input and concerns are documented.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ____/10</li> </ul>

	<b>Requirements</b>	<b>Points</b>
<b>Part VI: Summary, Synthesis and Reflection &amp; Additional Recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Candidate provides recommendations, educational accommodations, and/or modifications for the learner with mild to moderate exceptional learning needs.</li> <li>• The candidate demonstrates, through their recommendations, their ability to serve as an advocate for appropriate services for individuals with exceptional learning needs and a high level of commitment to developing the highest education and quality-of-life potential of individuals with exceptional learning needs.</li> <li>• Candidate summarizes all pertinent information inclusive of observations, interviews and background information and offers a comprehensive synthesis of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ their learner’s characteristics as compared with typical and atypical learners,</li> <li>○ the social and educational implications of these characteristics and</li> <li>○ the effect the exceptionality has on the learner’s life.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ____/15</li> </ul>
<b>Writing Mechanics and Format</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ____/10</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TOTAL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ____/100</li> </ul>