

**George Mason University
College of Education and Human Development
Secondary Education Program
Summer-Fall 2021**

SEED 675 (Section A03) Research in Secondary Education

3 credits

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:30-7:10 pm

Class Location: Online

Note: This course spans the Summer and Fall 2021 semesters; students will plan their teacher research projects in Summer 2021, earning an “In Progress” (IP) grade, then implement their research projects during Fall 2021, with final grades posted at the conclusion of that semester.

Faculty

Name: Melissa Hauber, PhD
Office Hours: By Appointment
Office Location: [Zoom Meeting Room](#)
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Prerequisites/Corequisites

SEED 522 (required prerequisite), SEED 669/EDRD 619 (required prerequisites or corequisites), SEED 440/540 (recommended prerequisite; formerly EDUC 372/672).

University Catalog Course Description

Links evidence of student learning to make informed instructional decisions. Engages students in critiquing various research paradigms, reviewing literature, and systematically collecting and interpreting evidence to improve practice.

Note: All students enrolled in this course must be working daily in or have access to a classroom setting (during the semester in which they enroll in this course or a semester following), since the major course assignment involves a classroom-based teacher research project. Offered by [School of Education](#). May not be repeated for credit.

Course Overview

The purpose of this course is for you to learn how to design and conduct a teacher research project situated in a classroom with the goal of improving your teaching and your students' learning. The course is designed to promote a professional teaching and learning community with peer review/critical friend support. Throughout the course, you will complete stages of your research project (proposal) to compile into your final paper. Your ultimate success with the final project requires your ongoing commitment to each step in the process and collaboration with peers for reciprocal review. As a whole course provides an opportunity for your personal and ongoing professional development.

Course Delivery Method

This course will be delivered fully online using a combination of synchronous and asynchronous instructional approaches and large group, small group, and individual activities. The course will be hosted via the Blackboard Learning Management system (LMS) housed in the MyMason portal. You will log in to the Blackboard (Bb) course site using your Mason username (everything before @masonlive.gmu.edu) and password.

Synchronous sessions will be held via Zoom. Login information will be sent by GMU email prior to the first week of class.

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
- 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
- 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 will need a headset microphone for use with the Blackboard Collaborate web conferencing tool.
- 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/

Expectations

- Course Week:
Our course week will begin on the day that our synchronous meetings take place as indicated on the Class Schedule.
- 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. In addition, students must log-in for all scheduled online synchronous meetings.
- 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 via 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 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 ensure accessibility must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services.

Learner Outcomes or Objectives

This course is designed to enable students to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the process and components used in teacher research by conducting and assessing a chosen scholarly inquiry project situated in their classroom and impact on students' learning;
2. Prepare a research proposal which makes explicit links between theory and practice;
3. Examine ethical considerations when conducting teacher research;
4. Conduct teacher research which includes research question(s), a research proposal, a review of related literature, methods/design, data collection/analysis, findings, and a discussion of impact on students, teachers, and the education field;
5. Participate in critical and collaborative inquiries to gain multiple perspectives in interpreting research and for validation and peer review of research;
6. Demonstrate integration of national and state standards for content and pedagogy as related to their research question(s) by reflecting on their own teaching practice and its impact on students' learning; and
7. Demonstrate skills in the application of technology and use of resources in teacher research.

Professional Standards

By the end of this course students will demonstrate an understanding and application of subject area standards aligned with the National Content Standards and identified by their Specialized Professional Association (SPA):

- Social studies teachers: National Council for the Social Studies, <http://www.ncss.org>
- English teachers: National Council of Teachers of English, <http://www.ncte.org>
- Math teachers: National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, <http://www.nctm.org>

- Science teachers: National Science Teachers Association, <http://www.nsta.org>
- Students should also have an understanding of and be able to apply the standards of the Interstate New Teacher Assistance and Support Consortium (INTASC):
https://ccsso.org/sites/default/files/2017-12/2013_INTASC_Learning_Progressions_for_Teachers.pdf

Finally, students will need to demonstrate understanding of the SEED “Inquiry and Reflection” Seed:

- Definition: The SEED program is committed to educating teachers who appreciate and know how to ask questions about their practices and who are critically reflective of their pedagogies, empowered by evidence. The ability to inquire and reflect on one’s teaching practice is foundational to educators’ ongoing and self-directed professional growth across their professional lifespans. Educators who can inquire into and consistently implement effective instructional practices and who can critically reflect on and evaluate their pedagogies will be the most responsive teachers and will best inspire students to learn.
- SEED 675 Evidence: Teacher candidates will learn how to design and conduct a teacher research project situated in a classroom with the goal of improving their teaching and students’ learning.

Required Text

McAteer, M. (2013). *Action research in education*. SAGE Publications.*

Note: Additional readings, web-based resources, and exemplars will be showcased to highlight specific research components; these will be provided as PDFs and links via Blackboard.

Additional Resources

Note: These are just a few useful sources you might want to add to your library or browser bookmarks.

APA Formatting

American Psychological Association (2020). *Publication manual* (7th ed.). Washington, DC:

Note: Guidelines available from the Purdue Online Writing Lab:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_style_introduction.html

Action Research

Baily, S., Shahrokhi, F., & Carsillo, T. (2017). *Experiments in agency: A global partnership to transform teacher research*. Sense Publishers.*

Kemmis, S., McTaggart, R., & Nixon, R. (2013). *The action research planner: Doing critical participatory action research*. Springer Science & Business Media.*

McNiff, J. & Whitehead, J. (2009). *You and your action research project*. Routledge.

McNiff, J. (2016). *Writing up your action research project*. Routledge.

Noffke, S. E., & Somekh, B. (2009). *The SAGE handbook of educational action research*. SAGE Publications.*

Qualitative Design and Analysis

Maxwell, J.A. (2013). *Qualitative research design: An interactive approach* (3rd ed.). SAGE.

Saldaña, J. (2013). *The coding manual for qualitative researchers*. SAGE.

* Available for download at library.gmu.edu.

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).

Assignments

- Attendance and Participation = 20%
- Draft Research Project Components = 20%
- Research Presentation = 10%
- Teacher Research Project = 50%

General

- All assignments should be turned via Blackboard on the due date indicated in the schedule below. All projects must be typed, in 12-point font, with one-inch margins, double-spaced, in Times New Roman font, and follow APA guidelines.
- Please title each assignment with your last name, the name of the project/assignment, the version of the assignment (e.g., “Draft”), and the date you are submitting it (e.g., Smith_Literature_Review_Draft_2.1.21).
- Writing quality (including mechanics, organization, and content) is figured into the overall points for each writing assignment, so please proofread carefully. Rubrics will be provided via Blackboard.
- Late papers and projects will not be accepted without penalty, excepting extraordinary circumstances.
- I am happy to provide clarifications and guidance on projects and assignments via email or during office hours, but please contact me within a reasonable timeframe.
- I reserve the right to add, alter, or omit any assignment as necessary during the course of the semester.

Attendance and Participation (20%)

- Students are expected to attend all class periods of courses for which they register. Class attendance and participation with the whole group, in our peer review small groups, and in 1-on-1 conferences are important not only to the individual student, but to the class as whole.
- Instructional activities have been carefully structured in order to use our time together most effectively and to reduce “Zoom fatigue,” so please come to synchronous sessions ready to engage actively and thoughtfully.
- Participants are expected to read the assigned materials, arrive promptly, attend all class meetings for the entire session, and participate in class discussions.
- Students are responsible for obtaining information given during class discussions.
- Mutual respect and collaboration are central to this class and crucial to effective action research. Your attendance, thoughtfulness, clarity, and active sharing of responsibility for our classroom community will affect your grade.
- Demonstration of positive and collaborative professional dispositions toward colleagues during peer reviews, along with a willingness to accept constructive criticism, is a course expectation.

- Class participation is a factor in grading; instructors may use absences, tardiness, or early departures as de facto evidence of nonparticipation and as a result lower the grade. Two partial attendances are equal to one absence, and missing 30% or more of class sessions will result in automatic course failure.
- Please silence all mobile phones, computers, and other devices when you participate in our class.
- If, due to an emergency, you will not be able to participate during a given week of class, please contact me as soon as possible via email prior to any scheduled class, meeting, or conference time.

Draft Research Project Components (20%)

According to the timeline in the weekly schedule below, students will submit draft sections of each of the research project proposal sections – the research questions, literature review, and methods – during the summer semester and the findings and discussion during the following fall semester after the project has been implemented. These will be shared with peer review groups and with me for feedback and then revised as necessary for the final project. Specific guidelines and rubrics will be provided during the course.

Please note that projects or papers submitted for credit in another course cannot also be used for a grade in this course. When considering research topics, you should identify a research question that really matters to you. It should be something about which you are curious and with which you are willing to spend time researching and learning.

Research Presentation (10%)

Each participant will make an in-class five-minute presentation on her/his project proposal at the end of the summer semester; guidelines for these presentations will be provided.

Teacher Research Project (50%)

Each participant will design and conduct a teacher research project that is relevant to their present or future teaching position. Outlines, examples, descriptions, and rubrics of these projects will be provided. You will write a literature review and proposal for this project during the summer semester, collect and analyze preliminary data during the fall semester, and share the results of your study with an outside audience. It is possible to partner with another student for the purpose of sharing data and researching different aspects of a common topic; each partner, however, must submit an original, stand-alone report.

Assessment Grading

All assignments will be evaluated holistically; the general rubric is described below, and a specific rubric provided with each assignment.

A= 95-100%

A- = 90-94%

B+ = 87-89%

B = 83-86%

B- = 80-82%

C = 70-79%

F = Below 70%

- “A” level score = Student work is well-organized, exceptionally thorough and thoughtful, candid, and completed in a professional and timely manner. Student followed all format and component guidelines, as well as including additional relevant component. Student supports assertions with multiple concrete examples and/or explanations. Significance and/or implications of observations are fully specified and extended to other contexts. Student work is exceptionally creative, includes additional artifacts, and/or intentionally supports peers’ efforts.
- “B” level score = Student work is well organized, thorough, thoughtful, candid, and completed in a professional and timely manner. Student followed all format and component guidelines. Student supports assertions with concrete examples and/or explanations. Significance and/or implications of observations are fully specified.
- “C” level score = Student provides cursory responses to assignment requirements. Student did not follow all format and component guidelines. Development of ideas is somewhat vague, incomplete, or rudimentary. Compelling support for assertions is typically not provided.
- “F” level score = Student work is so brief that any reasonably accurate assessment is impossible.
- Incomplete (IN): This grade may be given to students who are passing a course but who may be unable to complete scheduled course work for a cause beyond reasonable control. The student must then complete all the requirements by the end of the ninth week of the next semester, not including summer term, and the instructor must turn in the final grade by the end of the 10th week. Faculty may grant an incomplete with a contract developed by the student with a reasonable time to complete the course at the discretion of the faculty member.

Professional Dispositions

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

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: <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 <https://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 <https://ds.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 or <https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/tk20>. Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to <https://its.gmu.edu/knowledge-base/blackboard-instructional-technology-support-for-students/>.
- For information on student support resources on campus, see <https://ctfe.gmu.edu/teaching/student-support-resources-on-campus>

Notice of mandatory reporting of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking:

As a faculty member, I am designated as a “Responsible Employee,” and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason’s Title IX Coordinator per University Policy 1202. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason’s confidential resources, such as Student Support and Advocacy Center (SSAC) at 703-380-1434 or Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at 703-993-2380. You may also seek assistance from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator by calling 703-993-8730 or emailing titleix@gmu.edu.

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

Human Subjects Research Review Process

Any research or teacher research that will be publicly disseminated must have prior approval of the GMU Human Subjects Review Board (HSRB). Teacher research that is used solely for the purpose of studying pedagogical aspects may be conducted without additional permission but cannot be disseminated.

Class Schedule

Date	Topic/Focus	Reading Due	Task
May 18 Synchronous	-Introductions -Course overview - -Introduction to action research	-McAteer, Intro & Ch. 1	Teaching context and topic survey
May 20 Synchronous	-Theory and practice	-McAteer, Ch. 2 -Call-Cummings & Hauber-Özer, 2018	
May 25 Synchronous	-Getting started -Research topic and question(s) -Guest speakers: Courageous Conversations student co-researchers	-McAteer, Ch. 3 -Stribling, 2017 -Jigsaw reading: Choose one article/chapter from the options on Blackboard and identify the problem/research question(s), data collection and analysis methods, and findings.	
May 27 Synchronous	-Research design and data collection -Guest speakers: Youth Voices team members	-McAteer, Ch. 4 -Marciano & Warren, 2019 -Choose a potential data collection method and read/view the corresponding resources on Blackboard. Be prepared to lead discussion about the method in class.	Identify topic
June 1 Synchronous	-Arts-based methods	-Wilson & Flicker, 2014 -Zenkov et al., 2014 -Call-Cummings et al., 2020 -Johnson & Kendrick, 2017 -Read/view additional resources on Blackboard.	Photovoice activity
June 3 Asynchronous Individual Conferences *ARNA	-Literature review	-McAteer, Ch. 5 -Student-selected resources for literature review – table / annotated bibliography	Research questions due
June 8 Synchronous	-Data analysis	-McAteer, Ch. 6 -Flicker, 2014 -Read/view additional resources on Blackboard.	Literature review due
June 10 Asynchronous Individual Conferences *ARNA	-Ethics & validity	-Shore, 2014 -Zeni, 2009 -Dick, 2014 -Lac & Fine, 2018	IRB application (optional)
June 15 Synchronous	-Findings & sharing research	-McAteer, Ch. 7 & 8 -View project examples on Blackboard	Methods due

June 17 Synchronous * ARNA	-Research plan presentations		
Early November (date TBD)			Findings draft due
Late November (date TBD)			Discussion draft due
Early December (date TBD)			Final projects due

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