



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

Fall 2021

EDSE 517 611: Computer Applications for Special Populations

CRN: 86335, 3 – Credits

Instructor: Dr. Yoosun Chung	Meeting Dates: 9/13/2021 – 11/22/2021
Phone: (703) 988-3486 (text-relay-service)	Meeting Day(s): N/A; Asynchronous
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Office Hours: by appointment	Meeting Location: N/A; Online
Office Location: Finley Building, 203B	Other Phone: 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):

Graduate standing, or permission of instructor

Co-requisite(s):

None

Course Description

Explores the applications of computer technology for instructional programs and computer skills used by teachers of special populations. Provides experience with computer technology designed for special populations.

Advising Contact Information

Please make sure that you are being advised on a regular basis as to your status and progress in your program. Students in Special Education and Assistive Technology programs can contact the Special Education Advising Office at 703-993-3670 or speced@gmu.edu for assistance. All other students should refer to their assigned program advisor or the Mason Care Network (703-993-2470).

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/>.

Course Delivery Method

EDSE 517 is an asynchronous online course. Using Blackboard, students are expected to complete assignments weekly and be engaged in course activities throughout the semester.

Learning activities include the following:

1. Learning module lectures, discussions, activities, and participation
2. Software and hardware demonstrations
3. Video and other media supports
4. Group and independent laboratory exploration activities
5. Class presentations

Learner Outcomes

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

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the history of assistive technology.
2. Describe and implement a comprehensive set of procedures for software review and evaluation for specific populations.
3. Describe and utilize key devices and software tools designed to help individuals with disabilities in educational settings including learning, physical, sensory, and intellectual disabilities.
4. Describe key features in selecting and using an augmentative and alternative communication device for an individual.
5. Define the issues related to the accessibility of the Internet by individuals with disabilities.
6. Evaluate and select appropriate web-based activities for individuals with disabilities.
7. Adapt and modify general education curriculum and class activities using assistive technology to meet the needs of diverse learners.
8. Design an appropriate technology integrated lesson plan for a specific special education population.

Professional Standards

(Council for Exceptional Children [CEC] and the Interstate Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium [InTASC]). Upon completion of this course, students will have met the following professional standards: The standards addressed in this class include CEC Standard 2: Learning environments (InTASC 3) & CEC Standard 5: Instructional planning and strategies (InTASC 7,8).

Required Texts

Dell, A., Newton, D., & Petroff, J. *Assistive Technology in the Classroom: Enhancing the School Experiences of Students with Disabilities (3rd ed)*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson. ISBN-13: 978-0134170411, ISBN-10: 0134170415

Recommended Texts

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). <https://doi.org/10.1037/0000165-000>

Required Resources

Students are required to have consistent and reliable access to a computer with a high-speed internet connection. Students are also expected to have 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 the course requirements.**

Course Performance Evaluation

Students are expected to submit all assignments on time in the manner outlined by the instructor (e.g., Blackboard, VIA, hard copy).

VIA 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 VIA (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 VIA.

For EDSE 517, the required PBA is (NO ASSESSMENT REQUIRED FOR THIS COURSE). Please check to verify your ability to upload items to VIA before the PBA due date.

Assignments and/or Examinations

Performance-based Assessment (VIA submission required)

None

College Wide Common Assessment (VIA submission required)

None

Other Assignments

Learning Module Assignments (80 points), Discussions (80 points), Labs (60 points), and Self Checks (20 points)

Students will participate in various activities in order to explore various applications of assistive and instructional technology. Detailed descriptions and step-by-step instructions for each of the module assignments and labs will be provided by the instructor and posted in the corresponding

Learning Module. Students will also complete class textbook and article readings, watch various educational and personal videos, and review specific websites during each Learning Module. In each module, students will be asked to participate in class discussion boards. Students will be asked to make **ONE** thoughtful post (e.g., connecting the information from the module to their personal experiences and ideas) as well as to provide a meaningful response to at least **TWO** of their classmates (unless stated otherwise). The feedback may focus on ways to improve/enhance the post ideas; it may provide ideas on further ways to use assistive/instructional technology; it may describe real life situations when these or similar ideas have been used as well as their outcomes. Finally, students will receive participation points for completing module self-checks.

Software Review (40 points).

Students will choose a piece of educational software (or mobile app) of interest to review; it should be a recent version. The software review includes two elements, a written narrative and a completed software evaluation checklist. The narrative should provide a brief description of the software followed by a thorough review of the software and its possible application within a chosen environment. The review should address the primary features of the software including accessibility and other topics addressed in class (content, user friendliness, adult management features, support materials, and value). The software review should be 3-4 pages in length and will serve as a reference for a potential software user. Students will use the software review format introduced in class to evaluate the selected software. Please include a copy of your completed evaluation checklist as an Appendix. Students may not review a productivity/utility software program designed to create content (such as Boardmaker, Word, Inspiration/Kidspiration/Webspiration) for this assignment. Please refer to the scoring rubric posted on Blackboard for additional information on this assignment.

Technology Tools Assignment (40 points)

Students will select a broad technology category to research, describe, and analyze based on the needs of an actual student or developed case study. A list of technology categories (i.e. word prediction) will be provided by the instructor. Students will then select two specific technologies within their category (i.e. Co:Writer and TextHelp) as part of their analysis. In a 2-3-page paper, students should provide a description of the overall technology including its intended purpose, audience, and important features. Students then should provide a brief description of each specific technology they have selected along with a comparison of product similarities and differences. Finally, the paper should include a recommendation for one of the specific technologies based on the needs of a real client or an invented scenario. Please note: it is anticipated that students will use the Internet and/or product catalogs to obtain product information and descriptions, however students are expected to reference such information using proper APA format. Please refer to the scoring rubric posted on Blackboard for additional information on this assignment.

Assistive Technology Implementation Project (80 points)

Students will design an academic or functional activity/lesson intended to support a child(ren) with a disability that integrates assistive technology. Students will discuss the target student and activity goal, the learning environment, activity tasks/procedures and the learning tools. Students will consider how their activity can be differentiated for different disabilities. Students will design and create a custom AT solution using tools and strategies learned during the course.

Finally, students will also create a 3-5-minute video walkthrough of their activity plan and created AT product. Please refer to the scoring rubric posted on Blackboard for additional information on this assignment.

Assignment Summary

Assignment	Number Submitted	Points Each	Total Points
Module Discussions	8	10	80
Module Assignments	8	10	80
Module Labs	4	15	60
Module Self Checks	8	2.5	20
Software Evaluation Assignment	1	40	40
Technology Tools Assignment	1	40	40
AT Implementation Assignment	1	80	80
TOTAL POINTS			400

Course Policies and Expectations

Attendance/Participation

EDSE 517 611 is an asynchronous online course. All course materials are available on the course Blackboard site, <http://mymason.gmu.edu>. Using Blackboard, students are expected to complete assignments weekly and be engaged in course activities throughout the semester.

Late Work

In fairness to students who make the effort to submit assignments on time, there will be a 10% cost reduction per day for late assignments. (For example, a 10 point assignment will lose 1 point per day while a 40 point assignment will lose 4 points per day). At the instructor's discretion, students may be given the opportunity to resubmit an assignment. Resubmitted assignments are not eligible for full credit and a response cost of 10 percent will be assessed. Please note, assignments worth 1 point that are submitted late will receive a score of 0.

Other Requirements

- **Students must actively check the course Blackboard site and their GMU email** for communications from the instructor, at a minimum this should be **2 times per week**.
- Students are expected to actively engage in all course activities throughout the semester, which include viewing of all course materials, completing course activities and assignments, and participating in course discussions and group interactions.
- **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.**

- Students are expected to demonstrate competence in the use of all course technology. Students are expected to seek assistance if they are struggling with technical components of the course.
- Students should expect that they could experience some technical difficulties at some point in the semester and should, therefore, budget their time accordingly. Late work will not be accepted based on individual technical issues.
- Students will use APA 7th Edition guidelines (<http://www.apastyle.org>) for all course assignments. In particular, it is expected that you know how to paraphrase and cite information appropriately to meet both APA guidelines and to avoid plagiarism.
- We will use person-first language in our class discussions and written assignments (and ideally in our professional practice). Please refer to the following website: <https://adata.org/factsheet/ADANN-writing>

Grading

The following grading scale will be used at the Graduate level:

95-100% = A
 90-94% = A-
 86-89% = B+
 83-85% = B
 80-82% = B-
 70-79% = C
 < 70% = F

***Note:** The George Mason University Honor Code will be strictly enforced. See [Academic Integrity Site](https://oai.gmu.edu/) (<https://oai.gmu.edu/>) and [Honor Code and System](https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/) (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/>). 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 new, original work for this course or with proper citations.

Professional Dispositions

Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times. See [Policies and Procedures](https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/policies-procedures/) (<https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/policies-procedures/>).

Class Schedule

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

Week	Week Start (Monday)	Topic	Textbook Readings Weekly Activities & Assignments	Due Dates (Initial Discussion – Thursday) (All Other – Following Monday)
1	9/13	Learning Module 1: Introduction to Assistive Technology	Chapter 1 Learning Module 1 Activities	Initial Discussion Post: 9/16 (Thursday) Other Module Activities: 9/20 (Monday)
2	9/20	Learning Module 2: Mainstream Assistive Technology	Overview of Accessibility Features Learning Module 2 Activities	Initial Discussion Post: 9/23 (Thursday) Other Module Activities: 9/27 (Monday)
3	9/27	Learning Module 3: Selecting Software & Apps for Social Skills	Does the App Fit? Learning Module 3 Activities	Initial Discussion Post: 9/30 (Thursday) Other Module Activities: 10/4 (Monday)
4	10/4	Learning Module 4: AT for Learning	Chapters 2 and 3 Learning Module 4 Activities	Initial Discussion Post: 10/7 (Thursday) Other Module Activities: 10/11 (Monday)
5	10/11	Learning Module 5: AT for Physical Disabilities	Chapters 8 and 9 Learning Module 5 Activities Software Review Due	Initial Discussion Post: 10/14 (Thursday) Other Module Activities: 10/18 (Monday) Software Review: 10/18 (Monday)
6	10/18	Learning Module 6: Augmentative and Alternative Communication	Chapter 10 Learning Module 6 Activities	Initial Discussion Post: 10/21 (Thursday) Other Module Activities: 10/25 (Monday)
7	10/25	Learning Module 7: AT for Sensory Disabilities	Chapter 6 Learning Module 7 Activities Technology Tools Assignment Due	Initial Discussion Post: 10/28 (Thursday) Other Module Activities: 11/1 (Monday) Technology Tools: 11/1 (Monday)
8	11/1	Learning Module 8: AT Implementation	Chapters 13 and 14 Module Labs Due	Initial Discussion Post: 11/4 (Thursday) Other Module Activities: 11/8 (Monday) Module Labs: 11/8 (Monday)

Week	Week Start (Monday)	Topic	Textbook Readings Weekly Activities & Assignments	Due Dates (Initial Discussion – Thursday) (All Other – Following Monday)
9	11/8	Learning Module 9: Special Topic	Blackboard Readings Learning Module 9 Activities Work on AT Implementation Project	Other Module Activities: 11/15 (Monday)
10	11/15	Learning Module 10: Final Week Wrap Up	AT Implementation Project Due Course Evaluation	AT Implementation Project: 11/19 (Friday) Course Evaluation and Exit Survey

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: See [Core Values](http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/) (<http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/>).

GMU Policies and Resources for Students

Policies

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the Mason Honor Code. See [Honor Code and System](https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/) (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/>).
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing. See [Responsible Use of Computing](http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/) (<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 [Disability Services](https://ds.gmu.edu/) (<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 either Tk20 or VIA should be directed to <https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/assessments/>

- Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to [Blackboard Instructional Technology Support for Students](https://its.gmu.edu/knowledge-base/blackboard-instructional-technology-support-for-students/) (<https://its.gmu.edu/knowledge-base/blackboard-instructional-technology-support-for-students/>).

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

- As a faculty member, I am designated as a “non-confidential 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 the [Title IX Coordinator](mailto:titleix@gmu.edu) (titleix@gmu.edu).
- **For information on student support resources on campus, see [Student Support Resources on Campus](https://ctfe.gmu.edu/teaching/student-support-resources-on-campus) (<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 [College of Education and Human Development](http://cehd.gmu.edu/) (<http://cehd.gmu.edu/>).