



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

Spring 2023

EDSE 540 001: Characteristics of Students with Disabilities who Access the General Curriculum
CRN: 16450, 3 – Credits

Instructor: Dr. Christine McElwee	Meeting Dates: 1/23/23 – 5/17/23
Phone: 703-864-5776	Meeting Day(s): Tuesday
E-Mail: cmcelwee@gmu.edu	Meeting Time(s): 4:30 pm – 7:10 pm
Office Hours: By appointment only	Meeting Location: Fairfax; KH 14
Office Location: Finley Hall, Rm. 208B	Other Phone: NA

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

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 speded@gmu.edu for assistance. All other students should refer to their assigned program advisor or the Mason Care Network (703-993-2470).

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://education.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.

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: 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 Texts

Archer, A. L., & Hughes, C. A. (2010). *Explicit instruction: Effective and efficient teaching*. Guilford Press. **(Chapters 1,2,3 ONLY)**

Raymond, E. B. (2017) *Learners with mild disabilities: A characteristics approach* (5th ed.). Boston: Pearson.

Recommended Texts

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

Required Resources

Access to Blackboard

Additional Readings

See Schedule

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/SLL (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/SLL.

For EDSE 540, the required PBA is Observation Student Profile. Please check to verify your ability to upload to VIA/SLLs before the PBA due date.

Assignments and/or Examinations

Performance-based Assessment

(VIA submission required)

Observation Student Profile (100 pts.)

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 personel 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.

***A complete description of the assignment will be highlighted during the first night of class. In addition, a complete description of the assignment can be found on Blackboard under the Assignments tab.*

College Wide Common Assessment

(VIA submission required)

NA

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 teach. Field experiences may occur in off-campus settings, such as schools (CAEP, 2016). Below are REQUIRED PROCEDURES FOR ALL STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THIS COURSE.

1. 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 required form, as 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 a full-time contracted school system employee and will complete the field experience at your worksite with administrator and instructor approval, you will be asked to specify the school at which you will be completing the field experience.

If you request a field experience placement, you will receive information via your GMU email about your assigned internship placement from the Clinical Practice Specialist in the College's TEACHERtrack Office. 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. Note that you may NOT arrange your own 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 may provide you with access to field experience documentation forms to use in documenting the hours and activities completed in 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 if you had a placement arranged for you. Towards the end of the semester, if you had a field experience arranged for you, 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.

5. Students must be able to perform the essential functions of the practicum site assigned with or without an accommodation. Contact Disability Services (ods@gmu.edu) for questions related to accommodations.

Other Assignments

Participation and Case Study Discussion Questions (10 pts./question set)

When there is a Chapter Group/Individual Presentation, the other members of the class are required to complete discussion questions about the chapter that is being presented. The purpose of this assignment is to engage every student to think critically about the key elements pertaining to students with disabilities in each chapter.

As part of your participation grade, if you are NOT presenting, you are required to complete and submit on blackboard **the case study discussion questions** at the end of each chapter. This requirement is **mandatory** to receive full credit for your participation grade. If you will miss class, you are required to submit on blackboard the discussion question answers by the beginning of class.

***A complete description of the assignment will be highlighted during the first night of class. In addition, a complete description of the assignment can be found on Blackboard under the Assignments tab.*

Chapter Group/Individual Presentations (100 pts.)

In a group of 1 or 2, students will be responsible for presenting information in one chapter of the text and then leading the class in learning experiences that include active participation by classmates. The purposes of the presentation and activities are:

- To assist class members in processing and applying the chapter's essential content, *especially the learning, behavioral, and academic characteristics*, which guide the instructional decisions made by teachers of students with disabilities.
- To expand our knowledge of the reasons behind the use of evidence-based, scientifically-based, and research-based strategies for learning.

The main emphasis of the presentation will be on the learning, academic, and behavioral characteristics which guide the choice of instructional strategies for content mastery.

***A complete description of the assignment will be highlighted during the first night of class. In addition, a complete description of the assignment can be found on Blackboard under the Assignments tab.*

Summary of Journal Articles Paper (100 pts.)

Each student will **summarize three (3) journal articles** that are relevant to working with students with disabilities. The **purpose of this assignment** is:

- to identify research-based findings that are relevant to the needs of individuals with disabilities,
- to synthesize the major points of each article in a two-page summary,
- to compare and contrast the articles as to the relevance to students with disabilities in the school setting.

Articles chosen for this requirement must be from peer-reviewed published journals (no ERIC documents) and should be data-based examinations of issues relevant to students with disabilities who access the general curriculum (i.e., ED, LD, ID, high-functioning autism). Professor approval of the articles is *mandatory* before proceeding with the assignment.

***A complete description of the assignment will be highlighted during the first night of class. In addition, a complete description of the assignment can be found on Blackboard under the Assignments tab.*

Assignment Summary

Observation Student Profile (VIA assessment)	/100 = Final Paper /100 = Completion of Field Experience work
Chapter Group Presentation	/100 points
Summary of Journal Articles Paper	/100 points
Attendance/Class Participation/Case Study Discussion questions	/100 points
Total Average of all % points:	/100 points

Student Evaluations of Teaching:

The student evaluation of teaching, or SET, is an online course survey. You are strongly encouraged to complete this form for each course as this feedback helps instructors and administrators improve your class experiences. Towards the end of the course, you will receive email and Blackboard notifications when the evaluations open. Your anonymous and confidential feedback is only shared with instructors after final grades have been submitted. More information about the SET can be found on The Institute of Effectiveness and Planning website at <https://oiep.gmu.edu/set/>

Course Policies and Expectations

Attendance/Participation/Discussion Questions (100 points)

Class attendance and participation are essential to this course because of the complexity of the course content. Attendance points are earned for each class to give students experience with and class credit for engaging in key activities related to the course content. Students are expected to be on time for class; actively participate in activities; and remain for the duration of class time. Attendance will be maintained through the artifacts students produce during class through group and individual work. For full attendance credit during each class, students must not only attend the full class session, but actively participate, work cooperatively, and turn in high quality class products. *If you are unable to make a class session during the semester, please contact the instructor by phone or email BEFORE the class session when you will be absent. In the rare event of an emergency or severe sickness, each student is given 1 “grace” absence without penalty, as long as the instructor is notified BEFORE the class session.* In this case, it is still the student’s responsibility to plan to obtain notes, handouts, and lecture details from another student. **Two or more unexcused absences may result in students not being successful in the course.**

The **discussion questions points** (10 points/set) will be combined with the attendance points.

Late Work

All assignments should be submitted *on or before* the assigned due date via BlackBoard.

Course evaluation and final grades will be calculated based on each student's point score out of the possible 100%-point total. In fairness to students who make the effort to submit work on time, total assignment points will be deducted from your grade for late assignments.

Late assignments will be accepted **only in rare occasions upon professor approval** in the following manner:

- **5% point deduction – up to 1 class late**
- **10% point deduction – 2 classes late**
- **25% point deduction – 3 classes late**
- **50% point deduction – more than 3 classes late**

Other Requirements

Use of Computers, Cell Phones, PDAs, iPads and other electronic devices and materials:

Please be *fully present* in class. It is impossible to participate wholly in this class while texting, engaging in social media sites, tweeting, working on documents, checking email, etc. *Please use computers only for work related to the current class activity.* Checking email, surfing the web, using applications software, or working on material other than the current class activity are considered distractions and counterproductive. Students engaging in such conduct during class time **will not be permitted use of devices in class.** The breach will be considered as non-attendance for the class session. If, *for emergency reasons*, you must be available via cell phone, place your cell phone on vibrate and mute the ring tone to avoid class disruption.

Grading

A	=	95-100%
A-	=	90-94%
B+	=	87-89%
B	=	80-86%
C+	=	77-79%
C	=	70-76%
F	=	69% and below

***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/). Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times. Professional dispositions are an essential function of a special educator’s job, indicating that these dispositions are critical to develop and assess in special education licensure programs. 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, a self-evaluation at the mid-point of their program, and a university supervisor’s evaluation during internship. In special education graduate licensure programs, the initial self-evaluation is completed in a designated course (EDSE 501), the mid-point self-evaluation is completed in designated courses (EDSE 627, EDSE 661, and EDSE 616), and the internship evaluation is completed by instructors in EDSE 783, EDSE 784, and EDSE 785. In addition to these three designated evaluation times, instructors may complete instructor-rated disposition assessments other times throughout the program. When dispositions are assessed, it is important that for areas where a positive disposition is rated as “not proficient,” the student takes steps to grow as an educator. See <https://cehd.gmu.edu/epo/candidate-dispositions>.

Class Schedule

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

Date	Topics	Assignments due
Class 1 1/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introductions• Professionalism and EthicsMandatory Video – 15 minutes• Syllabus and course overview• Review assignments• Review Text format• Review how to search for research journal articles <p>**Sign up for Chapter Group Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work in groups	

Date	Topics	Assignments due
<p>Class 2</p> <p>1/31</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Observation Student Profile directions • Review Chapter Group Presentation directions • Issues in Instruction and Placement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Individual Education Program ✓ Accommodations ✓ Instructional Strategies ✓ Location of Services ✓ Least Restrictive Environment ✓ Inclusion ✓ What’s in the law – IDEA? • Work in Groups <p><i>**Student Choice for VIA Assignment due**</i></p>	<p>➤ Read Chapter 3 (Raymond)</p> <p>Choose student for Observation Student Profile</p>
<p>Class 3</p> <p>2/7</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest Speaker – Library Resources • Students with Learning Disabilities • Differentiated Instruction: Maximizing the Learning for all Students • Work in groups <p><i>**Review Summary of Journal Articles Paper directions</i></p>	<p>Read Chapter 5 (Raymond)</p>
<p>Class 4</p> <p>2/14</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students with Emotional or Behavioral Disorders <p><i>**Articles for Summary of Journal Articles Paper due to professor for approval**</i></p>	<p>Read Chapter 6 (Raymond)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ p. 134 - Carter Case Study Questions ➤ Possible Chapter Group Presentation
<p>Class 5</p> <p>2/21</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students with Difficulties in Attention, Communication, and Physical and Sensory Functioning 	<p>Read Chapter 7 (Raymond)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ p. 155 – Frank Case Study Questions ➤ Possible Chapter Group Presentation

Date	Topics	Assignments due
Class 6 2/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders 	Read Chapter 8 (Raymond)
Class 7 3/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities <p><i>**Peer Review of Check Point – Section 1-3 Observation Student Profile**</i></p>	Read Chapter 4 (Raymond) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ p. 95 - Donald Case Study Questions ➤ Possible Chapter Group Presentation <p>DUE - Check Point – Section 1-3 Observation Student Profile draft</p>
Class 8 3/14	BREAK - NO CLASS	
Class 9 3/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cognitive and Perceptual Characteristics 	Read Chapter 9 (Raymond) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ p. 206 – Charlene Case Student Questions ➤ Possible Chapter Group Presentation
Class 10 3/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language Characteristics • APA 7 Formatting • APA Reference list and in-text Citation review 	Read Chapter 10 (Raymond) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ p. 233 – Gavin Case Study Questions ➤ Possible Chapter Group Presentation
Class 11 4/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Learning Characteristics • • Exploring the Foundations of Explicit Instruction • Archer Videos <p><i>**Review Journal Articles Paper Directions Review**</i></p>	Read Chapter 11 (Raymond) Read Chapter 1 (Archer and Hughes)

Date	Topics	Assignments due
Class 12 4/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social – Emotional Characteristics • Designing Lessons: Skills and Strategies 	Read Chapter 12 (Raymond) Read Chapter 2 – (Archer and Hughes) DUE - Summary of Journal Articles paper due
Class 13 4/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designing Lessons: Vocabulary and Concepts • Archer videos • Group Lesson Planning Practice 	Read Chapter 3 (Archer and Hughes)
Class 14 4/25	Professional Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TTAC • CEC • PEATC <i>**Review Observation Student Profile directions Review**</i>	All lesson plans due by this date
Class 15 5/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observation Student Profile Presentations 	Observation Student Profile due Upload to VIA by this date

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 VIA should be directed to viahelp@gmu.edu or <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/).
- [Learning Services \(learningservices@gmu.edu\)](mailto:learningservices@gmu.edu) - Provides a variety of experience-based learning opportunities through which students explore a wide range of academic concerns. Services include support to students with learning differences, individual study strategy coaching, individualized programs of study, and referrals to tutoring resources. Presentations on a variety of academic topics such as time management, reading, and note taking are available to the university community. The programs are open to all George Mason University students free of charge.

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

As a faculty member, I am designated as a “Non-Confidential Employee,” and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, sexual harassment, 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 the [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 or support measures 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 [College of Education and Human Development \(http://cehd.gmu.edu/\)](http://cehd.gmu.edu/).

Appendix

Assessment Rubric(s)

Observation Case Study Rubric

	Requirement	Points
Part I: Demographic and Background Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate discusses the demographic and background information related to the target student inclusive of all of the below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ etiology and diagnosis, ○ any medical conditions that exist, psychological and social-emotional characteristics, and ○ the effect these conditions can have on the student’s life. • Candidate discusses skills and typical and atypical human growth characteristics of the learner. • 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. • Candidate describes the educational implications of the characteristics of the learner’s exceptional learning needs on the learner, his/her family, and society. 	/15
Part II: Educational History, Educational Goals, Objectives, and Accommodations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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). • Candidate discusses the educational history related to the target student inclusive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the educational implication of the characteristics of the learner’s exceptionality and ○ the effect a learner’s exceptionality can have on his or her life. • 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. • 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. 	/15

	Requirement	Points
Part III: School and Classroom Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate describes the school and classroom setting in the greater context of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ organizations in collaboration with special education and ○ the continuum of placement and services available for individuals with mild to moderate exceptional learning needs. • Candidate evaluates the environmental context in terms of how well the teacher has integrated the principles of normalization and concept of least restrictive environment. • 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. 	/20
Part IV: Student Observation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Candidate summarizes their classroom observation experiences inclusive of an analysis of how their personal cultural biases and differences might affect their observation or teaching. 	/10
Part V: Parent Interview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • The candidate shows evidence of collecting data on the family system and the role of family in the student’s development and education. • 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. 	/10

	Requirement	Points
Part VI: Summary, Synthesis and Reflection & Additional Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate provides recommendations, educational accommodations, and/or modifications for the learner with mild to moderate exceptional learning needs. • 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. • Candidate summarizes all pertinent information inclusive of observations, interviews and background information and offers a comprehensive synthesis of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ their learner’s characteristics as compared with typical and atypical learners, ○ the social and educational implications of these characteristics and ○ the effect the exceptionality has on the learner’s life. 	/20
Writing Mechanics and Format	APA formatting and mechanics must be followed.	/10
	TOTAL	/100