



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

Fall 2023

EDSE 783 003: Internship: Special Education in General Curriculum

CRN: 81885; 3 - 6 – Credits

Instructor: University Supervisor	Meeting Dates: 10/16/23 – 12/3/23
Phone: varies by University Supervisor	Meeting Day(s): N/A
E-Mail: varies by University Supervisor	Meeting Time(s): N/A
Office Hours: By appointment	Meeting Location: N/A; Placement Site
Office Location: varies by University Supervisor	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):

VCLA and other program-specific requirements have been met; application for internship on file by program deadline.

Co-requisite(s):

None

Course Description

Applies, in supervised internships, university course work in General Curriculum to instruction of children and their families in school settings.

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

Are you planning to waive one of the two internship requirements for your teacher licensure program? The waiver is not automatic. Be sure to send the waiver documentation (http://cehd.gmu.edu/assets/docs/forms/InternshipWaiv_forms.pdf) to your advisor.

Course Delivery Method

Learning activities include the following:

1. Individual demonstration
2. Classroom observations
3. Discussions and consultation
4. Reflection activities
5. Electronic supplements and activities via Blackboard

Learner Outcomes

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

1. Demonstrate understanding of development and the ability to plan and execute curriculum appropriate to the chronological ages, developmental and functional levels of the students being taught.
2. Demonstrate the integration of the theoretical methodology with the practical applications in the field.
3. Demonstrate positive and appropriate interactions with students, families and other professionals. This includes the ability to manage the classroom/resource room, co-teach in a general education setting, develop and enforce classroom expectations, develop strategies to anticipate behaviors and deal with them, and work through transitions during the day. This also includes demonstration of confidentiality when communicating about students with disabilities.
4. Develop and implement developmentally and functionally appropriate intervention activities within a variety of settings, including those that enhance and support integration and/or inclusion as well as those activities that are therapeutically based. This includes demonstration of a positive learning environment geared to the individual as well as the group. This may also be demonstrated in the general classroom environment as well as special education settings.
5. Demonstrate the ability to work collaboratively as part of a team including but not limited to general and special educators and therapists, parents and other related/support staff.
6. Demonstrate the ability to be lead teacher by overseeing the entire classroom while also meeting the individual needs of students, directing/teaming with assistants, and monitoring the ongoing activities and tone of the class. If working with students on an individual basis, demonstrate the ability to plan for that child based on goals and objectives and provide on-going assessment for both the child and the intervention sessions.
7. Demonstrate support within an integrated environment, as appropriate. This includes knowledge of general curriculum specific to the ages and grades of students, ability to modify the general education curriculum as needed, ability to work with general education staff in a manner which enhances the education of the student(s) with disabilities by providing direct or indirect support and the knowledge of how to work with groups of students demonstrating mixed abilities and needs (whether identified as

- disabled or not).
8. Select and utilize assessment and/or monitoring tools and strategies, including but not limited to county-wide assessments, SOLs, VAAP (as assessed for individual students), etc.
 9. Develop developmentally, educationally and functionally appropriate IEPs.
 10. Select and utilize workable and useful data/record keeping strategies.
 11. Monitor and analyze teaching performance.
 12. Demonstrate additional competencies contained in personal goals statement or delineated by the cooperating teacher and/or university supervisor.

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 2: Learning environments (InTASC 3); CEC Standard 4: Assessment (InTASC 6); CEC Standard 5: Instructional planning and strategies (InTASC 7,8); CEC Standard 6: Professional learning and ethical practice (InTASC 9) & 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).

Required Texts

Special Education Internship Handbook for 2023-24

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 and Mason email, and access to other virtual communication tools (e.g., Zoom, OneDrive) as needed

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 783, the required PBA is the Internship Rubric. Please check to verify your ability to upload to VIA/SLL before the PBA due date.

Assignments and/or Examinations

Performance-based Assessment

(VIA submission required)

- Internship Rubric (Assessment A; see Internship Handbook)

College Wide Common Assessment

(VIA submission required)

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). The college-wide common assessments in this course are: InTASC Internship Evaluation and Observer-Rated Dispositions.

- Internship Rubric (Assessment A; see Internship Handbook)
- Teacher Candidate Dispositions Rating (Assessment B; see Internship Handbook)

Other Assignments

- Log of Hours (Form 1 in Internship Handbook; all completed/signed pages uploaded to the Forms page of Blackboard)
- Internship Summary and Final Grade (Form 2 in Internship Handbook; all completed/signed pages uploaded to the Forms page of Blackboard)
- Observation Summary Report (Form 3 in Internship Handbook; all completed reports uploaded to the Forms page in Blackboard)
- Weekly Reflection (Form 4 in the Internship Handbook; uploaded to the Forms page of Blackboard)
- End-of-Internship Evaluation (CEHD-wide evaluation completed online prior to internship completion)
- Lesson plans, observations, and pre- and/or post-observation conferences (see Internship Handbook)
- VDOE Seclusion and Restraints Modules Training (submit certificate of completion to Seclusion and Restraint Modules page of Blackboard)
- Any other assignments may be assigned at the University Supervisor's discretion

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

Please refer to the *Special Education Internship Handbook* for internship policies and expectations.

Attendance/Participation

Teacher Candidates completing Traditional internships are required to follow the Mentor Teacher's daily schedule. Candidates must be punctual, arrive when the Mentor Teacher arrives, and leave when the Mentor Teacher leaves. When an absence is unavoidable, the Candidate must notify the school office personnel, Mentor Teacher, and University Supervisor as far in advance as possible. If the Teacher Candidate is absent on a day when he/she is expected to teach, lesson plans and materials must be delivered to the Mentor Teacher before class begins. Candidates who are completing on-the-job (OTJ) internships are expected to adhere to their regular work schedule and responsibilities.

Late Work

All internship activities and assignments are scheduled between the University Supervisor, Mentor Teacher, and Teacher Candidate. If an assignment cannot be completed as required, the Teacher Candidate must notify the University Supervisor and Mentor Teacher in advance and must work with the University Supervisor and Mentor Teacher to reschedule or adjust the deadline accordingly. Note that submission of all assignments in accordance with the agreed upon schedule increases the likelihood of on-time completion of internship requirements.

Other Requirements

- **Personal Appearance and Professional Conduct:** Candidates must dress professionally and exhibit professional behavior in their assigned school at all times. Candidates must read their assigned school's faculty handbook and conform to the professional expectations of that school. If a Candidate cannot find a copy of the faculty handbook, he/she should contact the Mentor Teacher. Candidates should also note that Mentor Teachers and University Supervisors evaluate a Candidate's teaching dispositions and professionalism during the internship (see the Teacher Candidate Dispositions Rating, Assessment B in the Internship Handbook).
- **Holidays and Vacations:** Candidates must follow the calendar of their assigned school for their internship. The school's calendar may be different from George Mason's calendar during the semester of internship. The Teacher Candidate always follows the calendar of the assigned school during internship. This applies to Thanksgiving and spring break holidays as well.
- **Teacher Candidates and Substitute Teachers:** Traditional Internship Candidates may occasionally substitute for his/her Mentor Teacher during the internship, provided that several guidelines are strictly followed and approval is provided by the University Supervisor prior to substituting during the internship. See the guidelines outlined in the internship handbook. Note that hours spent substitute teaching may NOT be counted towards teaching hour requirements for the internship.

- **Important Considerations:** If Candidates do not comply with on-site school expectations, school divisions have the right to request the Candidate be removed from the assigned school. There is no guarantee that a Teacher Candidate will be approved for an alternate assignment or location. Candidates who do not uphold the professional behaviors and dispositions promoted by CEHD may be removed from internship and/or referred to the Office of Student and Academic Affairs as needed. On-site school expectations include the social media presence of Teacher Candidates. The Teacher Candidate Dispositions Rating (see Assessment B in Internship Handbook) includes the expectations for teaching dispositions. Each school site has faculty expectations outlined in a faculty handbook. Candidates are strongly encouraged to purchase professional liability insurance through membership in the Student Virginia Education Association, the Council for Exceptional Children, or through a private carrier in case of civil legal action. Candidates employed by a school division are encouraged to purchase additional coverage to supplement what is provided.
- **Accommodations in Internships:** Students must be able to perform the essential functions of the internship site assigned with or without an accommodation. Contact Disability Services (ods@gmu.edu) for questions related to accommodations.

Grading

(From the Internship Handbook)

Grades for the internship are:

- **S Satisfactory:** Teacher Candidate successfully meets the clinical internship requirements and can be recommended for teacher licensure.
- **NC No Credit:** Teacher Candidate will not be recommended for teacher licensure unless he/she repeats all or part of the internship with satisfactory performance. This may require enrolling and paying tuition for additional credit hours in a subsequent semester or paying a fee for extended supervision. In some cases, a grade of NC may be accompanied by a recommendation that the Teacher Candidate not be allowed to repeat the internship. In such cases, the Candidate may be counseled out of the licensure program although not necessarily out of the degree program.
- **IP In Progress:** The Teacher Candidate's performance cannot be evaluated at the end of the grading period. IP grade can be changed to S or NC upon completion of requirements.

***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. See Policies and Procedures (<https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/policies-procedures/>). 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.

Class Schedule

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

The Teacher Candidate, Mentor Teacher, and University Supervisor work together to determine the schedule of observations and activities. Therefore, the Triad should agree upon the basic schedule during the initial meeting of the internship.

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 for Assessment B-Dispositions Rating (see Internship Handbook for all rubrics)



Assessment B

Teacher Candidate Dispositions Rating

*Note: The disposition rubric should be completed collaboratively by the University Supervisor and Mentor Teacher for the Candidate. The University Supervisor will then enter the rubric ratings online in VIA.

Candidate Name and G#: _____
Assessor: _____

Course with Section: _____
Date Assessed: _____

Education professionals are held to high standards, both inside and outside of the classroom. Educators are evaluated on their behaviors and interactions with learners, parents, other professionals, and the community at large. The behaviors observed reflect the *dispositions* held by education professionals at all stages in their careers, including as a candidate in CEHD’s teacher licensure programs.

Dispositions reflect one’s attitudes and deeply held beliefs. They can be positive (e.g., committed) or negative (e.g., apathetic). Dispositions are not directly “visible,” but are inferred from one’s actions. Throughout a candidate’s program of study at Mason, s/he should demonstrate behaviors that reflect positive dispositions befitting a professional. Dispositions are assessed multiple times during the teacher education program. Growth in one’s dispositions is developmental and can be informed through instruction, experience, and reflection. A single occurrence of dispositional issues might be due to a lack of understanding of the disposition and expectations of appropriate behaviors. It is important that an assessor rely on observations of candidate behaviors when assessing dispositions. Assessment of dispositions should not be used as a punitive action, but as an instructional tool to address developmental gaps or clarify the overt actions being assessed for each dimension of the disposition. The dispositions also align to the InTASC Core Teaching Standards, nationally accepted teaching standards. The alignment is noted in parentheses after each disposition.

Directions for assessors

For each of the dimensions below, please rate the degree to which you observe the candidate’s proficiency with each disposition.

3 = Highly Proficient: Candidates receive this score when they exhibit behaviors beyond the expectations of candidates at this point in their programs. Assessors observe candidates demonstrate behaviors consistent with professional dispositions in multiple situations/data points, independent of external support or prompts. All proficiencies are met at a level **beyond** expectations for pre-service teacher.

2 = Proficient: This is the **TARGET** score. This score reflects that Candidates have met the standard at the level expected at this point in their program, with some support and guidance. Behaviors are observed that align with expectations for this specific dimension of the dispositions. Candidates who receive a 2 have successfully met the disposition. All proficiencies are met at a level expected for pre-service teachers.

1 = Not Proficient: Candidates receive this score when their understanding and effort does not meet the Target, but they may exhibit some of the behaviors associated with the disposition at a minimally acceptable quality. This score indicates the Candidate lags behind expectations for most Candidates at this stage of development.

ND = Not Demonstrated: This score reflects that a Candidate did not yet have opportunities to demonstrate the disposition due to placement opportunities.

Faculty/Mentor Assessment of Dispositions

Professional Responsibility (InTASC 9)				
The Candidate demonstrates professional responsibility with the following actions and words:	Not demonstrated ND	Not Proficient 1	Proficient 2	Highly Proficient 3
<i>The Candidate exhibits professional behaviors (on time, professional dress, prepared for teaching, etc.)</i>				
<i>The Candidate self-reflects, self-regulates, and modifies behavior based on feedback.</i>				
<i>The Candidate exhibits integrity and ethical behavior.</i>				
Comments or notes:				
Collaboration and Leadership (InTASC 10)				
The Candidate demonstrates collaboration and leadership with the following actions and words:	Not demonstrated ND	Not Proficient 1	Proficient 2	Highly Proficient 3
<i>The Candidate exhibits teamwork and collaborates in professional interactions.</i>				
<i>The Candidate takes initiative appropriately.</i>				
<i>The Candidate seeks to understand and address challenges by initiating, advocating, or leading activities to improve and support my learning and the learning of others.</i>				
Comments or notes:				
Cultural Responsiveness (Learner and Learning)				
The Candidate demonstrates cultural responsiveness with the following actions and words:	Not demonstrated ND	Not Proficient 1	Proficient 2	Highly Proficient 3

<i>The Candidate treats individuals in an unbiased manner.</i>				
<i>The Candidate supports those around them to be successful.</i>				
<i>The Candidate demonstrates through their actions/interactions that diversity as an asset.</i>				
Comments or notes:				
High Expectations for Learning (Instructional Practice)				
The Candidate demonstrates high expectations for learning with the following actions and words:	Not demonstrated ND	Not Proficient 1	Proficient 2	Highly Proficient 3
<i>The Candidate takes responsibility for the learning of those with whom they collaborate or lead.</i>				
<i>The Candidate holds high expectations for stakeholders (e.g., students, peers, faculty, families).</i>				
<i>The Candidate monitors and assesses learning to provide feedback to others and reflect and alter actions individually and as part of a team.</i>				
Comments or notes:				

NOTE to Evaluator: One score of ‘not proficient’ (1) should be viewed as a “teachable moment.” The assessor should meet with the candidate to clarify expectations and discuss what behaviors were observed that warranted the score. (Programs and/or faculty can choose to create a development plan if a “1” is scored multiple times in a semester or program.)

Two ratings of ‘not proficient’ on one assessment will require the creation of a Professional Disposition Development Plan to assist the candidate in demonstrating growth of dispositions. (See the website at <https://education.gmu.edu/teacher-track/connect> for a copy of the Plan.)

A complete a Professional Dispositions Plan must be approved by the evaluator, academic program coordinator, and/or the teacher candidate.

For further direction and specifics related to how the dispositions are assessed in your program, please email the Academic Program Coordinator or Course Lead.

NOTE: In Special Education programs, please contact the Academic Program Coordinator if the candidate scores a “1” for more than one rating OR if the candidate continues to score a “1” multiple times in a semester.

FACULTY USE ONLY	
	Candidate was not evaluated due to extenuating circumstances that impeded the completion of this assessment.