

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

Spring 2024
EDAT 524 001: Universal Design for Learning
CRN: 22350; 3 – Credits

Instructor: Dr. Anya Evmenova	Meeting Dates : 1/8/24 – 3/4/23
Phone : 703-993-5256	Meeting Day(s): Online
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Office Hours: By appointment	Meeting Location: NA; Online
Office Location: GMU – Finley Bld., 201 A	Other Phone: See Blackboard

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

Describes the foundations and principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL). Focuses on teaching students with various disabilities including those with learning disabilities from preschool to postsecondary education implementing technology based and other UDL strategies. Applies UDL principles to the design of accessible instructional materials. Students have the opportunity to develop and implement UDL lesson plans.

Advising Contact Information

Please make sure that you are being advised on a regular basis as to your status and progress through your program. Mason M.Ed. and Certificate teacher candidates/students should contact Student Services at 1-844-306-1785, mason@support.edu.help for assistance.

Course Instructional Method

EDAT 524 is an asynchronous online course. Using Blackboard, students are expected to complete assignments weekly and be engaged in course activities throughout the semester.

Course Delivery Method

EDAT 524 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. 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

This course will be delivered online (76% or more) using **asynchronous** format via Blackboard Learning Management system (LMS) housed in the MyMason portal. You will log in to the Blackboard (Bb) course site using your Mason email name (everything before @masonlive.gmu.edu) and Patriot Pass password. The course site will be available in accordance with the posted start date.

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: <u>Browser support</u> (https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting_Started/Browser_Support#supported-browsers)

To get a list of supported operation systems on different devices see: <u>Tested devices</u> <u>and operating systems</u> (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 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/)

- o <u>Windows Media Player</u> (https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/help/14209/get-windows-media-player)
- o Apple Quick Time Player (www.apple.com/quicktime/download/)
- Technical Support 24/7
 - o chat: https://support.edu.help
 - o call: 1-844-306-1785
 - o e-mail: Mason@support.edu.help

Expectations

- <u>Course Week:</u> Because asynchronous courses do not have a "fixed" meeting day, our week will start on Monday at 11:59 pm and finish on Monday 11:59 pm EST.
 Our course week will begin on the day that our synchronous meetings take place as indicated on the Schedule of Classes.
- 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 2 times per week.
- 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. Those unable to come to a Mason campus can meet with the instructor via telephone or 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 reread their responses carefully before posting them, so as 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

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

- 1. Define similarities and differences in human development as well as major issues and concerns for individuals with disabilities, including those with disabilities to participate in general education curriculum.
- 2. Identify and understand different principles of UDL.
- 3. Describe and discuss no technology to high technology tools and strategies available for multiple means of representation, engagement, and expression in the general academic curriculum.
- 4. Identify a repertoire of evidence based UDL resources to use with students with various disabilities in order to make the curriculum more accessible.
- 5. Develop a lesson plan selecting instructional materials that meet the standards of UDL as well as individual and environmental needs, personal interests, preferences, values, and cultural influences.
- 6. Describe and discuss the standards of UDL to be used for monitoring outcomes of interventions and reevaluations.

Course Relationship to Program Goals and Professional Organizations

This course is part of the George Mason University, School of Education (SOED), Assistive Technology Program. The Assistive Technology Program has developed program specific standards in accordance with NCATE requirements. The Assistive Technology Program Standards incorporate several elements within the professional standards from the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), while also expanding upon them to meet the specific needs related to assistive technology. The primary AT Program standards that will be addressed in this class include the following: Standard 2: Knowledge and Skills and Standard 4: Practical Experience. *NOTE: NCATE Assessments (in many but not all courses) may address additional AT Program standards.

Required Textbooks

Nelson, L. L. (2021). *Design and deliver: Planning and teaching using Universal Design for Learning* (2nd ed). Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co., Inc.

Recommended Textbooks

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.).

Meyer, A., Rose, D.H., & Gordon, D. (2014). *Universal design for learning: Theory and practice*. CAST Professional Publishing.

Additional Readings

Additional readings relevant to the Universal Design for Learning research and practice will be provided by the instructor. Readings may include chapters, journal articles, web sites, video clips, audio clips (e.g., podcasts), and slide shows.

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 EDAT 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 EDAT 524, 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

Below is a brief description of the course assessments. More information will be provided prior to each activity/assignment.

Performance-based Assessment (VIA submission required)

None

College Wide Common Assessment (VIA submission required)

None

Performance-based Common Assignments (No VIA submission required)

UDL Instructional Plan (140 points)

Students will identify a classroom/environment (K-12, postsecondary, online, professional development) to observe and evaluate the existing curriculum/lesson plan/training using UDL standards. Video case studies will be offered if classroom observations are not possible. Students will create a UDL instruction plan for designing and intentionally implementing UDL principles within an existing curriculum/lesson plan. The UDL instructional plan will include the following:

- a. Curriculum/Lesson Plan/Training Overview
 Students will provide a description of the curriculum/lesson plan/training.
 The description should include the goals, instructional elements and activities as well as the explanation of the environment in which the curriculum/lesson plan/training takes place.
- b. Learner Characteristics & Barriers
 Students will provide a rationale for selecting the UDL guidelines and standards to match the characteristics of learners. A listing of the learners' prerequisite skills as well as the needs they have for potentially using UDL strategies will be outlined.
- c. UDL Design Plan
 Students will identify the UDL standards addressed in an existing curriculum/lesson plan/training as well as propose additional UDL strategies that could enhance the learning opportunities for identified learners. The plan should integrate a variety of instructional and assistive technology to offer multiple means of engagement, representation, and expression for students accessing general education curriculum in K-12 or postsecondary settings.
- d. Demonstration Candidate records a 3-5 minutes video documenting that the candidate can demonstrate a portion of the UDL Plan. The video will accompany the UDL Plan write-up as evidence that the candidate has proficiency in the use of the UDL principles and strategies.
- e. Reflection
 Candidate provides a reflection on the UDL Plan. The reflection will also include recommendations for resources and potential professional development opportunities for the UDL Plan implementer. Potential impact that the UDL strategies might have on individuals with various learning preferences and needs will also be discussed.

Other Assignments

Learning Module Assignments and Discussions (140 points/5-10 points each)

Students will participate in various activities in order to explore various applications of Universal Design for Learning. Activities will include introduction forum, various technology tools explorations, UDL evaluation project, as well as others. Detailed descriptions and step- by-step instructions for each module activities 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 inspirational videos, and review specific websites during each Learning Module. In which module, students will be asked to participate in class and group 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. 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.

UDL Research Review (40 points)

Students will find and summarize a journal article that explores the effectiveness and applications of Universal Design for Learning in various environments. Students may use UDL-IRN Research database to find article of their choice. Papers chosen for this requirement must be from peer-reviewed published journals (no ERIC documents!) and should be data-based examinations of issues relevant to the UDL implementation in various environments (e.g., K-12, postsecondary, professional environments.) A research study includes a "methods" section and a "results" section. The purpose of this assignment is **twofold**: **first**, to identify research-based findings that are relevant to the outcomes of the UDL principles and **second**, to critically explore and summarize the "state of the practice" of UDL.

UDL Resource Notebook (80 points)

Throughout the semester, students will compile UDL resources of their choice that would be useful for teaching/working with a target population. Students will research and collect resources in various categories to address abilities and needs of the target population. Students may choose to conduct this assignment individually or in groups. All resources will be compiled in one electronic resource notebook. The electronic resource notebook may be organized by content areas and may be presented in written, multimedia presentation, or video format. The following information should be included about each resource:

- Name of program/app/resource
- Website of vendor (if applicable)
- Brief description of software/app/tool
- Specific UDL guidelines and checkpoints it supports
- Example of how a tool can be implemented to engage learners, can offer a
 different representation of information, or can allow learners to express their
 knowledge

Course Policies and Expectations

Attendance/Participation

This class does not require any face-to-face or synchronous meetings. However, 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. A series of UDL Google Hangouts will be scheduled during the semester in order to facilitate discussions about UDL, but the attendance will be optional. In addition, optional Office Hours will be offered via Blackboard Collaborate Ultra.

Late Work

All activities must be submitted via Blackboard *on or before* the due date. In fairness to students who make the effort to submit work on time, points will be deducted from your grade for late assignments. Assignments will not be accepted more than 3 days late unless prior arrangements with the instructor have been made. Allow additional time for as well as plan for additional participation during activities that require constructive feedback.

Grading (traditional rounding principles apply)

93-100% = A

90-92% = A-

87-89% = B+

83-86% = B

80-82% = B-

70-79% = C

< 69% = F

Evaluation will be based upon a point system. The point value for each assignment is as follows:

Learning Module Activities and Reflections	140 (35%)
UDL Research Review	40 (10%)
UDL Resource Notebook	80 (20%)
UDL Instructional Plan Project	140 (35%)
TOTAL POINTS	400 (100%)

*Note: The George Mason University Honor Code will be strictly enforced (see https://oai.gmu.edu/ and https://oai.gmu.edu/ and https://oai.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.

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/

Professional Dispositions

Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times. See https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/policies-procedures/.

Class Schedule

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

Learning	Торіс	Textbook Readings*,		
Module		Weekly Activities & Assignments Due		
Learning	Foundations and principles of UDL	Nelson (2021) – Chapter 1		
Module 1		Rose, Hasselbring, Stahl, & Zabala (2005)		
		Learning Module 1 Activities		
Learning	UDL standards and guidelines for	Nelson (2021) – Chapter 2		
Module 2	research and practice	Rao & Meo (2016)		
		Learning Module 2 Activities		
Learning	Multiple means of representation:	Nelson (2021) – Chapter 4		
Module 3	Providing access to print text	Narkon & Wells (2013)		
	(adapting books and instructional materials to ensure accessibility)	Learning Module 3 Activities		
Learning	Multiple means of action and	Nelson (2021) – Chapter 5		
Module 4	expression: Enhancing writing	Wanderman (n.d.)		
	process for individuals with	Webinar by Ablenet: All about Computer		
	disabilities	Access		
		Learning Module 4 Activities UDL		
Learning	Multiple means of engagement:	Nelson (2021) – Chapter 3		
Module 5	Enhancing content instruction	Rose, Gravel, & Domings (2010)		
		OPTIONAL: Obukowicz (2009)		
		Learning Module 5 Activities		
		Research Review Due		
Learning	Universal Design for Learning in	Burgstahler & Cory (2010) - Chapter 3		
Module 6	postsecondary/higher and online	Novak & Thibodeau (2016) – Chapter 2		
	education	OPTIONAL: Rao, Ok, & Bryant (2014)		
		Learning Module 6 Activities		
		UDL Resource Notebook Due		

Learning	Universal Design for Learning and	Nelson (2021) – Chapter 7	
Module 7	student progress monitoring	Novak (2014) – Chapter 9	
		Learning Module 7 Activities	
		UDL Instructional Plan Draft & Peer	
		Feedback Due	
Learning		Nelson (2021) – Chapter 6	
Module 8	Designing UDL curriculum	Meyer, Rose, & Gordon (2014) – Chapter 6	
		OPTIONAL: Lowrey, Hollingshead, Howery,	
		& Bishop (2017)	
		Learning Module 8 Activities	
		UDL Instructional Plan Due	

Core Values Commitment

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

GMU Policies and Resources for Students

Policies

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the Mason Honor Code. See <u>Honor Code and System (https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/).</u>
- 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/).
- 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/).
- 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 Assessment support (https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/assessments/).
- Support for submission of assignments to VIA should be directed to <u>VIA Help</u> <u>support@watermarkinsights.com</u>. Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be

directed to <u>Blackboard Instructional Technology Support for Students</u> (https://its.gmu.edu/knowledge-base/blackboard-instructional-technology-support-for-students/).

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 <u>University Policy 1202</u>. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason's confidential resources, such as the <u>Student Support and Advocacy Center (SSAC)</u> at 703-380-1434 or <u>Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)</u> 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 information on student support resources on campus, see <u>Student Support Resources on Campus</u> (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/).

Appendix

Assessment Rubric(s)

Rubric for UDL Instructional Plan Project

The instructor will evaluate your final project that is submitted at the end of the course using the rubric below.

	Exceeds Expectations	Meets	Does Not Meet
		Expectations	Expectations
Curriculum/Lesson	19-20 pts	17-18 pts	0-16 pts
Plan Overview	Candidate describes an	Candidate describes	Candidate fails to
AT Program	existing	an existing	describe an existing
Standard 2	curriculum/lesson plan	curriculum/lesson	curriculum/lesson
	that is offered to	plan in details	plan that is offered to
	learners with various	including goals,	learners with various
	needs including those	instructional	needs including those
	with disabilities	elements and	with disabilities.
	including goals,	activities.	
	instructional elements		
	and activities, as well		
	as the environment in		
	which it takes place.		
Learner	19-20 pts	17-18 pts	0-16 pts
Characteristics	Candidate identifies	Candidate identifies	Candidate fails to
and Barriers	specific characteristics	specific	identify specific and
	of users who could	characteristics of	related characteristics

F. = =			
AT Program	benefit from the UDL	users who could	of users who could
Standard 1	strategies based on	benefit from the UDL	benefit from UDL
	their understanding of	strategies. Candidate	strategies and/or fails
	exceptional conditions	considers how issues	to consider how
	or other human factors.	of human diversity	issues of human
	Candidate considers	can impact	diversity can impact
	how issues of human	individuals, families,	individuals, families,
	diversity can impact	communities, and	communities, and
	individuals, families,	cultures, and how	cultures, and how
	communities, and	these complex human	these complex human
	cultures, and how these	issues can interact	issues can interact
	complex human issues	with issues in the	with issues in the
	can interact with issues	delivery of UDL	delivery of UDL
	in the delivery of UDL	curriculum.	curriculum.
	curriculum.	Curriculum.	Curriculum.
UDI Dosign Plan	56-60 pts	47-55 pts	0-46 pts
UDL Design Plan AT Program	Candidate identifies	Candidate identifies	Candidate does not
Standards 2 & 3	the UDL standards	the UDL standards	identify the UDL
Standards 2 & 3	addressed in an	addressed in an	1
			standards addressed
	existing	existing	in an existing
	curriculum/lesson	curriculum/lesson	curriculum/lesson
	plans.	plans.	plans.
	Candidate identifies	Candidate identifies	Candidate fails to
	and match additional	and match additional	identify and match
	UDL strategies based	UDL strategies based	additional UDL
	on individual and	on individual and	strategies based on
	environmental needs	environmental needs.	individual and
	while also considering	Candidate develops	environmental needs.
	personal interests,	and report plans to	Candidate's plans to
	preferences, values and	implement and	implement and
	cultural influences.	monitor outcomes of	monitor outcomes of
	Candidate develops	interventions and	interventions are
	and report plans to	reevaluate and adjust	limited and do not
	implement and monitor	the system as needed.	necessarily plan to
	outcomes of	Candidate utilizes	reevaluate and adjust
	interventions and	evidence-based	the system as needed.
	reevaluate and adjust	strategies to develop	Candidate fails to
	the system as needed.	personalized supports	utilize evidence-
	Candidate utilizes	for individuals with	based strategies to
	evidence-based UDL	exceptional needs.	develop personalized
	strategies to develop		supports for
	personalized supports		individuals with
	for individuals with		exceptional needs.
	various abilities, needs,		oncophonal necus.
	and learning		
	preferences.		
	preferences.		

Demonstration	19-20 pts	17-18 pts	0-16 pts
AT Program	Candidate is	Candidate is	Candidate does not
Standard 2 and 4	knowledgeable of and	knowledgeable of	demonstrate
	demonstrates	and demonstrates	knowledgeable of
	proficiency in use of	proficiency in use of	and proficiency in
	tools and evidence-	UDL strategies and	use of UDL strategies
	based strategies to	tools.	and tools.
	develop universally		
	designed environments		
Reflection &	19-20 pts	17-18 pts	0-16 pts
Impact	Candidate promotes	Candidate promotes	Candidate fails to
AT Program	and advocate for the	and advocate for the	promote and
Standard 1 and 5	benefits of continued	benefits of continued	advocate for the
	implementation of	implementation of	benefits of continued
	UDL tools and	UDL tools and	implementation of
	strategies for	strategies for	UDL tools and
	individuals with	individuals with	strategies for
	various abilities, needs,	various abilities,	individuals with
	and learning	needs, and learning	various abilities,
	preferences. Candidate	preferences.	needs, and learning
	identifies ongoing	Candidate identifies	preferences.
	professional	ongoing professional	Candidate fails to
	development to acquire	development	identify specific and
	knowledge and skills	opportunities to	relevant professional
	about new	acquire knowledge	development
	developments in UDL,	and skills about new	opportunities to
	which may include	developments in	acquire knowledge
	participation in	UDL.	and skills about new
	activities of	Candidate discusses	developments in
	professional	the impact UDL can	UDL.
	organizations relevant	have on individuals	Candidate provides a
	to the field of assistive	with various abilities,	limited discussion
	technology.	needs, and learning	that does not
	Candidate discusses	preferences within various cultures and	specifically address
	the impact UDL can		the impact UDL can
	have on individuals	communities.	have on individuals
	with various abilities,		with various abilities,
	needs, and learning		needs, and learning preferences within
	preferences and their families within various		various cultures and
	diverse cultures and		communities.
	communities.		Communities.
	communics.		
Total:	140 possible		