

EDUCATION

Courses

Education

EDUC 2201 Explorations in Education

3 Credits

In this course, students/candidates discover how education is accomplished in schools through the social construction of teaching and learning. Through participant observation, service learning, reflections, assigned readings, class discussions and collaboration, candidates contribute positively to student learning in local schools and communities with diverse (socioeconomic, linguistic, race/ethnicity) populations, understand the complexities of schooling from multiple insider perspectives, and engage in the process of discerning whether to pursue a career in education. Successful completion of this course is one of the prerequisites for admission to the teacher education program. Approximately 25 hours of service in a local school is required. Previously ED 0200.

EDUC 2329 Philosophy of Education: An Introduction

3 Credits

This course applies the basic concepts of philosophy to education in general and to contemporary education theory in particular to acquaint educators with philosophical terminology, to improve the clarity of their thinking, and to encourage personal commitment to their own life philosophies. It also provides the opportunity to ask fundamental questions about the aims and purposes of education and schooling in a multicultural democratic society; the ethical dimensions of the teaching/learning relationship; the effects of poverty and injustice on the lives of young people, their families and communities; and the role of the imagination in transforming the world. A range of philosophical perspectives will be explored including Jesuit Education/Ignatian Pedagogy, Deweyan Progressive education, and Freirian Critical Pedagogy. Previously ED 0329.

EDUC 2341 Culturally Responsive Teacher

3 Credits

In this course, students will gain a deeper understanding of the knowledge, skills, and dispositions necessary to teach students from varied racial, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds. Students will examine their own assumptions about social identity and its influence on the teaching and learning process. Additionally, they will apply culturally responsive and sustaining strategies that promote high standards and inclusive learning environments.

EDUC 3241 Educational Psychology

3 Credits

This course considers a particular application of the more important psychological principles to educational theory and practice, embracing a systematic study of the educable being, habit formation, phases of learning, intellectual and emotional growth, and character formation. The course, which includes a 15-hour field experience in an approved, ethnically diverse public school setting, also examines individual differences, transfer of training, interest, attention, and motivation insofar as they influence the teaching process. Graduate equivalent: EDUC 5442. Previously ED 0241.

EDUC 3350 Special Learners in the Mainstream

3 Credits

This course familiarizes the mainstream professional with the special learning needs of children and youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities, learning disabilities, emotional disturbances, severe disabilities, multiple disabilities, and those who are gifted and talented. Topics include methods of identifying and working effectively with children and youth with special learning needs in the regular classroom; the roles and responsibilities of counselors, psychologists, educators, and ancillary personnel as members of a multidisciplinary team in planning educational services for exceptional learners; and laws that impact on assessment, placement, parent and student rights, and support services. This course may require a fieldwork component as part of the evaluation process. Note: This course is not for those pursuing an initial certificate or cross-endorsement in special education; it is for general educators and students in affiliated fields of study. Previously ED 0350.

EDUC 4455 The Literate Learner: Developmental Reading in Middle and Secondary School Grades 5-12

3 Credits

In this course, designed for new and experienced middle and high school educators, candidates explore and use cutting edge theory and best practices in literacy research to support powerful student learning across curricular area, with an emphasis on reading comprehension at the secondary level. Candidates learn a repertoire of research-based strategies and tools to help diverse learners make meaning from a variety of texts in their subject area, including non-print and media texts. Areas explored include questioning techniques, concept development, study strategies, and assessment. Candidates will infuse critical and strategic instructional strategies for teaching reading and communication into content area curriculum. Candidates not currently teaching will be expected to work with a teacher in a high needs school for 25 hours in order to complete the requirements for the course. Previously ED 0455.

EDUC 4581 Directed Observation and Supervised Student Teaching: Secondary Education

6 Credits

This course offers a semester-long experience in a local school for qualified candidates in secondary teaching. Participants engage in observation and teaching five days each week. Emphasized concepts include classroom management dynamics, teaching techniques, lesson plan organization, and faculty duties. Candidates receive assistance from their university supervisors and the cooperating teacher(s), who must observe and evaluate each student. Candidates must register with the director of student teaching placement at the beginning of the previous semester. Previously ED 0581.

Educational Technology

EDTC 4301 Introduction to Educational Technology

3 Credits

This course covers the principles and applications of technology literacy in education. Topics include designing effective teaching strategies and environments conducive to learning, application of media and computer technologies in teaching, the use of the Web in teaching K-12, Microsoft Office applications, developing home pages, evaluating software, and examining new technologies for education. A field experience is included in this course. Previously MD 0300.

EDTC 4304 Imagining Libraries in the 21st Century 3 Credits

This course will focus on the ongoing transformation and re-orientation of public and academic libraries in an age of ubiquitous access to digital content. The role of the library will be examined from its mid-20th century position of largely storing paper-based materials and providing the professional services that allowed user to access those materials, to its evolving status as a service provider - offering everything from streaming videos and downloadable e-books to community events and craft- and technology-based maker spaces. The course will culminate with each student creating a digital vision of the library of the future.

EDTC 4305 Copyright, Censorship, and Information Control 3 Credits

This course will offer an in-depth examination of the larger question of who controls information. Beginning with a review of the concept and history of copyright laws as a means for assuring economic control, the course will then move into an analysis of censorship by schools, local communities, and national governments. A major portion of the course will also address the relatively new issue of information control effected by digital means - from the use of search engines and misinformation to influence public opinion to the tracking of individuals and the data harvesting that has become the primary economic driver of so many technology platforms.

EDTC 4312 Expanding Education through Informal Learning Environments 3 Credits

This course will examine the ways in which Informal Learning Environments (ILEs) are embedded in a wide range of the 21st century's social and entertainment activities - and how these experiences of these types can be leveraged to move learning outside of its traditionally conceived homes in schools and libraries. Among the ILEs discussed will be zoos and aquariums, museums, mobile games, streaming content, escape rooms, and more. The course will culminate with each student producing an example Informal Learning Environment module using the technologies of their own choice.

EDTC 4313 Online Training for Lifelong Learning 3 Credits

This course will focus on ways in which teachers, trainers, and technology support professionals can use a variety of online tools to engage learners of all ages and types. Students will explore ways to effectively employ podcasts, screen captures, videos, and authoring software to create and support online learning, as well as how to consider relevant technological issues such as file types, bandwidth, policies, and mobile device access.

EDTC 4314 Literacies Across History and Cultures 3 Credits

This course will explore how humans have communicated their ideas across space and time – in essence, what does it mean to be what we now call “literate,” why did literacy arise, and what purposes does it serve? Students will endeavor to define different modes of communication (or literacies) in an age of globalization and of digital information, and look at these “literacies” through various historical, social, and cultural perspectives.

EDTC 4315 Technologies for Building Online Learning Engagement 3 Credits

This course will be offered as can be arranged by faculty with a local museum, library, non-profit, or other institution. Students will spend their semester do in-depth studies of the specific type of organization of focus, and will then collaborate in with staff at the organization to learn how the education takes place there and to complete a project that will be used as part of the entity's educational offerings.

EDTC 4316 Informal Learning Environments (ILE) Practicum 3 Credits

This course will be offered as can be arranged by faculty with a local museum, library, non-profit, or other institution. Students will spend their semester do in-depth studies of the specific type of organization of focus, and will then collaborate in with staff at the organization to learn how the education takes place there and to complete a project that will be used as part of the entity's educational offerings.

EDTC 4317 AI in Teaching & Learning 3 Credits

This course will explore the current possibilities and serious challenges of generative AI for classroom teachers and other educators of all types. Topics covered will include understanding how generative AI operates from a technological standpoint; the role that generative AI can play in a variety of educational settings, from K-12 public schools to universities to informal learning environments ; and the development of appropriate policies and guidelines to support AI use. No previous experience with AI or computer programming is required.

Special Education

SPED 1010 Fairfield/Westport Transition 0 Credits**SPED 4403 Foundations in Research and Evaluation of Psychoeducational Issues in Special Education 3 Credits**

This course is designed to introduce candidates to a range of children and adolescents with exceptional learning needs (ELN), to the intent of special education law and the process of identification and evaluation of exceptional learners, and to the foundational research on the complex issues and problems that affect these students. Topics include methods of identifying and working effectively with children and youth with special learning needs in the regular classroom; the roles and responsibility of counselors, psychologists, educators and ancillary personnel as members of a multidisciplinary team in planning educational services for exceptional learners; laws that impact on assessment, placement, parent and student rights, and support services. In this course, candidates are introduced to a range of quantitative and qualitative research designs and the methodological tools to analyze data. Through discussion of issues, candidates consider how research can be a valuable tool that helps teachers systematically reflect on learning and evidence-based practices. Using current scholarly research articles, each candidate investigates, writes, and presents on a psychoeducational issue that impacts a specific category of exceptional learners. This course requires a fieldwork component as part of the evaluation process. Crosslisted with SPED 5403.

SPED 4410 Autism Spectrum Disorders: Theories and Interventions 3 Credits

Prerequisites: EDUC 2201, EDUC 3350.

This course highlights current research on theories and etiology of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). Candidates examine characteristics and behaviors associated with ASD. Specific diagnostic assessment and screening tools are reviewed to examine how these tools are utilized to identify infants and children with ASD. The course also focuses on providing the candidates with understanding the role of families. The course helps create a framework for implementing effective pedagogical interventions, profiling the strengths and challenges of various interventions. Graduate equivalent: SPED 5410. Previously SE 0310.

SPED 4411 Introduction to Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities

3 Credits

Prerequisites: EDUC 2201, EDUC 3350.

This course is designed to advance candidates' understanding and knowledge of intellectual and developmental disabilities by critically examining theories and research regarding the psychological, sociological, and educational aspects of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Candidates are expected to display levels of competency and proficiency in all three aspects. Graduate equivalent: SPED 5411. Previously SE 0311.

SPED 4413 Theories of and Introduction to Learning Disabilities

3 Credits

Prerequisites: EDUC 2201, EDUC 3350.

This course introduces students to the area of learning disabilities, exploring various theoretical constructs pertaining to numerous facets of the disorder (e.g., cognition, executive function, attention deficits, etc.), by tracing the history of its development and discussing current issues about the definition and the types of learning disabilities. Educational and social emotional sequelae and implications of processing impairments on learning are examined in the context of the assessment-teaching process (includes a 5-hour field-based project). Graduate equivalent: SPED 5413. Previously SE 0313.

SPED 4417 Introduction to Children and Youth with Emotional Disturbances

3 Credits

Prerequisites: EDUC 2201, EDUC 3350.

This core course introduces candidates to the area of emotional or behavioral disorders (EBD) by examining symptoms, etiology, diagnostic criteria, and assessment techniques of students K-12 who exhibit social, emotional, and behavioral deficits. Emphasis is placed on social and emotional development, the process of identifying students with EBD, analysis of behavior (ABA) and functional behavioral assessment (FBA), development of individual educational plans (IEPs) and instructional strategies designed to address the social and academic needs of students with EBD. This course includes a 2.5-hour field component. All students must have criminal clearance prior to registration. Graduate equivalent: SPED 5417. Previously SE 0317.

SPED 4565 Evidenced-Based Strategies in the Inclusive Classroom

3 Credits

This course builds on the foundational knowledge about exceptional learners examined during SPED 3350, and shifts the focus to strategies that can be used to differentiate instruction for exceptional learners in the inclusive classroom. General education candidates will learn about their role in the pre-referral/referral process and how to develop IEP goals and objectives. Next, candidates will be introduced to a range of social and academic assessment devices that are used to drive instruction. Using videos and case studies, candidates will analyze patterns of behavior in order to design evidenced-based classroom behavior management plans. By the end of the course, candidates will be able to make modifications to their curriculum and accommodations to their instructional delivery to meet the needs of exceptional learners. Prerequisite: SPED 3350