

SPECIAL EDUCATION COURSES (SPED)

SPED 213 INTRODUCTION TO SPECIAL EDUCATION (3) This course is the first to be taken in the study of special education. It provides understanding of disability –related laws, legislative/judicial mandates, rules and regulations on the federal, state and local level. Course content will focus on knowledge of the foundation for educating students with special needs including historical perspectives, models, theories, philosophies and trends in special education. Characteristics, definitions causation, behaviors, levels of severity, age span issues, and medical aspects of the major disability groups will be discussed and demonstrated. Educational implications, ethical /cultural/environmental issues and family rights/responsibilities are also addressed.

SPED 234 CHARACTERISTICS OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (3) *Prerequisite: SPED 213.* This course focuses on the study of the definitions, characteristics, theories, etiology and learning/behavioral support needs of students with disabilities who are accessing the general education curriculum at K-12 school levels. Included are students with intellectual and developmental disabilities, autism, other health impairments, traumatic brain injury and multiple/physical disabilities. Knowledge of characteristics as it relates to age, levels of severity and developmental differences in all areas of functioning are studied. Additional attention is directed to causes, programs/services, current issues and future directions in the field.

SPED 330 FIELD EXPERIENCE II (SE) (1) *Prerequisites: EDUC 202, 211.* This course provides pre-service teachers with opportunities to apply instructional skills in controlled situations under the guidance of experienced professionals. Students participate in two hours of observations and tutorial instructional activities per week in special education classrooms in local public and private schools. There will be opportunities to view the structure of general education classrooms and other instructional settings representing the continuum of special education services. Seminars and other activities will provide opportunities for analysis and reflection. This course may be retaken only once with the permission of the instructor. A grade of B- or above is required in this course before taking SPED 430. Enrollment in SPED 330 is limited to students enrolled in a teacher licensure program.

SPED 331 PROGRAM DESIGN IN SPECIAL EDUCATION (3) *Prerequisites: EDUC 211, SPED 213.* This course provides training in program design for students with disabilities who are accessing the general education curriculum across the K-12 grade levels. It provides knowledge regarding IEP and Section 504 plans, inclusion with nondisabled peers, service delivery, designing classroom environments and management, adapting materials and technology. Program accommodations, placement, scheduling, grouping, curriculum development/models (both general and special education) will also be addressed.

SPED 334 CHARACTERISTICS OF LEARNING AND RELATED DISABILITIES (3) *Prerequisite: SPED 213.* This course focuses on the study of the definitions, characteristics, theories, etiology and learning/behavioral support needs of students with disabilities who are accessing the general education curriculum at K-12 school levels. Included are students with learning disabilities, emotional disturbance and behavior disorders. Knowledge of characteristics as it relates to age, levels of severity, and developmental differences in all areas of functioning are studied. Attention is directed to causes, educational needs and specialized methods/ programs/services as well as current issues and future directions in the field.

SPED 336 COLLABORATION WITH FAMILIES, EDUCATORS, AND RELATED SERVICE PROVIDERS (3) *Prerequisites: EDUC 101, 201, 202, PSYC 241, SPED 213.* Students in this course are introduced to the issues and practices of educators who deal with students with diverse learning challenges. Students learn effective collaboration strategies that will help them deal with para-educators, peer teachers, families, related service providers, and community agency staff members. Attention is given to issues such as integrated services, coordination between general and special educators, teaming, family-focused collaboration, community resources, and models of service delivery.

SPED 397 INDEPENDENT STUDY IN SPECIAL EDUCATION (1-3) *Prerequisites: Approval of faculty sponsor and school dean; junior or senior standing.* This course provides students the opportunity to pursue individual study of topics not covered in other available courses. The area for investigation is developed in consultation with a faculty sponsor and credit is dependent on the nature of the work. May be repeated for no more than six credits.

SPED 398 SPECIAL TOPICS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION (1-3) [credit depends on topic] *Prerequisite: A background of work in the discipline.* This course will focus on an aspect of the discipline not otherwise covered by the regularly offered courses. The topic will vary according to professor and term; consequently, more than one may be taken by a student during his/her matriculation.

SPED 430 FIELD EXPERIENCE III (SE) (1) *Prerequisites: SPED 330 and passing scores on Praxis I.* This course provides students with opportunities to apply instructional skills in controlled situations under the guidance of an experienced professional. Students participate in two hours of observations, tutorial, and small and large group instructional activities per week in classrooms in local public and private schools. Students have the opportunity to experience the structure and organization of general education classrooms and other instructional settings representing the continuum of special education services. On-campus and in-school seminars provide opportunities for analysis and reflection. A grade of B- or above is

required in this course before student teaching. This course may be retaken only once with the permission of the instructor. Enrollment in SPED 330 is limited to students enrolled in a teacher licensure program.

SPED 431 LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS FOR EXCEPTIONAL LEARNERS (3) *Prerequisites: EDUC 211, PSYC 213.* This course provides a study of language development and communication problems in students with disabilities. Remedial methods and intervention programming in speech, language and communication are explored. Attention is directed to the sociocultural variations and alternative communication problems in this population. The course also includes attention to curricula, methods, materials, and adaptations in language arts.

SPED 432 METHODS FOR READING AND ACADEMIC CONTENT (3) *Prerequisite: SPED 331.* This course provides the skills to develop instruction, methods, materials for individual student special needs in academic subjects including reading, language arts, math, social studies. Alternate methods/strategies for teaching in the general education curriculum with models such as differentiated instruction, direct instruction, student directed instruction, CBA etc. will be addressed. Best practice teaching methods in the continuum of special/general services models will be adapted for students.

SPED 433 TRANSITION, LIFE SKILLS, AND COMMUNICATION (3) *Prerequisites: SPED 234, 331, 334.* This course introduces preservice teachers in special education to transitions in the life of a student with special needs. Curriculum, instruction, methods, materials and technology for helping students to learn transition, training, employment, career/independent life skills and community experiences will be addressed. Writing of IEPs, ITPs and Person Centered Plans will be practiced. Skills and strategies of communication and language in the areas of social, pragmatics and alternative/assistive technology are explored.

SPED 437 STUDENT TEACHING (SPED) (11) *Prerequisite: Completion of all major course requirements; Corequisite EDUC 448.* This course is an application of all the effective teaching skills that have been learned in course work in mental retardation. Students are assigned to one semester, full time block under the supervision of College personnel and classroom teachers where they practice their teaching skills.

SPED 445 ADVANCED FIELD EXPERIENCE IN DISABILITY SERVICES (3-6) *Prerequisite: Successful completion of field experiences, minimum 2.5 GPA overall, consent of instructor for 3 credit hours and consent of dean for 6 credit hours.* This course provides a non-school placement within the disabilities community, including vocational training, case management, early intervention, related therapies, specific disabilities, and advocacy. Open only to senior students taking the non-licensure option. Application required.

SPED 464 INTRODUCTION TO ASSESSMENT IN SPECIAL EDUCATION (3) *Prerequisites: SPED 213, 234, 334.* This course prepares students to take an active role in the determination of eligibility for special education services within public schools. The primary focus will be directed toward the administration, scoring, and interpretation of educational and individual achievement measures.