

I. EDUC 568 Practicum in Reading**II. Semester Hours: 6 (graduate)****III. Course Description**

This course consists of a practicum experience in which the graduate student formally and informally assesses the literacy abilities of students experiencing literacy difficulties, accelerated students, those with cultural differences, and/or varied linguistic backgrounds. Emphasis is placed on: gathering data for a holistic understanding of the literacy proficiency of a student; use of diverse assessment tools; examination and modification of the learning environment, methods, and materials; appropriate intervention based on assessment, and the development of a case study report that is shared with parents and educational professionals. The course adds specialty knowledge in the areas of assessment, intervention, and correction of literacy difficulties and providing for the unique needs of diverse students.

IV. Place of the Course in the Curriculum

This practicum experience is a required course for the reading specialist strand in the Master's in Education, Reading Specialist Endorsement and the Master's in Education, ELL Endorsement and Reading Specialist Endorsement. The course takes place toward the end of the master's program and provides an opportunity for the graduate student to utilize literacy knowledge acquired in previous courses while working with PK-12 students in the classroom.

V. Course Goal and Objectives**A. Goal**

The major purpose of this course is to have the graduate student assess and plan appropriate modifications for students who are experiencing literacy difficulties in reading or who need to be challenged to use their abilities to greater advantage.

B. Objectives

In this course, the graduate student will satisfactorily demonstrate the ability to:

1. Collect and use appropriate personal data (both educational and non-educational factors), including students' interests, reading abilities, learning style, and background information to better understand and assist preschool,

elementary, or secondary students who need assistance in reading. (T-S3, T-K1, T-D1, LD-S3, LD-S2, LR-K1)

2. Compare and contrast, interpret, recommend, and train others in utilizing a wide range of assessment tools (formal and informal, technology-based, authentic, whole group and individual). (T-S3, T-K1, T-D1, LD-S2, LR-K1)
3. Utilize assessment data to plan a personalized reading program for a student based on knowledge of the student's stage of literacy development across subject areas, proficiencies, difficulties, interests, and background. (T-S2, T-K1, LD-S1, LD-K1, LR-S1, LD-S1, LD-S2, LR-K1)
4. Use a wide range of instructional practices, approaches, materials, and methods, including technology-based practices, for learners at differing stages of development and from differing cultural and linguistic backgrounds. (T-K1, LD-D1, LD-S2)
5. Utilize assessment data to plan, evaluate, and revise effective instruction to meet the diverse needs of all students via collaboration with other education professionals. (T-S2, T-S1, T-S3, T-K1)
6. Use observational assessment procedures to plan and monitor student learning and the impact of the learning environment. (T-S2, LD-S3)
7. Keep accurate records and develop a retrieval system in order to inform the students, parents, and school about progress made and to make recommendations regarding the students' continued work in reading. (T-S3, T-D1, LD-S3, LD-S1, LD-S2, LD-D1, LR-K1)
8. Administer and score informal and formal diagnostic literacy tests and interpret, summarize, and report the process/results in a case study report form. (LD-S3, LD-S1, LD-S2, LD-D1, T-D1)
9. Coach teachers in the selection and use of evidence-based and appropriate materials, methods, and assessment tools via reports to other professionals, referrals, and actual demonstration. (T-S1)
10. Communicate assessment results to students, parents/care-givers, colleagues, education specialists, administrators, policymakers, public officials, and the general public. (Y-S3, LD-S1)
11. Select from various types of text (books, technology-based information, non-print) to address literacy levels, interests, cultural and linguistic backgrounds, etc., and to

- assist certified personnel in selection and use of such texts.(T-S2, T-S1, LD-S2)
12. Provide appropriate intervention in the core literacy areas of phonics, phonemic awareness, vocabulary, comprehension, fluency, etc. (T-S1, LR-S1)
 13. Demonstrate a professional, caring disposition toward students, families, colleagues, and communities when serving as a reading specialist and to articulate the theories related to the ethical and caring attitudes of teachers' dispositions and student achievement. (LD-D1, LD-S1, T-D2)

VI. Content (T-S2, T-S1, T-S3, T-S4, T-K1, LD-K1, LR-S1, LD-S1, LD-S2)

Content pertaining to the case study process:

- A. Procedures prior to collection of data assessment
- B. Collection of data relating to the "whole child"
 1. Family interview form
 2. Medical history
 3. Educational history
 4. Cultural and language background
 5. Attitudes, interests, motivation
 6. Literacy autobiography
- C. Use of formal and informal measures to assess literacy development
 1. Standardized literacy tests, including survey and diagnostic
 2. Criterion-referenced tests
 3. Informal reading inventories
 4. Running records
 5. Anecdotal evidence
 6. Emergent literacy level assessment tools (including Concepts About Print)
 7. Adolescent literacy level assessment tools
- D. Assessment of key literacy components
 1. Phonemic awareness
 2. Phonics
 3. Letter knowledge, numbers, core sight words, etc.
 5. Visual and auditory discrimination
 6. Oral language
 7. Word recognition
 8. Vocabulary
 9. Comprehension of diverse types of texts
 10. Fluency
 11. Spelling
 12. Writing
 13. Grammar

14. Study skills

- E. Development of a thumbnail sketch of the case study student prior to selective administration of assessments
- F. Diagnostic teaching and resultant individualized literacy instruction (assessing literacy needs, establishing goals, and developing a plan)
- G. Selecting and evaluating instructional materials and technology resources that match the needs and level of the case study student
- H.. Writing a comprehensive case study
- I. Writing reports to school personnel and parents/guardians

Content pertaining to formal and informal assessment of educational and non-educational factors, appropriate intervention/correction:

- A. Physical and cognitive conditions that create differences in literacy achievement
 - 1. Neurological differences
 - 2. Visual changes
 - 3. Visual-perceptual tasks
 - 4. Auditory differences
 - 5. Kinesthetic-tactile differences
 - 6. Gender differences
 - 7. Cognitive style differences
- B. Affective and motivation conditions that create differences in literacy achievement
 - 1. Motivation
 - 2. Engagement
 - 3. Learned helplessness
- C. Embracing reader's social and cultural richness
 - 4. Cultural influences on literacy achievement
 - 5. Interaction patterns influenced by cultural and social variables
 - 6. Diagnosing and instructing to capitalize on cultural and social richness in struggling readers' lives
- D. Assessment to inform instruction
 - 7. Principles of effective assessment and diagnosis
 - 8. Formal diagnosis, instruction, and assessment of students with special literacy needs (achievement tests, standardized reading survey tests, specialized standardized tests, interpreting test scores)
 - 9. Informal assessment (observational tools, informal reading inventories, running records, retellings)
- E. Creating optimal learning environments
 - 1. Principles of organization, time, and routines
 - 2. Designing a quality curriculum
 - 3. Qualities of effective instructional groups
 - 4. Solving classroom and one-on-one learning difficulties

- F. Enhancing emergent literacy
 - 1. Emergent literacy concepts, including phonemic awareness
 - 2. Literacy interventions for emergent readers/writers
 - 3. Supports for emergent readers/writers
 - 4. Diagnosing emergent reader's needs
 - 5. Diagnosing the needs of struggling emergent readers
- G. Enhancing decoding abilities
 - 1. Sight word strategies
 - 2. Semantic and syntactic context clues
 - 3. Structural analysis
 - 4. Phonics
 - 5. Dictionaries and Thesauruses
- H. Enhancing comprehension
 - 1. Before, during, and after reading strategies
 - 2. Narrative text
 - 3. Expository text
 - 4. Metacognition
 - 5. Diagnosing and assessing comprehension
- I. Enhancing fluency
- J. Assisting reluctant writers
- K. Assisting students who face spelling, grammar, and handwriting challenges
- L. Assisting students who face oral language challenges
 - 6. Developmentally related speaking difficulties
 - 7. Diagnosing speaking difficulties
 - 8. Second-language speaking difficulties
 - 9. Dialectically different language learners
 - 10. Instructional activities for second-language or dialectically different studies
- M. Support for special problems
 - 11. Learning disabilities
 - 12. Auditory functions
 - 13. Learning styles differences
 - 14. Multiple intelligence theory
 - 15. Emotional and attentional barriers
 - 16. Mental dysfunction
 - 17. Dyslexia
 - 18. Effective early intervention programs
 - 19. Special tutorial programs

VII. Methodology (T-D1, LD-S3, LD-S1, LD-S2, LD-D1, LR-S1, LR-D1, LR-K1)

The graduate students will work directly with PK, elementary and/or secondary students who are classified as “experiencing literacy difficulties” or “accelerated”.

In addition to working with children, graduate students will periodically relate assessment data and discuss diagnostic teaching strategies. The supervisor of the practicum will be responsible for developing mini-lessons for the graduate students and referring them to appropriate resources as the case study process progresses. (Learner) (LD-S3, T-S2, LD-S2, LD-D1, T-D1)

The university supervisor of the practicum will: 1. oversee assessment data collection, 2. facilitate diagnostic teaching, and 3. provide individual guidance to each graduate student during the development of the case study. (Teacher, Learner) (LR-S1, LD-S2, LR-D1. :R-K1)

Practicum participants will conference with parents at the beginning and end of the course. They will consult with classroom teachers as part of the assessment process and will file a formal report on each student's progress at the conclusion of the practicum. The reports will be shared with appropriate school personnel and the parents. (Leader) (T-D1, LD-S3, LD-S1, LD-S2, LD-D1)

VIII. Student Roles

- A. Fully participate in electronic discussion boards, chat rooms, or other Blackboard activities as assigned by the instructor.
- B. Satisfactorily complete the following assignments:
 - 1. Obtain legal consent from the parents/guardians and principal prior to beginning the case study.
 - 2. Assess the literacy development of the student via formal and/or informal measures and keep a portfolio of representative assessments.
(T-S2, T-S3, T-K1, LD-K1, T-D1, LD-S3, LD-S2, LR-D1, LR-K1)
 - 3. Write a comprehensive case study for one student.
(T-S2, T-S3, T-K1, LD-K1, T-D1, LD-S3, LD-S2, LR-D1, LR-K1)
 - 4. Maintain a practicum log that may include the name of the assessment tool, a summary of findings or observations, a possible course of action for diagnostic teaching, reflections, etc.
 - 5. Prepare a written report citing each child's progress and stating recommendations to be shared with other teachers or professionals (if appropriate), the principal, and the parents/guardians.
(T-D1, LD-S3, T-S2, LD-S1, LD-S2, LR-K1)
- C. Complete assigned readings and other learning products assigned by the instructor

IX. Evaluation (T-S2, T-S1, T-S3, LD-D1, LD-K1, LR-S1, LD-S3, LD-S2, T-D1, LR-K1)

Evaluation will be based on the following assignments and components:

Professionalism
Completion of assigned readings
Participation in electronic discussion board and other Blackboard activities
Documentation of informal and/or formal assessments
(portfolio)
Comprehensive case study
Practicum log
Educ 568 Reading Practicum Evaluation

X. Representative Bibliography

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