Texas A&M University – San Antonio
Department of Educator and Leadership Preparation
EDEC 4302 Action Research

A. MAJOR COURSE DESCRIPTION/REQUIREMENT

This advanced course draws on child growth, development, and learning theory and focuses on contemporary research in all aspects of development, including bio-ecological, social-affective, cognitive-learning, language-cultural, and methodological aspects of research in early childhood development and education. This course prepares early childhood professionals to use empirically based research to inform their work with young children as well as preparing them to be researchers in their work settings.

B. LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Plan and compose a draft explaining the background of the problem and the question they are interested in answering in the action research project.
2. Analyze literature from an action research problem composing a draft on the literature.
3. Explain and compose a draft including the research approach, method, demographics / participants, procedure, data collection and analysis.
4. Analyze the data collected and write a draft.
5. Summarize conclusions from the data collected and write a draft.
6. Utilize professor feedback, writing center feedback, and Turn-it-in Feedback to compile a professional final paper, which includes all drafts and APA standards.
7. Complete the Citi Training.
8. Reflect on intentional teaching to understand your professional identity, interests and challenges.
9. Present your Action Research Project to the class.

C. LECTURE OR DISCUSSION TOPICS

- Writing Center
- Ethics in Research and Citi Training
- What is action research
- Intentional teaching and reflecting on your practice
- Developing a Literature Review and Using a Database
- Choosing a methodology
- Data Analysis
- Independent Research Sessions

D. REQUIRED OR RECOMMENDED READINGS

Students will be required to read the following:

- 100 Questions and Answers About Action Research by Luke Duesbery and Todd Twyman
- Intentional Teaching in Early Childhood: Ignite your passion for learning and improve outcomes for young children by Sandra Heidemann, Beth Menninga, and Claire Chang.