

Important Dates:

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| January 16 | First day of class |
| March 11-17 | Spring Break – No classes |
| March 29 | Study Day – No classes |
| April 13 | Last day to drop with an automatic “W” |
| April 20 | Last day to drop a course or withdraw from the University |
| April 29 | Last day of classes |
| April 30 | Study Day – No classes |
| May 1-7 | Final exams |

The complete academic calendar is available online: <https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/academic-calendar/index.html>

We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated. Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

No Use of Generative AI Permitted

[Insert Course Number] assumes that all work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups. Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status (titleix@tamusa.edu; 210-784-2061; CAB 439K).

Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities: The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

Students' Rights

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

Students' Responsibilities

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty and administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, Student Code of Conduct, on our website, University Catalog and to comply with them, as well as federal, state, and local laws.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide an environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notification.

to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

The Six-Drop Rule: Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equality of opportunity and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units. Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@tamusa.edu, 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

Pregnant/Parenting Students: Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide reasonable accommodations to pregnant students that would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition and that are related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn

[us/campus-information/safety/university-police-department/documents/emergency-action-plan.pdf](https://www.tamusa.edu/campus-information/safety/university-police-department/documents/emergency-action-plan.pdf)

Download the SafeZone App for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non-Emergency (210) 784-1900

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance: According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center: The Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center supports graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. Students can schedule appointments through JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on “Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center” to make your appointment. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at <https://bit.ly/WLDCCenter>.

Meeting Basic Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students (DOS@tamusa.edu) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to provide any resources they may possess.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to communicate, in advance if possible, and special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployment, drill requirements, disability accommodations). You are also encouraged to visit the Patriots’ Casa in-person room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military.va@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due

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| Week 15 | Final Thesis (formatted correctly) due to A&M-SA Digital Commons. Thesis presentation (defense) must be completed |
| Week 16 | Graduation and Hooding |

****Each master's thesis is unique and specific to the individual graduate student's research study. Each graduate student should work with their Thesis Chair to determine acceptable timelines and deadlines to maintain successful progression. The above timeline is only a recommendation as each individual graduate student's study is different.*

Academic Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, please contact Disability Support Services in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210, or at (210) 784-1335 or visit <https://www.tamusa.edu/index.html> or email us at dss@tamusa.edu. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

Academic Learning Center: The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the *Tools* section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu, calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202.

Counseling/Mental Health Resources: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and/or negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services.

Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 (after-hours select option '2'). For more information and self-help resources, please visit www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling

Emergency Preparedness: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>.

More information about Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan can be found here: <https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/campus-information/safety/university-police-department/documents/emergency-operations-plan.pdf> and <https://www.tamusa.edu/about->

abstract page, dedication page, and acknowledgement page, the table of contents, paper, references, and vita uploaded to A&M-SA Digital Commons

- **Thesis Grades as per the Graduate Catalog:** *Students enrolled in the 5307 are required to be continuously enrolled every semester in the class until they receive a grade in the class. For each semester they are enrolled but do not complete the requirements, the student is given an IP (In Progress). Students will be allowed two IPs (long semester enrollments). If at the end of the second enrollment in the class, the student still has not completed the requirements, the student will be placed on FAS (Financial Aid Suspension).*

F. UNIVERSITY THESIS GUIDELINES

Texas A&M University-San Antonio Graduate Thesis Manual ([link to come](#))

PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO FORMATTING, SUBMISSION, AND FORMS!!!

G. COMPLETED FORMS SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

There are several documents that will need to be submitted for successful completion of this course: 1) Thesis Committee Agreement Document with Thesis Chair and Committee's and graduate student's signature 2) Oral Defense and Thesis-Dissertation Approval Form 3) a Thesis Approval Document with Thesis Chair and graduate student's signature. All three of these items will be uploaded to the Blackboard shell and to the EDCI Masters Faculty TEAMS folder by the instructor.

For 2023, Theses will be submitted through digital commons.

https://digitalcommons.tamusa.edu/masters_theses/

Also upload a copy here

[Thesis Fall 2023 folder](#)

H. REQUIRED GRADUATE STUDENT FORMS AND DOCUMENTS

All forms that the Thesis Chair, Committee, and graduate students will need to successfully complete this course, including master's thesis templates for both qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods research, will be provided in the Blackboard course shell.

SUGGESTED TIMELINE (depending on student's situation)

Official dates are available here:

www.tamusa.edu/academics/research-and-graduate-studies/graduate-studies/graduate-students/deadlines.html

| Date | Milestones |
|---------|---|
| Week 3 | Apply to graduate Thesis Committee Agreement signed and returned to Masters PoC |
| Week 5 | Revised Research Problem, Literature Review, and Method approved by advisor |
| Week 6 | Full draft of Thesis due to Advisor (see formatting of front material, etc. in Thesis Manual) |
| Week 8 | Edits returned to student for revision |
| Week 10 | FINAL DRAFT of Thesis due to entire Thesis Committee |
| Week 11 | Schedule Thesis presentation (defense) |

Students will:

1. Build capacity to advocate for students and families in diverse communities.
2. Develop a complex and sophisticated understanding of diverse populations.
3. Become critical interpreters of research and understand how it is used in education careers.
4. Become creators of research to address issues in education.
5. Explain issues within institutions and develop possible solutions.
6. Identify and secure resources to support diverse populations, effecting systematic change.

C. LECTURE OR DISCUSSION TOPICS:

- Methods of research
- Effective communication in academic writing
- Specific academic literature for the proposal and rationale
- Specific academic literature for the method

Required Textbook: N/A

- Mertler, C. A. (2021). Introduction to educational research. Sage publications.
- Other books and articles related to thesis topic.
- Readings will be available through Blackboard.
- Student selected readings from professional literature relating to their action research project.

Support for APA 7th Edition Writing & Citing

- The A&M-SA Library houses print copies of the [APA Publication Manual 7th Edition \(2020\)](#) for in-library use.
- Much of the essential content from the print manual is available online for the 7th Edition. See the APA's 7th Edition [Style and Grammar Guidelines page](#) for links to explanations and examples for most of the rules.
- For additional resources, see the Library's [Basics of APA Guide](#); contact the A&M-SA Writing Center; or call or email [Kimberly Grotewold](#), the Education Librarian.

Thesis

- Across the university, students in various programs complete a thesis as part of their graduate coursework.
 - The thesis is a university-based assignment to be approved by the office of Graduate Studies.
 - As a university assignment, any involving humans will require formal approval from TAMUSA's Institutional Review Board (IRB), as well as other participating institutions like school districts.
 - Pseudonyms will be used for people, schools, and districts, when applicable.
- A thesis, regardless of its method, will address the following five areas (chapters):
 - **Chapter 1 Introduction:** Introduction to research questions and design.
 - **Chapter 2 Literature Review:** An analysis of professional references on your topic.
 - **Chapter 3 Methodology:** A description of methods for data collection and analysis.
 - **Chapter 4 Findings and Discussion:** A description and discussion of the results.
 - **Chapter 5 Conclusion:** A description of key conclusions for the broader audience.
 - **References:** A list of the work cited throughout the thesis.
- Two paper copies of the Thesis **signature page only** routed to the Office of Graduate Studies, Provosts Office, CAB 435, **and** one electronic copy of the entire paper: the required cover page,



**Texas A&M University-San Antonio
 College of Education & Human Development
 Department of Curriculum & Instruction**

EDCI 5307 Thesis II

Contact Information:

Instructor: Dr. Lorrie Webb
 Office Phone Number: 210-784-2554
 Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description:

This course is the culmination of each student’s experience in the Curriculum and Instruction-Teaching in Diverse Communities program where students conduct research on a meaningful aspect of the Education field. Students will work one-on-one with their thesis advisor to identify times that they will meet and create a plan for communication throughout the process of completing the thesis. The thesis must demonstrate rigorous analytic thinking, coherent project development, and demonstrate a deep understanding of Curriculum and Instruction. The thesis is a work of original scholarship, designed with guidance from a thesis advisor and thesis committee. While the majority of the course is made up of independent work, with time organized mainly into regular one-on-one critiques with thesis advisor, students will present at a thesis review (defense) where students will present their research to broader members of the academic community. A copy of the final thesis is uploaded to the University Archives.

A. MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

| MILESTONS AND DESCRIPTIONS | |
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| Form a Thesis Committee | A signed document stating the expectations of the Thesis Chair and committee members as they guide the graduate student through the thesis writing process. This document is signed by the Thesis Chair, the Committee Members, and the graduate student. |
| Agreed upon benchmarks and milestones for graduate student’s thesis proposal | Each graduate student and their Thesis Chair will work together to develop a calendar of specific dates for drafts of the Thesis Proposal to be submitted to the Thesis Chair for feedback. The two will also work together to determine a calendar of meeting dates and how they will communicate (via email, via phone, via Zoom, etc.) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Revised and expanded chapter 1 Introduction. ● Revised and expanded chapter 2 Literature Review ● Revised and expanded chapter 3 Method | After proposal is accepted in Thesis 1, the chapters are revised and expanded based on the new learning the student did with their study and work to build interpretations. The thesis is individual and unique so there is not a specific number of pages required. However, Thesis Chairs can find sample templates in the TEAMS folder to provide the graduate student as a guide. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Submit chapter 4 Findings. ● Submit chapter 5 Implications | Student will present findings, theories, and conclusions in Chapters 4 and 5. All areas must be cited and referenced using APA 7 formatting. |
| Present (defend) your thesis to a broader audience (To be negotiated with the thesis advisor) | When the advisor and committee view the thesis as ready for presentation (defense), the student and the advisor will work out a time for the presentation to the faculty and community. |

B. LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Program Outcomes