

Texas A&M University- San Antonio
Department of Educator and Leadership Preparation
EDEC 5370 Research in Early Childhood

Course Description

This capstone course provides students the opportunity to complete their Graduate Research Project (GRP) by identifying and investigating school and community-based problems and applying inquiry writing, and research skills to a relevant issue or concern in early childhood. Students develop and implement a relevant research project that includes a problem statement, literature review, data collection, analysis, and summary/application. Alternatively, students pursuing a Master's Thesis may substitute this class for the first 3 credit hours of EDEC 5306 Thesis.

Main Course Assignments

- Quizzes (5 – 4pts each)
 - Survey, Action Research, Content Analysis, Self-Study, and Case Study
- Chapter 1 Introduction
- Chapter 2 Literature Review
- Chapter 3 Methodology
- Chapter 4 Findings and Discussion
- Chapter 5 Implications
- References
- Independent Writing Time
- Two visits with the Writing Center
- Two one-on-one meetings with instructor: Before and after March 15

Student Learning Objectives (SLO)

- Choose, design, and conduct educational research relevant to the field of early childhood.
- Understand the research process.
- Write an introduction to their selected project.
- Write a literature review for their selected project.
- Determine the qualitative methodology that will best suit their research problem.
- Analyze and present the data collected as it connects to their research question.
- Identify the implications of their research for a broader audience.

Lecture of Discussion Topics

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| • Research in Early Childhood | Methodology: Content Analysis |
| • Qualitative Research | Methodology: Surveys and Interviews |
| • Methodology: Case Study | Research cycle |
| • Methodology: Action Research | Data collection and analysis |
| • Methodology: Self-Study | Research writing |

Required Textbook:

- Mukherji, P. & Albon, D. (2018). *Research methods in early childhood: An introductory guide (3rd ed.)* SAGE. ISBN: 9781526423719

In addition, students also read broadly and deeply about their selected research topic, question, and methodology.