



Texas A & M University-San Antonio College of Education and Human Development

Department of Educator and Leadership Preparation

EDSE 3343: Child Development of the Exceptional Learner

A. MAJOR COURSE DESCRIPTION/REQUIREMENT

Description: This course will cover the development of exceptional learning from conception until childhood in the elementary through high school years. Prenatal, perinatal, and postnatal development will be discussed, as well as early childhood development and moving forward into school-aged years. Behavioral and educational considerations for each of these stages will also be covered.

B. LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- The theories of development – psychoanalytic, cognitive-developmental and information processing, and learning.
- The stages of prenatal development from conception to birth.
- Factors – genetic, chromosomal, and environmental – that affect development.
- The typical early infancy behaviors and health care.
- Behaviors that deviate from the typical developmental milestones.
- The physical, perceptual, and cognitive development that affects the child's growth through adolescence and post-secondary life.

C. Lecture or Discussion Topics

- Understand the stages of prenatal, perinatal, and postnatal development.
- Analyze early childhood development and its impact on learning.

- Examine the transition from early childhood to school-aged years.
- Identify behavioral and educational considerations for each developmental stage.
- Apply theoretical knowledge to practical scenarios in educational settings.

Standards

Special Education EC-6 Standards. [19 TAC §228.57(a)]

Special Education Specialist Standards: Early Childhood-Grade 6

(b) Legal and Ethical Guidelines

(8) demonstrate knowledge of the special education teacher's roles and responsibilities regarding Child Find

(19) demonstrate understanding that students served through special education may also have other special populations identifiers (i.e., gifted and talented, English learners, highly mobile and at risk, dyslexia)

24) demonstrate a foundational knowledge of the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).

(c) Understanding and Addressing Each Individual's Developmental and Learning Needs.

(1) demonstrate knowledge about relevant physical and emotional development from birth through adolescence

(2) demonstrate knowledge of how stress, trauma, protective factors, resilience, and supportive relationships may impact learning, behavior, and development in young children

(3) demonstrate knowledge of how exceptionalities can interact with development and learning

(4) demonstrate understanding that students with all support needs may also come from a different cultural background, may speak other languages than those of the dominant culture, or may come from a unique racial or ethnic group

(7) apply a variety of evidence-based, age-appropriate classroom routines and procedures that support individual developmental and learning needs

(f) Supporting Learning Using Effective Instruction

(11) apply knowledge of developmentally appropriate instructional strategies to engage, motivate, and promote learning specific to the needs of young children with exceptionalities

(19) demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the learning processes of young children

(c) Understanding and Addressing Each Individual's Developmental and Learning Needs

The Grades 6-12 special education teacher must:

- (1) demonstrate knowledge about relevant physical and emotional development for early adolescence through early adulthood
- (2) demonstrate knowledge of how specific developmental characteristics of the teenage brain impact learning (e.g., decision-making, problem-solving, impulse control, and relationships)

Required Texts and Materials:

OER provided in class

- Additional readings and resources will be provided via the course website.

Assignment 1: Research Paper on Prenatal Development

- **Objective:** To understand the stages and factors influencing prenatal development.
- **Instructions:** Write a 5-7 page research paper on prenatal development. Include the stages of prenatal development, factors that influence it (e.g., genetics, environment, maternal health), and potential impacts on later learning and behavior. Use at least five scholarly sources.
- **Due Date:** [Insert Date]
- **Grading Criteria:** Clarity of writing, depth of research, use of sources, and adherence to APA format.

Assignment 2: Case Study Analysis on Perinatal and Postnatal Development

- **Objective:** To analyze the impact of perinatal and postnatal factors on child development.
- **Instructions:** Review a provided case study detailing a child's perinatal and postnatal history. Write a 3-4 page analysis discussing how these factors may influence the child's development and learning. Include recommendations for early interventions.
- **Due Date:** [Insert Date]
- **Grading Criteria:** Insightfulness of analysis, application of course concepts, and quality of recommendations.

Assignment 3: Observation and Reflection on Early Childhood Development

- **Objective:** To observe and reflect on early childhood development in a real-world setting.
- **Instructions:** Spend at least 2 hours observing children aged 0-5 years in a daycare, preschool, or similar setting. Write a 2-3 page reflection on your observations, focusing on physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development. Relate your observations to course readings and theories.
- **Due Date:** [Insert Date]
- **Grading Criteria:** Depth of reflection, connection to course material, and clarity of writing.

Assignment 4: Lesson Plan for School-Aged Children

- **Objective:** To create an educational plan that addresses the needs of school-aged children.

- **Instructions:** Develop a detailed lesson plan for a specific subject (e.g., math, reading) for children in the early elementary years. Include objectives, materials, activities, and assessment methods. Ensure the lesson plan incorporates strategies for differentiated instruction and addresses behavioral considerations.
- **Due Date:** [Insert Date]
- **Grading Criteria:** Completeness of the lesson plan, creativity, alignment with educational standards, and inclusion of differentiated instruction strategies.

Assignment 5: Group Presentation on Behavioral and Educational Considerations

- **Objective:** To collaboratively explore behavioral and educational considerations for different developmental stages.
- **Instructions:** In groups of 3-4, prepare a 15-minute presentation on behavioral and educational considerations for a specific developmental stage (e.g., infancy, toddlerhood, early childhood, school-aged years). Use multimedia elements (e.g., slides, videos) to enhance your presentation. Each group member should contribute equally.
- **Due Date:** [Insert Date]
- **Grading Criteria:** Quality of content, effectiveness of presentation, teamwork, and use of multimedia.

Assignment 6: Final Project - Developmental Portfolio

- **Objective:** To synthesize knowledge of exceptional learning development across all stages.
- **Instructions:** Create a comprehensive portfolio that includes sections on prenatal, perinatal, postnatal, early childhood, and school-aged development. For each section, include a summary of key concepts, relevant research, case studies, and practical applications. The portfolio should demonstrate your understanding of the developmental stages and their educational implications.
- **Due Date:** [Insert Date]
- **Grading Criteria:** Thoroughness, organization, integration of course material, and overall presentation.

Course Schedule:

Week 1: Introduction to Exceptional Learning

- Course overview
- Key concepts and definitions

Week 2: Prenatal Development

- Stages of prenatal development
- Factors influencing prenatal development

Week 3: Perinatal Development

- Birth process and immediate postnatal period
- Impact of perinatal factors on development

Week 4: Postnatal Development

- Early postnatal development
- Health and nutrition considerations

Week 5: Early Childhood Development (0-2 years)

- Physical and cognitive development
- Social and emotional development

Week 6: Early Childhood Development (3-5 years)

- Language acquisition
- Play and learning

Week 7: Transition to School-Aged Years

- School readiness
- Early educational interventions

Week 8: Behavioral Considerations

- Common behavioral issues in early childhood
- Strategies for managing behavior

Week 9: Educational Considerations

- Differentiated instruction
- Inclusive education practices

Week 10: Case Studies and Practical Applications

- Analysis of case studies
- Application of theoretical knowledge

Week 11: Midterm Exam

- Review and assessment

Week 12: Advanced Topics in Early Childhood Education

- Emerging research and trends
- Technology in early childhood education

Week 13: Family and Community Involvement

- Role of family in child development
- Community resources and support

Week 14: Final Project Presentations

- Student presentations on selected topics
- Peer feedback and discussion

Week 15: Course Review and Final Exam Preparation

- Comprehensive review
- Final exam preparation

Assessment and Grading:

- Participation and Attendance: 10%
- Weekly Quizzes: 20%
- Midterm Exam: 20%
- Final Project: 25%
- Final Exam: 25%

Policies:

- **Attendance:** Regular attendance is required. More than three unexcused absences may result in a lower grade.
- **Late Work:** Assignments submitted late will incur a penalty unless prior arrangements are made.
- **Academic Integrity:** Plagiarism and cheating are strictly prohibited and will result in disciplinary action.

Additional Resources:

- [University Writing Center]
- [Counseling Services]
- [Library and Research Support]