

U194-300: The Exceptional Individual

Course Format: Online

Course Authors: Lana L. Collet-Klingenberg, Ph.D. and Karen Dorn Stelzel, M.S.

Course Credits: 3

Pre/Corequisites: None; Appropriate for second-year or higher college or graduate students.

Course Description:

Special needs in today's schools. Learn how to work with children with special needs who require specialized techniques and curricula. After an overview of special education, you will explore topics such as legislation, collaboration, transition, standards, learning disabilities, emotional or behavioral disorders, AD/HD, giftedness, health impairments, intellectual disability, severe and multiple disabilities, autism, traumatic brain injury, physical disabilities, communication disorders, and visual impairments and hearing loss.

Required Course Materials:

- Turnbull, A., Turnbull, H., Wehmeyer, M. L., & Shogren, K. A. (2012). *Exceptional Lives: Special Education in Today's Schools* (7th ed.). Pearson. ISBN-13: 978-0132821773

Course Learning Objectives:

- Identify your own attitudes and values regarding disability.
- Recognize the impact of societal attitudes and values toward disability on the educational system and on the individual.
- Identify the major categories or labels used to describe individuals with specific characteristics or differences.
- Recognize that categories and labels tell us very little about individuals or what they can do.
- Use an appropriate and respectful manner when speaking and writing about individuals with disabilities.
- Explain on a basic level the laws regarding the education of individuals with disabilities, including P.L. 94-142, IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act), ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act), and the professional standards for special education.
- Discuss current educational approaches regarding assessment and evaluation, placement, instruction, and curricula as they relate to individuals with disabilities.
- Recognize a person with a disability as an "exceptional individual" with special needs and unique "abilities."

Course Overview:

UNIT #	UNIT TOPIC	EVALUATED ACTIVITIES
1	An Overview of Special Education: Laws, Outcomes, and Visions	Written Assignment
2	Understanding Learners with Learning Disabilities	Written Assignment
3	Understanding Learners with Emotional or Behavioral Disorders	Written Assignment
4	Understanding Learners with Autism	Written Assignment
5	Understanding Learners Who Are Gifted and Talented	Written Assignment
6	Understanding Learners with Health Impairments	Written Assignment
7	Understanding Learners with Intellectual Disability	Written Assignment
8	Understanding Learners with Severe and Multiple Disabilities and Traumatic	Written Assignment

	Brain Injury	
9	Understanding Learners with Physical Disabilities	Written Assignment
10	Understanding Learners with Communication Disorders	Written Assignment
11	Understanding Visual Impairments and Hearing Loss	Written Assignment
12	Collaboration and Transition	Written Assignment
13	Setting the Standard for Special Educators	Written Assignment
14/15	Final Review/Reflection Paper	Final Paper

Evaluation Methods:

Your final grade will be based on your performance on the following:

- 1) Written Assignments (325 points)
- 2) Final Paper (100 points)

Written Assignments (325 points)

Reading comprehension short-essay questions and activities are assigned in each of the first 13 units of this course and will cumulatively account for 325 points towards your final course grade.

Final Paper (100 points)

A paper with four basic parts that summarizes learning in the course will account for 100 points towards your final course grade.

Exam Method: There are no exams in this course
Grading Scale:

The following grading scale is used to evaluate all course requirements and determine your final grade:

A = 93-100	B = 83-87.9	C = 70-77.9	D = 60-69.9
AB = 88-92.9	BC = 78-82.9		F = Below 60

Pass/Fail Option

Students who enroll in an Independent Learning (IL) course under the pass/fail option will receive a final grade of S in place of a final grade equivalent to an A, AB, B, BC, or C and a final grade of U in place of a final grade equivalent to a D or F.