SPECIAL EDUCATION (EDSP)

EDSP 541 IEP Case Management and Assessment
This course prepares candidates to assess and evaluate students with mild to extensive support needs using a variety of standardized and non-standardized tools. Candidates will explore the characteristics of diverse disabilities, service delivery models, and the legal frameworks guiding assessment practices. Emphasis is placed on culturally responsive assessment, collaboration with families, using data to guide instructional planning, IEP development, and placement decisions. Candidates will learn to interpret results, monitor progress, and write professional reports that support meaningful educational outcomes. 3 credits.

EDSP 542 Understanding Diversity and Special Education Law
Prerequisite: EDSP 541.

This course explores the historical, legal, and philosophical foundations of special education, with a focus on how these frameworks influence current practices in eligibility, assessment, and service delivery. Candidates will examine key laws, mandates, and case law, and learn to apply ethical and professional judgment in diverse educational contexts. The course emphasizes collaboration with families and service providers, student self-advocacy, and the creation of supportive, inclusive learning environments. 3 credits.

EDSP 543 Modifications and Accommodations in Learning
Prerequisite: EDSP 541.

This course prepares candidates to design and deliver effective, evidence-based instruction for students with disabilities in diverse and inclusive settings. Emphasis is placed on analyzing assessment data, differentiating instruction, and implementing strategies that support students' academic, behavioral, social, and emotional needs. Candidates will learn to collaborate with educational teams, adapt standards-based curriculum, and develop meaningful IEP goals. The course also addresses culturally responsive teaching practices to ensure equitable learning experiences for students from diverse backgrounds. 3 credits.

EDSP 544 Consultation and Collaboration
Prerequisite: EDSP 541.

This course prepares candidates to build collaborative partnerships that support the academic and developmental needs of students with disabilities. Candidates learn how to effectively communicate with families, educators, and service providers, as well as the coordination of interdisciplinary teams and community resources. Candidates will learn to support student transitions across the lifespan, promote self-determination and advocacy skills, and plan inclusive instruction using evidence-based practices such as UDL, MTSS, and SDAIE. The course also addresses conflict resolution and person-centered planning to ensure equitable, culturally responsive services and successful outcomes for all learners. 3 credits.

EDSP 570 Assistive Technology, AAC Communication and Typical and Atypical Development
Prerequisites: EDSP 541.

This course explores the diverse range of disabilities in children with extensive support needs and the implications for instruction and support. Students will gain a deep understanding of various disabilities, including developmental delays, intellectual disabilities, autism spectrum disorders, and traumatic brain injury, among others. The course emphasizes the use of assistive technologies, including augmentative and alternative communication (AAC), to facilitate curriculum access, communication, and skill development for students with disabilities. Key topics include legal requirements for assistive technology in IEPs, safe procedures for supporting students with health and mobility needs, and the application of developmentally appropriate strategies to encourage participation and engagement in learning environments. 3 credits.

EDSP 599 Special Topics in Education
This variable credit Special Topics in Education course offers an in-depth exploration of a selected subject not regularly addressed in the standard education curriculum. Candidates will critically examine key concepts, theories, and practices related to the chosen educational topic, applying research and analytical skills to investigate complex issues relevant to teaching, learning, or educational policy. Through independent projects, candidates will demonstrate their ability to synthesize information and communicate findings effectively to professional audiences. The course also encourages reflection on the broader implications of the topic within educational, societal, and professional contexts. Credit hours and workload expectations will vary based on course registration. 1-5 credits.