Overview

Educational Psychology and Development of Children and Adolescents is a key component of WGU’s Professional Core and is a required course for all initial licensure candidates. This course prepares candidates to support classroom practices grounded in research-validated principles from the areas of educational psychology and child/adolescent development. Candidates will be introduced to learning theories that equip them with the knowledge and skills necessary to support the diverse populations of students with whom they will interact. This course addresses theories of human development, spanning early childhood through adolescence, and candidates completing this course will be able to explain and analyze the guiding perspectives on linguistic, physical, cognitive, and social development. This course will also cover appropriate instructional and assessment strategies to support student learning and development. Candidates will engage in four hours of virtual classroom observations related to issues in educational psychology and learner development. Cross-cutting themes of technology and diversity are interwoven for further development. This course is designed to be taken after successful completion of the Educational Foundations course.

Competencies

- **Readiness**
  This competency exists to assess the readiness of students.

- **Child and Adolescent Development**
  The graduate describes theories of development across the cognitive, linguistic, social, emotional, and physical areas to understand the needs of students at various developmental levels.

- **Influence of Student Characteristics on Instructional Decisions**
  The graduate evaluates the influence of students’ developmental characteristics on their learning and evaluates performance to inform instructional decisions.

- **Theory-Based Instructional Strategies**
  The graduate recommends instructional strategies that will positively impact learning, based on principles of learning theories.

- **Reflecting on Classroom Practice**
  The graduate evaluates classroom practices to determine how theories of child and adolescent psychology, learning, and development are applied in the classroom environment.
Getting Started

Welcome to Educational Psychology and Development of Children and Adolescents! In this course you will acquire competency in the systematic design of instruction to optimize your instructional efforts. Begin by taking the pre-assessment and use the coaching report and the guidance of a mentor to help you target your studying to the topics where you have more to learn. To complete this course, you will work through the materials and activities as presented in the course. This course is delivered in WGU’s module-based learning platform, which incorporates textbook access, videos, and a variety of other interactive learning components. We encourage you to engage in the interactive components (e.g., questions and quizzes) to remember and practice what you are learning. Your competency will be demonstrated by completing an objective assessment.

GO TO COURSE MATERIAL

Failed to retrieve assessments

COURSE INSTRUCTOR

Student Services

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✉️ studentservices@wgu.edu

IT Service Desk

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Course Instructor Responsibility

How to Work with Course Instructors

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COURSE TIPS

COURSE SEARCH

COURSE CHATTER