Overview

Fundamentals of Diverse Learners is a key component of WGU's Professional Core and is a required course for all initial licensure candidates. This course prepares candidates to consider and address the wide range of learning needs in the classrooms of today. This course teaches candidates to identify and support the needs of diverse populations of learners, including, for example, students with disabilities (INCLUDING DYSLEXIA), English language learners, and gifted and talented students. Practical strategies for differentiating instruction while creating a safe, inclusive, and culturally responsive learning environment are explored. This course helps candidates develop skills for partnering with parents and advocating for all students, particularly those impacted by provisions of IDEA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Multitiered systems of supports are addressed to prepare candidates for their future classrooms as they seek to select appropriate instructional practices and interventions to best serve their students. Candidates will engage in four hours of preclinical experiences that includes a simulated teaching experience in which skills learned can be applied. Cross-cutting themes of technology and diversity are interwoven for further development. This course is designed to be taken after successful completion of the School as a Community of Care course.

Competencies

  The graduate analyzes the application of policies, practices, and legal requirements to inform teaching practice.

- **Supporting Diverse Learners in the Classroom**
  The graduate creates inclusive learning environments featuring multitiered systems of supports to address the needs of all students, including exceptional learners and English learners.

- **Differentiating Instruction in an Inclusive Classroom**
  The graduate creates learning experiences that accommodate the needs of students with exceptionalities, including gifted and talented students, in order to facilitate the success of all learners.

- **Equity Pedagogy for All Learners**
  The graduate integrates equity pedagogy to address the needs of multicultural learners.

- **Best Practices for EL Instruction in Inclusive Classrooms**
  The graduate plans learning experiences that accommodate linguistic diversity to facilitate the success of all learners.

- **Meaningful Collaboration for Student Success**
  The graduate recommends strategies to engage with students, families, administrators, and other stakeholders in ways that are effective, legal, and ethical.
Welcome to Fundamentals of Diverse Learners! Our schools reflect the increasing diversity of our population. As a teacher, you will support learners with a variety of academic and physical abilities as well as learners from a variety of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Readings and resources in the course will help you to learn practical strategies for differentiating instruction to meet the diverse learning needs of your students while creating a safe, inclusive, and culturally responsive learning environment. This course includes carefully selected readings, videos, and interactive formative assessment activities that challenge you to apply what you have learned. Competency will be demonstrated by the successful completion of an objective assessment and a performance assessment that will challenge you with an interactive teaching scenario where you will determine how to apply instructional strategies to support a student with dyslexia. You will also apply research and information from the course to reflect on how to address disparities and inequities in academic achievement for linguistically and culturally diverse students and how you will collaborate with colleagues and communicate with families to address the specific needs of an EL student in a given scenario.

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