Overview

Educational Foundations is a key component of WGU's Professional Core and is a required course for all initial licensure candidates. The course provides candidates with early classroom experience where they observe multiple school settings at three different levels of schooling and interview an educator to learn how state standards and various legal and ethical issues affect classrooms today. The course also provides candidates with opportunities to gain foundational knowledge about what it means to be a teacher in the current educational context while exploring their future role within the larger landscape of historical and cultural influences. This course ensures candidates have a firm grasp on important issues affecting educators including state standards-based curriculum, legal and ethical requirements affecting educational opportunities, and professionalism, preparing them for subsequent coursework within the Professional Core and their content area major courses. Five preclinical hours are interwoven throughout this course, and cross-cutting themes of technology and diversity are introduced for further development throughout the candidate's programs.

Competencies

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

- **Historical, Cultural, and Legal Influences on Education**
  
  The graduate analyzes the role of historical and cultural influences, including issues of federal and state governance, in determining standard educational practices and ensuring equal access to educational opportunities.

- **Standards-Based Curriculum**
  
  The graduate examines the impact of standards-based curriculum on students and teachers to determine how it supports a school's goals.

- **Educational Best Practices in Diverse P–12 Classroom Settings**
  
  The graduate evaluates the application of educational best practices in diverse learning settings to inform teaching practice.

- **Professional Development**
Getting Started

Welcome to Educational Foundations! This course explores what it means to be a teacher by analyzing how historical, cultural and legal influences have shaped education in the United States and examining best practices that can be used to inform teaching practice and growth. This course includes carefully selected readings, videos, and interactive formative assessment activities that highlight the evolution of the classroom, the impact of standards-based curriculum, the importance of high-leverage teaching practices, the personal attributes necessary to become an effective educator, and resources that promote ongoing professional development. Competency will be demonstrated by completing a performance assessment consisting of two tasks that challenge you to apply what you have learned.

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COURSE INSTRUCTOR

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