This course supports the assessment for Differentiated Instruction. The course covers 4 competencies and represents 2 competency units.

**Introduction**

**Overview**

Differentiated Instruction focuses on developing and implementing curriculum and instruction that best meet the needs of all learners within a given instructional setting.

Curriculum and instruction are two terms often used interchangeably in education. In this program, however, at times you will be asked to reflect on these two separately. This course uses the following definitions of terms:

- **Curriculum design**
  Design models that address what is taught in various instructional settings and that include materials, content, and performance objectives.

- **Instructional design**
  Design models that address the practice, including processes, of instructing and imparting knowledge.

- **Curriculum content**
  Content that is being taught (e.g., the content regarding the Revolutionary War, the content in the Declaration of Independence).

- **Instruction**
  Pedagogy (teaching/instructional methods).

- **Curriculum strategy**
  Any plan of action or method of crafting curriculum content and instruction.

**Getting Started**

The changing face of education continues to provide opportunities and challenges. Educators need to have the knowledge and skills to modify curriculum and instruction to meet the learning needs of all students. When you have successfully completed this course, you will be able to appropriately develop, modify, and differentiate curriculum and/or instruction for a variety of instructional settings. You will also gain the knowledge and skills to differentiate curriculum and/or instruction to support diverse students, including those with individualized education plans and English language learners. The resources you will use are in the Soomo learning environment. You will also use e-texts to supplement your learning. You will complete a performance assessment to demonstrate your competency in this subject.

**Competencies**

This course provides guidance to help you demonstrate the following 4 competencies:

- **Competency 509.8.1: Differentiated Instruction Methodologies**
  The graduate integrates methodologies for differentiating instruction into the design of curriculum.
- **Competency 509.8.2: Data-driven Differentiated Curriculum and Instruction**
  The graduate evaluates empirical data to determine the most appropriate and effective manner for modifying curriculum and instruction.

- **Competency 509.8.3: Diverse Educational Environments**
  The graduate modifies curriculum and instruction to address individual student needs in a diverse educational environment.

- **Competency 509.8.4: Individualized Education Plans**
  The graduate modifies curriculum and instruction to align with the specific requirements of an individualized education plan.

**Teaching Dispositions Statement**
Please review the Statement of Teaching Dispositions.

**Course Instructor Assistance**
You should expect to work with course instructors for the duration of your coursework, so you are welcome to contact them as soon as you begin. Course instructors are fully committed to your success!

**Preparing for Success**

The information in this section is provided to detail the resources available for you to use as you complete this course.

**Learning Resources**
The learning resources listed in this section are required to complete the activities in this course.

**Automatically Enrolled Learning Resources**

You will be automatically enrolled at the activity level for the following learning resources. Simply click on the links provided in the activities to access the learning materials.

**Soomo Learning Environment**
The following learning environment will be utilized as the primary learning resource for completion of this course of study:

- Differentiated Instruction

This learning environment will contain links at the activity level to the following additional learning resources:

**Cengage E-Texts**

VitalSource E-Texts


*Note: These e-texts are available to you as part of your program tuition and fees, but you may purchase a hard copy at your own expense through VitalSource or a retailer of your choice. If you choose to do so, please use the ISBN listed to ensure that you receive the correct edition. The following sites provide instruction on how to create a VitalSource account, use features such as downloading your e-texts for offline use, and purchase a print-on-demand option, if available.*

**VitalSource Navigational Video**

**Print-On-Demand Option**

**Supplemental Resources**

VitalSource E-Texts

Below you will find the link to *Planning Effective Instruction*. This text, while not a required textbook for Differentiated Instruction, provides very helpful discussion related to differentiating instruction. Please consider reading chapter 3-6 in Part II, Planning How to Teach, to gain additional information for all tasks.


**Pacing Guide**

The pacing guide suggests a weekly structure to pace your completion of learning activities. It is provided as a suggestion and does not represent a mandatory schedule. Follow the pacing guide carefully to complete the course in the suggested timeframe.

**Week 1 and 2:**

- The Changing Face of Teaching and Learning
- Becoming an Effective Teacher
- The Dilemmas of Discipline and Classroom Management
- We’re All in this Together: Meaningful Family and Community Involvement in Schools
- Differentiating Instruction for Academic Diversity
- Instructional Planning
- Culturally Responsive Teaching:

**Week 3:**
Teaching Every Student

Teaching every individual student is a major principle in education. It is a principle deeply rooted in everything that educational systems and educators do in educating students. Curriculum and instruction are two of the most important means by which educators attempt to reach every student. It is important to reflect how instruction can be differentiated to provide students with additional support. At the same time, it is equally important to reflect how curriculum content can be modified to provide additional student support.

Students come to your instructional setting with many prior learning experiences. Some come to you at grade level, others above grade level, and still some below grade level. Similarly, in corporate training or other job-based settings, students arrive with different levels of knowledge and ability. Students come from all walks of life. You will be addressing the learning opportunities and challenges that students bring to your instructional setting today in order to provide the most appropriate curriculum and instructional setting for student achievement.

Classroom Diversity

A classroom is a reflection of its society. The classroom learning environment continues to change to reflect a more diverse society. Diversity means opportunities, but it also challenges educators to have the knowledge and skill to engage every learner regardless of race, ethnicity, language, gender, and learning style. Understanding this diversity is important for educators in order to effectively differentiate instruction to meet the needs of all learners. This topic will introduce you to the changing face of the instructional setting and show you how to become an effective teacher in a changing learning environment.

Learning Activities for Classroom Diversity

Complete the readings, activities, and quizzes for the following section of the Differentiated Instruction learning environment:

- Classroom Diversity

Curriculum and Instruction

Sometimes, what works for one set of learners in one instructional setting does not work for another set of learners. Differentiating instruction is what educators must do in order to meet the learning needs of all students. You will explore some curriculum and instructional strategies that you can use in the development and modification of curriculum content and instruction.
Differentiating Curriculum and Instruction

Modifying curriculum and instruction does not mean lowering standards. Rather, modifying curriculum and instruction means making necessary adjustments in order to provide access to all learners. In this topic, you will be provided with opportunities to gain the knowledge, skills, and practical experiences you need in order to make modifications to curriculum and instruction in various instructional settings.

Learning Activities for Differentiating Curriculum and Instruction

Complete the readings, activities, and quizzes for the following section of the Differentiated Instruction learning environment:

- Differentiating Curriculum and Instruction

Final Steps

Congratulations on completing the activities in this course! This course has prepared you to complete the assessment associated with this course. If you have not already been directed to complete the assessment, schedule and complete Tasks 1, 2, and 3 now.