GROSSMONT COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

Curriculum Committee Approval: 04/26/2022

GCCCD Governing Board Approval: 06/14/2022

CHILD DEVELOPMENT 141 – WORKING WITH CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

1. Course Number Course Title Semester Units

CD 141 Working with Children with Special Needs 3

Semester Hours

3 hours lecture: 48-54 hours 96-108 outside-of-class hours 144-162 total hours

2. Course Prerequisites

None

Corequisite

None

Recommended Preparation

Child Development 124 or 125 or equivalent.

3. Catalog Description

The course focuses on strategies for working with children with special needs including physical, neurological and sensory challenges, developmental delays, learning disabilities and giftedness, and emotional and behavioral disorders. With an emphasis on inclusion in the traditional classroom and the childcare setting, this class will include compliance with legislation, observation, identification and referral processes, family involvement, and modification of the environment and curriculum.

4. Course Objectives

The student will:

a. Explore historical and current legislation, trends and services provided for children with special needs.

  b. Develop an appreciation of the child as a child first, then as a person with a disability.

  c. Apply strategies for ethical, unbiased observation using a variety of techniques for recording and assessing behavior.

  d. Demonstrate knowledge of appropriate procedures including working with the family for referring a child for additional evaluation, diagnosis and treatment.

  e. Examine the role of the family with consideration to cultural and individual differences in reactions, care and communications involving their child.

  f. Examine the classifications of disabilities and related community resources available to educators and children and their families.

  g. Design environmental and curriculum modifications to meet special needs and provide accommodations for inclusion of all children.

  h. Develop awareness of the wide array of assistive technology designed to help children maximize their potential.

  i. Explore a variety of services available for children and families with special needs issues and ways of accessing and utilizing these services.

5. Instructional Facilities

Standard classroom

6. Special Materials Required of Student

None

7. Course Content

a. Historical perspective on special education including the importance of early identification.

b. Appropriate assessment and observation techniques.

c. Strategies for identification and referral.

d. Working in partnership with families.

e. Characteristics of children with special needs.

f. Assistive technology.

g. Techniques for successful inclusion: curriculum modification; current best practices; application of learning theory and specific strategies geared for specific problems.

h. Community resources.

8. Method of Instruction

1. Lecture
2. In-class discussions
3. Role plays
4. Small group activities
5. Guest speakers
6. Directed observations.

        b. Videos

9. Methods of Evaluating Student Performance

a. Required written observation of children with special needs or with suspect delays in an inclusive classroom or special day class.

        b. Critiques of guest speakers and videos.

        c. Special report on area of "exceptionality."

        d. Objective and essay exams including final.

e. In-class discussions (topics based on current events)

10. Outside Class Assignments

a. Required written observation

b. Selected assignments:  topic research, interviews, agency visitation, professional shadowing and web site exploration and critique.

11. Representative Texts

a. Representative Text(s):

Allen, Eileen K. and Glynnis Edwards Cowdery. *The Exceptional Child: Inclusion in Early Childhood*. Albany, NY: Cengage Publishing, 2022.

b. Supplementary texts and workbooks:

None

Addendum: Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, our students will be able to do the following:

1. Design environmental and curriculum modifications to meet special needs and provide accommodations for the inclusion of all children in early childhood settings.
2. Explore a variety of services available for children and families with special needs issues and ways of accessing and utilizing these services. (This is part of the Special Project Presentation assignment).
3. Demonstrate knowledge of appropriate procedures including working with the family for referring a child for additional evaluation, diagnosis and treatment. (Found in exam question.)
4. Apply strategies for ethical, unbiased observation using a variety of techniques for recording and assessing behavior (in observation assignment).