

Students with Disabilities



Standards:

This course aligns to all of the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Differences, Learning Environments, Content Knowledge, Application of Content, Assessment, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

It also aligns to all of the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Diverse Learners, Teachers Know Content, Teachers Facilitate Learning and Teachers Analyze and Reflect.

While it is certainly challenging to teach all students effectively, this is a real possibility. A research-based framework accommodates every learner and provides practical strategies to add elements of flexibility in teaching presentation, student expression and meaningful engagement. This course helps teachers understand and strive to meet every student's potential for academic excellence.

Teachers will better understand the IEP process through examples for designing, planning, and implementing an IEP and consider assistive communication techniques that can improve classroom communication for students with disabilities. This course provides teachers with tools, strategies, and technologies to create an inclusive classroom.



Official Transcript:
1 Semester Credit



100% Online



Quizzes and
Course Action Plan

Students with Disabilities

Course Outline

SECTION A: Accommodations through UDL

LESSON 1: Basics of UDL (Universal Design of Learning)

- The meaning and need for UDL to meet both teacher and student needs
- Designing comprehensive curriculum and effective assessments
- The basic principles of UDL and their implementation
- Using UDL to meet the varied needs of students by differentiated instruction

LESSON 2: Flexible Methods of Presentation

- Possible barriers to optimal student learning and strategies to overcome them
- Audio-visual and textual strategies of providing multiple options for perception
- Using variety in language, mathematical expressions, and symbols
- Essential strategies in ensuring successful comprehension, maximum transfer, and generalization of learning

LESSON 3: Flexible Methods of Expression

- Effective strategies to successfully engage and challenge students
- Ensuring that the expected physical engagement with the learning environment does not pose barriers for differently-abled students
- Offering alternatives for students to express themselves
- Using the UDL framework to scaffold the skills needed to demonstrate students' executive functioning

LESSON 4: Flexible Options for Engagement

- Providing multiple opportunities so all students are engaged in the classroom
- Strategies to create a positive classroom environment
- Ensuring that the primary goal is enhanced student learning, but eliminating distractions and irrelevant activities
- Promoting students' self-regulation by teaching them personal coping skills, self-assessment, and reflection techniques

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Course Outline

SECTION B: IEPs: Documentation and Implementation for Teachers

LESSON 1: Introduction

- Research
- Common special education terms
- Understanding IDEA and IEP
- Understanding Section 504
- The special education process

LESSON 2: The IEP Team

- Setting up the IEP team
- Roles and responsibilities of IEP team members and the IEP team process
- Typical IEP meeting
- Preparing for an IEP meeting

LESSON 3: Developing a Standards-based IEP

- Components of a standards-based IEP
- Standards-based annual goals and post-secondary goals
- Student assessment and progress
- Identifying special education services
- Year-end evaluations

LESSON 4: Translating IEP goals

- Models of school-based interventions
- Classroom accommodations and modifications
- Barriers to effective use of accommodations
- General types of accommodations
- Effective teaching strategies/instructional accommodations
- Testing, timing, and grading accommodations

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SECTION C: Assistive Communication for Every Classroom

LESSON 1: Introduction

- Defining Assistive Communication and exploring its benefits and function
- Identifying the laws advocating for and supporting the use of Assistive Technology
- Understanding Assistive Communication, its purpose, and the three types of Assistive Communication devices used in the classroom
- Identifying the four categories of Assistive Communication Technologies

LESSON 2: Low-Tech Strategies for Communication

- The six phases of the Picture Exchange Communication System method
- American Sign Language and its use in the classroom
- Practical application of the Picture Exchange Communication board and Topic rings/wallets in the classroom
- The four main types of Communication cards effective in the classroom

LESSON 3: High-Tech Strategies for Communication

- Different high-tech strategies and their uses for improving communication
- Computer modifications and adaptations enabling students with disabilities to achieve academic excellence
- Practical application of the devices with regard to Physical, Visual, Communication and Learning disabilities
- Identifying the smartphone applications that can enable communication

LESSON 4: Implementing Assistive and Alternative Communication in Classrooms

- Understanding the role of the teacher and the Assistive Communication team with regard to Assistive and Alternative communication
- Exploring the process of implementation and classroom observations of Assistive and Alternative Communication in the classrooms
- Defining the Multi-modal approach to communication and the three Levels of communication
- The strategies facilitating communication, group work, assessment, and homework

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