



Renew a Teaching License

by Professional Learning Board



GRAD PD CREDIT ONLINE: Cognitive Skills Understanding Learning Challenges

"These classes are very well done. I gained a better understanding of what teachers try and accomplish."

- Chary P.

We all know brain plays a major role in learning, but few are aware of how. In a class where each child differs in his ability to learn, it is essential that educators know how the brain is related to the process of learning, in order to help facilitate student performance. Such knowledge will also give the educator an advantage when faced with the challenge of teaching a child with special needs. Cognitive Skills is a two part integrated course that will equip educators with extensive knowledge about the process of learning.

The first section, Cognitive Skills: Understanding Learning Challenges will focus on the skills involved in learning and introduce you to various techniques and strategies on identifying a child with learning difficulties and to overcome their challenges. It also provides tips on how to make learning fun, challenging and different.

The second section, Accommodating All Learners, will help you understand more about various learning styles, and how these impact the way a student learns. You will gain knowledge about specific teaching approaches that can be used to reach and teach each learning style.

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.

Each online graduate PD course includes:

- **Convenient access** anytime, anywhere, any device
- Interactive **online** textbook
- Implement **practical resources and tools** in your classroom
- Demonstrate comprehension with quizzes and checks for understanding
- Align with your **Professional Learning Plan**
- Course Action Plan
- **Official Transcript** from regionally accredited university



Cognitive Skills Understanding Learning Challenges
University of North Dakota



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Course Outline

SECTION A: *Cognitive Skills*

LESSON 1: Introduction

- Definition of cognitive skills and the barriers to successful learning
- Statistics on America's students
- Five typical approaches prescribed for learning difficulties

LESSON 2: The Brain and Learning

- The brain structure and the latest techniques and technology in brain research
- Learning about what impacts brain development in a young child

LESSON 3: Testing

- Learning about IQ tests and Achievement tests
- The importance of the right test to diagnose learning difficulties
- Understanding the connection between cognitive skills and learning
- Learning about several types of testing and how they can be used effectively

LESSON 4: Cognitive skills

- The 2 parts of learning.
- Explanation on why cognitive skills are foundational tools
- The various theories of learning
- Learn in detail about attention and memory and how these skills can be developed in students

LESSON 5: Learning Styles

- Types of learning styles including visual, auditory, kinaesthetic
- Learning styles inventory and its applications
- Understanding ways in which knowledge of learning styles can impact teaching strategies and curriculum planning

LESSON 6: General Training Strategies

- The definition and symptoms of autism
- The autism spectrum and primary conditions within this spectrum
- Other similar conditions, including Rett's syndrome and Fragile X syndrome
- Primary management for autism
- Functioning of the brain in autism and the cause for deficits



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LESSON 7: Reading Strategies

- Learning about basic and critical reading skills
- Strategies to improve basic and critical skills
- Comprehension strategies
- Learning about the steps in reading. Understanding the various reading approaches

LESSON 8: Special Conditions

- Understanding specific cognitive issues in conditions such as ADHD, Dyslexia, PDD, Autism, Asperger's and ODD
- Learning strategies which teachers may use while working with children with these conditions



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SECTION B: *Accommodating all Learners*

LESSON 1: Every Learner Learning

- Teaching and Learning
- What we Know, Paradigm Shift
- Accommodating all Learners, Change
- About the Brain, The Brain and Learning
- Introduction to Learning Styles
- Teacher as Learner
- The Paragon Learning Style Inventory (PLSI) and how it can be used to enhance learning
- Administering the PLSI
- Contexts in which the PLSI can be used in the classroom

LESSON 2: Who Are Our Students? Teaching Across Types

- Characteristics of today's youth
- Aspects of physical and cognitive access to the general curriculum
- Academic learning styles and students' skill development as it aligns with age
- Observing interactions to identify learning styles and preferences
- The concept of perception and differences in perception
- The importance of finding solutions that are win-win for both teacher and student
- How to build a win-win pedagogy based on the 5 principles
- Strategies to employ when the teacher's learning style conflicts with students' styles
- Learning about thinking styles

LESSON 3: Technology

- Media as a flexible tool to reach all learners
- Recent research on technology and traditional models of delivery
- Traditional media versus digital media
- Digital media and how it can be used to customize materials and methods
- Technology Timeline

LESSON 4: Theories and Strategies

- Components of multiple intelligences
- Activities to develop each type of intelligence
- Bloom's taxonomy, differentiated instruction, and informal learning
- Hemisphericity and activities that can stimulate both left and right sides of the brain
- The 4-quadrant model