

University of North Texas at Dallas
Fall 2013
SYLLABUS

EDSP 4360D-090: TRANSITION EDUCATION AND SERVICES FOR EXCEPTIONAL LEARNERS 3HRS	
Division of Education and Human Services	
Instructor Name:	Dr. Larry C. Bryant, PhD
Office Location:	Building One, Office 259
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Office Hours:	Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday 2:00 – 5:00 PM; Other times by appointment
Classroom Location:	DAL1 252
Class Meeting Days & Times:	Thursday 7:00 PM - 9:50 PM
Course Catalog Description:	This course focuses on transition education and services for individuals with disabilities across the lifespan with emphasis on the post secondary years. It examines the theory, models, and practice of transition planning from school to community living, post-secondary education and employment. Legislative history and practical application of skills such as transition assessment, IEP planning, job development, and job placements are also emphasized.
Prerequisites:	EDSP 3210, or equivalent, EDSP 3240 & 4320
Required Text:	Yell, (2012). The Law and Special Education. (3 th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson.
Recommended Text and References:	Other required readings as assigned
Access to Learning Resources:	UNT Dallas Library: phone: (972) 780-3625; web: http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm UNT Dallas Bookstore: phone: (972) 780-3652; e-mail: 1012mgr@fhcg.follett.com
Course Goals or Overview:	
	Aligned with state and national standards, the goals of this course are as follows: exploring access issues related post school options; incorporating transition related issues throughout school curriculum; and developing skills in collaboration.
Learning Objectives/Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, you will:	
1	Demonstrate an understanding of the meaning of the term “transition” in special education literature.
2	Demonstrate knowledge of laws, history and procedures relating to the education of secondary level youth and adults with disabilities.
3	Demonstrate knowledge and concepts involved in assessing, placing, and educating secondary level youth with disabilities in a variety of settings.
4	Develop and demonstrate methods of teaching secondary students with disabilities in a variety of domains, i.e. social/emotional, cognitive, behavioral, and vocational/career.
5	Demonstrate knowledge of a variety of community resources for secondary and postsecondary

	individuals with disabilities and their families in the North Texas region.
6	Describe specific issues relevant to the needs of the secondary level students with disabilities, including long range planning, and parent/family concerns.

This course addresses the following *Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Knowledge & Skill Base for All Beginning Special Education Transition Specialists*

Special Education Standard #1: Foundations Transition Specialist

Knowledge:

- TS1K1 Theoretical and applied models of transition.
- TS1K2 Transition-related laws and policies.
- TS1K3 History of national transition initiatives.
- TS1K4 Research on relationships between individual outcomes and transition practices.
- TS1K5 Procedures and requirements for referring individuals to community service agencies.

Skills: None

Special Education Standard #2: Development and Characteristics of Learners Transition Specialist

Knowledge:

- TS2K1 Implications of individual characteristics with respect to post-school outcomes and support needs.

Skills: None

Special Education Standard #4: Instructional Strategies Transition Specialist

Knowledge:

- TS4K1 Methods for providing community-based education for individuals with exceptional learning needs.
- TS4K2 Methods for linking academic content to transition goals.
- TS4K3 Strategies for involving families and individuals with exceptional learning needs in transition planning and evaluation.

Skills:

- TS4S1 Arrange and evaluate instructional activities in relation to post-school goals.

Special Education Standard #5: Learning Environments and Social Interactions Transition Specialist

Knowledge:

- TS5K1 School and post-school services available to specific populations of individuals with exceptional learning needs.

Skills:

- TS5S1 Identify and facilitate modifications within work and community environments.
- TS5S2 Use support systems to facilitate self-advocacy in transition planning.

Special Education Standard #7: Instructional Planning Transition Specialist

Knowledge:

- TS7K1 Job seeking and job retention skills identified by employers as essential for successful employment.
- TS7K2 Vocational education methods, models, and curricula.
- TS7K3 Range of post-school options within specific outcome areas.

Skills:

- TS7S1 Identify outcomes and instructional options specific to the community and the individual.
- TS7S2 Arrange and evaluate instructional activities in relation to post-school goals.
- TS7S3 Ensure the inclusion of transition-related goals in the educational program plan.
- TS7S4 Develop post-school goals and objectives, using interests and preferences of the individual.

Special Education Standard #8: Assessment Transition Specialist

Knowledge:

- TS8K1 Formal and informal approaches for identifying students' interests and preferences related to educational experiences and post-school goals.

Skills:

- TS8S1 Match skills and interests of the individuals to skills and demands required by vocational and post-school settings.
- TS8S2 Interpret results of career and vocational assessment for individuals, families, and professionals.
- TS8S3 Use a variety of formal and informal career, transition, and vocational assessment procedures.
- TS8S4 Evaluate and modify transition goals on an ongoing basis.
- TS8S5 Assess and develop natural support systems to facilitate transition to post-school environments.

Special Education Standard #9: Professional and Ethical Practice Transition Specialist

Knowledge:

- TS9K1 Scope and role of transition specialist.
- TS9K2 Scope and role of agency personnel related to transition services.
- TS9K3 Organizations and publications relevant to the field of transition.

Skills:

- TS9S1 Show positive regard for the capacity and operating constraints of community organizations involved in transition services.
- TS9S2 Participate in activities of professional organizations in the field of transition.

Special Education Standard #10: Collaboration Transition Specialist

Knowledge:

- TS10K1 Methods to increase transition service delivery through interagency agreements and collaborative funding.
- TS10K2 Transition planning strategies that facilitate input from team members.

Skills:

- TS10S1 Design and use procedures to evaluate and improve transition education and services in collaboration with team members.
- TS10S2 Provide information to families about transition education, services, support networks, and post-school options.
- TS10S3 Involve team members in establishing transition policy.
- TS10S4 Provide transition-focused technical assistance and professional development in collaboration with team members.
- TS10S5 Collaborate with transition-focused agencies.
- TS10S6 Develop interagency strategies to collect, share, and use student assessment data.
- TS10S7 Use strategies for resolving differences in collaborative relationships and interagency agreements.
- TS10S8 Assist teachers to identify educational program planning team members.

TS10S9 Assure individual, family, and agency participation in transition planning and implementation.

Texas Special Education Standards

- I. The special education teacher understands and applies knowledge of the philosophical, historical, and legal foundations of special education.
- II. The special education teacher applies knowledge of professional roles and responsibilities and adheres to legal and ethical requirements of the profession.
- III. The special education teacher knows how to communicate and collaborate effectively in a variety of professional settings.
- IV. The special education teacher understands and applies knowledge of the characteristics and needs of individuals with disabilities.
- V. The special education teacher understands formal and informal assessment procedures and knows how to evaluate student competencies to make instructional decisions.
- VI. The special education teacher understands and applies knowledge and procedures for planning instruction and managing teaching and learning environments.
- VII. The special education teacher understands and applies knowledge of issues and procedures for teaching appropriate student behavior and social skills.
- VIII. The special education teacher understands assistive technology as defined by state and federal regulations.
- IX. The special education teacher understands and applies knowledge of transition issues and procedures across the life span.
- X. The special education teacher promotes students' academic performance in all content areas by facilitating their achievement in a variety of settings and situations.
- XI. The special education teacher promotes students' performance in English, language arts and reading.
- XII. The special education teacher promotes students' performance in mathematics.

Course Outline

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be announced in class and via Blackboard.

Date	Topic/Reading Assignment/Chapters	Your timeline and due dates
August 29	Intro to course and syllabus review	Buy textbook Organize your calendar
September 5	Read Chapter 1 Introduction to the American Legal System	Begin thinking about a Professional Development Plan
September 12	Read Chapter 2 Legal Research	

September 19	Read Chapters 3 The History of the Law and Children with Disabilities	Accessibility Survey
September 26	Read Chapter 4 The Individuals with Disabilities Act	
October 3	Read Chapter 5 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973	
October 10	Read Chapter 6 The Americans with Disabilities Act	
October 17	Read Chapters 7 The Elementary and Secondary Education Act	
October 24	Read Chapter 8 Free and Appropriate Public Education	
October 31	Read Chapter 9 Identification, Assessment, and Evaluation	
November 7	Read Chapter 10 The Individual Education Program	
November 14	Read Chapter 11 Least Restrictive Environment	
November 21	Read Chapter 12 & 13 Procedural Safeguards Disciplining Students with Disabilities & Additional Issues	
November 28	Thanksgiving Recess – No Class	
December 5	Read Chapter 13	Transition IEP, Lesson Plan Presentation
December 12		

COURSE EVALUATION METHODS

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course. Your grade in this course will be determined based on a weight system. Activities, assignments, quizzes, etc. will be awarded points and assigned an overall percentage weight. It

is advised that you keep track of your points throughout the semester so that you can determine your grade throughout the semester.

Professionalism, Punctuality, and Participation

Professionalism. Enhancing professionalism and ethical behavior is an underlying goal of all courses in UNT Dallas' Programs in Special Education, as well as a foundational topic of this course. Therefore, at all times, students are expected to conduct themselves in a highly responsible and respectful manner. In addition to those guidelines addressing student conduct established by the university and addressed in the undergraduate catalog and student handbook (e.g., cheating, plagiarism), professionalism includes the following:

- establishing and maintaining positive relationships and interactions with peers, colleagues, and instructors;
- attending respectfully to others who are sharing information (or asking questions) with the class;
- being flexible and understanding in response to unforeseen changes in the syllabus;
- maintaining attention and alertness, and refraining from engaging in any activity not directly related to this class during class hours;
- making only positive comments and gestures directed toward others in the class.

Note: please ensure that cell phones are turned off prior to entering the classroom, as phone calls during class time are disruptive to the instructional activities of the course.

The use of personal computers is encouraged for those students who prefer this medium for note taking. However, professionalism dictates that students use their computers for class-related activities only during class time.

All assignments, unless otherwise noted, are expected to be completed individually. In addition, no work completed and turned in for this course should be turned in at a later time (without significant changes or additions) to fulfill requirements for other courses, or shared with other students for the purpose of completing course work in special education courses of this or other instructors.

Participation

You are expected to fully participate in all class activities, including lectures and discussions, demonstrations, role plays, presentations and discussions, small-group projects, collaborative learning activities, etc. Generally, it is expected that all students will make at least one contribution to the class discussion every class period.

Accessibility Survey

This assignment will require you to survey your local community for accessibility for individuals with disabilities. In order to complete this assignment, you will select and survey **one location**. During your survey, you will consider accessibility issues for **two disabilities**. You will choose **one disability from a high incidence category** and **one from the low incidence categories**. See Accessibility Survey Guidelines and Grading Sheet later in the syllabus.

Quizzes

To ensure that you are mastering transition information competencies, 5 quizzes will be conducted throughout the course. Quizzes will consist of comprehension checks from chapter readings, class presentations, and other activities related to the course. Quiz questions may take any form – multiple choice, true/false, and/or short answer. All quizzes will be online via Blackboard Vista.

Transition IEP and Lesson Plan

You will work with a small group to develop an appropriate transition plan and Lesson Plan based on a case study of a student with disabilities. Your group will develop a presentation that highlights key elements of your Transition IEP and Lesson Plan.

Transition Blog and Presentation

You will work with a small group to develop a **blog** to share with students, educators, parents, agencies, or other professionals concerning **transition needs of students with disabilities**.

Health Care Transition

You will complete an online module, which focuses on the health care transition needs for individuals with disabilities.

Extra Credit

Throughout this semester, if there are opportunities for extra credit, announcements will be made accordingly.

GRADING PROCEDURES:

Your grade in this course will be determined based on a weight system. Each activity, assignment, and quiz will be worth a specific number of points.

Method	Percentage
Professionalism & Participation	10
Accessibility Survey	10
Transition Blog	20
Transition IEP, Lesson Plan & Presentation	85
Transition Project	100
Whole Brain Notebook	50
Job Carving Project	30
Community Agency Project	30
Transition Fair	100
Total	435

Grade Distribution

<u>GRADE</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>	
A.....	90-100%	391.5 - 435
B.....	80-89%	348 – 387.15
C.....	70-79%	304.5 – 343.65

Final Grade Computation

Weight toward the final grade will be awarded accordingly: This is tentative and may be changed with prior notice. **An Incomplete Grade is given ONLY under significant extenuating circumstance WITH supporting documentation and at the professor’s discretion.**

Note: To determine your grade at any given time, simply divide your score by the total number of points you have earned on the assignment given. This will give you a percentage for the evaluation method.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES (ADA COMPLIANCE)

The University of North Texas Dallas faculty is committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students' with documented disabilities are responsible for informing faculty of their needs for reasonable accommodations and providing written authorized documentation. For more information, you may visit the Office of Disability Accommodation/Student Development Office, Suite 115 or call Laura Smith at 972-780-3632.

ASSIGNMENT POLICIES

- All assignments must be completed individually, unless stated otherwise by the instructor. The instructor reserves the right to request that a student redo an assignment that is not satisfactory.
- In such cases a response cost of up to 10 % may be assessed. IF an assignment is accepted late, a 10% late cost will be assessed for submitting assignments late, unless the instructor has given prior approval and waived the 10% late cost.
- **No incompletes** will be given without documentation of extenuating circumstances.

Use of Person-First Language: You are expected to use “Person-First” language at all times when referring to individuals with a disability (e.g., “students with autism,” or “a student with behavioral problems”). Please do not use labels like “Mentally Retarded student” or “Autistic kid” or “Emotionally Handicapped class” because of the associated negative connotations.

Written Assignments:

All written assignments should follow APA format. Work must be typed, double-spaced and have a cover sheet that includes your name, date, and course number. Assignments must be stapled or bound. **ALL assignments must be written in people-first language and have minimum errors in grammar to receive full credit.**

EXAM POLICY

Make-up exams are **NOT allowed** unless prior permission was received. Such permission will be given at the discretion of the instructor. Make-ups are scheduled at the instructor's convenience and may contain different questions than the original exam.

BAD WEATHER POLICY

On those days that present severe weather and driving conditions, a decision may be made to close the campus. In case of inclement weather, call UNT Dallas Campuses main voicemail number (972) 780-3600 or search postings on the campus website www.unt.edu/dallas. Students are encouraged to update their Eagle Alert contact information, so they will receive this information automatically.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Class attendance and participation is expected because the class is designed as a shared learning experience and because essential

information not in the textbook will be discussed in class. The dynamic and intensive nature of this course makes it impossible for students to make-up or to receive credit for missed classes. Attendance and participation in all class meetings is essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency. Students are responsible to notify the instructor if they are missing class and for what reason. Students are also responsible to make up any work covered in class. It is recommended that each student coordinate with a student colleague to obtain a copy of the class notes, if they are absent.

Punctuality. Attendance and punctuality are salient indicators of one's personal commitment to professional behavior and learning. Despite challenges posed by highway gridlock and juggling personal schedules, all students are expected to attend every class meeting, and to arrive in class on time. In order for an absence or tardy to be considered excused, you must (in most cases) inform the instructor, in advance, of the reason for the expected absence.

Important: The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Class attendance and participation is expected because the class is designed as a shared learning experience and because essential information not in the textbook will be discussed in class. The dynamic and intensive nature of this course makes it impossible for you to make-up or to receive credit for missed classes.

For every two (2) class sessions missed, your final grade for the course will be lowered one letter. Arriving late and leaving early is included in this policy so make the necessary adjustments to your schedule before the 2nd class meeting of this course. **Any student arriving 15 minutes late for class will not receive participation points for the day.**

DIVERSITY/TOLERANCE POLICY:

Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions. However, offensive & inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities as the instructor deems appropriate.

CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM POLICY

The UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline provides penalties for misconduct by students, including academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty includes cheating and plagiarism. The term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to, (1) use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; (2) dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; and (3) the acquisition, without permission, of tests or academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university. The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the use of the published or unpublished work of another person, by paraphrase or direct quotation, without full and clear acknowledgement. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials. If a student engages in academic dishonesty related to this class, the student will receive a failing grade on the test or assignment and a failing grade in the course. In addition, the case will be referred to the Dean of Students for appropriate disciplinary action.

JAGUARCONNECT MAIL

All students should activate and regularly check their JaguarConnect (e-mail) account. JaguarConnect is used for official communication from the University to students. Many important announcements for the University and College are sent to students via JaguarConnect Mail. For information about JaguarConnect

Mail, including how to activate an account and how to have JaguarConnect Mail forwarded to another e-mail address, visit <http://jaguarconnect.unt.edu/>

TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION POLICY

The Elementary Education program area supports technology integration to assist pre-service and in-service teachers to design and implement curricular and instruction activities, which infuse technology throughout the elementary and middle school curriculum.

