



Course Syllabus: Assessment Practices for Low Incidence Disabilities

Gordon T. & Ellen West College of Education and Professional Studies
SPED 6633 Section X30
Summer I 2026

Contact Information

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Instructor Response Policy

I will respond to emails within 24 hours unless it is the weekend or a holiday. If you send an email during the weekend or a holiday, I will respond no later than the first business day after the weekend or holiday.

Course Description

Demonstration of competence in administration, scoring, and interpreting transition, assistive technology, and adaptive behavior assessments; includes a focus on the assessment needs of students with low-incidence disabilities.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Sattler. J.M. (2022) Foundations of behavioral, social, and clinical assessment of children, (7th Ed). Sattler. ISBN 9780986149986

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes/Course Competencies

Objectives

Demonstration of competence in administration, scoring, and interpreting vocational, motor skills, and assistive technology assessments, and knowing when referrals are appropriate.

Dispositions The special education faculty expects candidates to be reflective, culturally sensitive practitioners and leaders in the profession of education who practice within the Code of Ethics adopted by the CEC.

- Special education professionals are committed to developing the highest educational and quality of life potential of individuals with exceptionalities.
- Special education professionals promote and maintain a high level of competence and integrity in practicing their profession.
- Special education professionals engage in professional activities which benefit individuals with exceptionalities, their families, other colleagues, candidates, or research subjects.
- Special education professionals exercise objective professional judgment in the practice of their profession.
- Special education professionals strive to advance their knowledge and skills regarding the education of individuals with exceptionalities.
- Special education professionals work within the standards and policies of their profession.
- Special education professionals seek to uphold and improve where necessary the laws, regulations, and policies governing the delivery of special education and related services and the practice of their profession.
- Special education professionals do not condone or participate in unethical or illegal acts, nor violate professional standards adopted by the Delegate Assembly of CEC.
- The Council for Exceptional Children. (1993). CEC Policy Manual, Section Three, part 2 (p. 4). Reston, VA: Author.

Conceptual Framework Overview

The outcomes for graduates of professional programs are based upon knowledge, skills, and dispositions in the following elements:

- Learning Environment – Graduates of West College of Education (GWCOE) create challenging, supportive, and learner-centered environments in diverse settings.
- Individual Development - GWCOE demonstrate knowledge of individual differences in growth and development.
- Diverse Learners - GWCOE recognize the value and challenges of individual differences:
- Reflection - GWCOE engage in individual and group reflection to improve practice.
- Collaboration, Ethics, Relationships - GWCOE develop positive relationships, use collaborative processes, and behave ethically.
- Communication - GWCOE communicate effectively both verbally and nonverbally through listening, speaking, reading, and writing.
- Professional Development - GWCOE actively engage in continuous learning and professional development.
- Strategies and Methods - GWCOE use a variety of instructional strategies aligned with content to actively engage diverse learners.
- Content Knowledge - GWCOE demonstrate mastery of the content area(s) and remain current in their teaching fields.
- Planning Process - GWCOE demonstrate effective planning as part of the instructional cycle.

- Assessment - GWCOE demonstrate formative and summative techniques to plan, modify, and evaluate instruction.

Competencies/Standards:

TEA: <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/sbecrules/tac/chapter239/ch239c.html>

Domain I—Identification and Assessment

Competency 001 (Identification for Special Education Evaluation and Services): The Apply knowledge of requirements for identifying students who meet disability criteria and for determining the need for specially designed instruction and related services.

For example:

- Demonstrate knowledge of federal and state criteria and identification procedures for determining students' eligibility for special education services, including all components of Child Find mandate requirements.

Competency 002—(Evaluation, Planning, Selection, and Administration): Apply knowledge of the functions and principles of assessment, assessments used to make educational and instructional decisions about students, and procedures and considerations in selecting and administering appropriate formal and informal assessments for individual students.

For example:

- Demonstrate the ability to choose relevant and appropriate assessments based on the technical quality of the instruments, referral concerns, data needed to make decisions, and individual student characteristics (e.g., ethnic, cultural, linguistic, age, or socioeconomic factors), and demonstrate knowledge of how to ensure fairness and equity in assessment results.
- Apply knowledge of administration and scoring procedures for various standardized assessments (e.g., basal, ceilings, testing the limits) and nonstandardized assessments.
- Apply knowledge of procedures and strategies for effectively collaborating with families and with other professionals in assessing and evaluating students with disabilities.

Competency 003—(Interpretation and Reporting of Evaluation Results): Apply skills for interpreting, reporting, and communicating the results of the Full and Individual Initial Evaluation (FIIE).

For example:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the uses and limitations of various types of formal and informal assessment and evaluation data. Uses assessment and evaluation information to assist in identifying.

Domain II- Curriculum, Instruction, and Intervention

Competency 004—(Academic Instruction and Strategies): Apply knowledge of educational implications of disabilities, appropriate curricula, and instructional strategies, including accommodations, modifications, and interventions, for students with disabilities.

For example:

- Apply knowledge of characteristics and educational implications of disabilities for students of different ages, in various environments, and from culturally and linguistically diverse populations.
- Demonstrate knowledge of targeted instructional strategies, technology, and curriculum materials to address the individual needs of students with disabilities within the continuum of services.
- Analyze individual results of assessments, evidence-based practices, interventions, and previous recommendations to assist with making decisions about individualized instruction for students.

Competency 005— (Functional Skill Instruction and Strategies): Understand the use of appropriate assessment, evaluation, planning, and instructional strategies for developing students' social, behavioral, communication, and adaptive skills.

For example:

- Apply knowledge of functional skills (e.g., social, behavioral, communication, adaptive) that students need in order to participate in and contribute effectively to their school, home, community, and work environments.
- Applies skills for evaluating and interpreting information derived from formal and informal instruments and procedures in the areas of cognitive ability, adaptive behavior, and academic skills.

Domain III—Professional Responsibilities

Competency 006 - (Consultation and Collaboration): Understand strategies and approaches for effective consultation and development of collaborative relationships with students, parents/guardians, school personnel, and other professionals and apply skills for scheduling and management of timelines and reporting requirements.

For example:

- Demonstrate knowledge of effective culturally responsive consultation and collaboration skills (e.g., knowledge of family systems, parents/guardians supporting student development and educational progress).
- Apply understanding of the special education process to assist parents/guardians and school staff in navigating through initial referral, Individualized Education Program (IEP) development, reevaluations, transition planning.

- Apply knowledge of the roles of students with disabilities, parents/guardians, teachers, and other school and community personnel in collaborating on and planning Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) for students.
- Apply knowledge of legal and regulatory timelines, schedules, and reporting requirements; methods for maintaining eligibility folders; and strategies for organizing, maintaining, accessing, and storing records.

Competency 007 - (Legal and Ethical Practice): Apply knowledge of professional practices, roles, and responsibilities and the legal and ethical foundations of evaluation related to special education.

For example:

- Apply knowledge of state and federal laws, rules, and regulations related to the roles and activities of the educational diagnostician, including the assessment and evaluation of individuals with educational needs and The Instructor reserves the right to modify the course content and sequence.
- Apply knowledge of issues, assurances, and due process rights related to evaluation, eligibility, and placement within a continuum of services (e.g., least restrictive environment) and of effective communication with parents/guardians on these issues.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the rights and responsibilities of parents/guardians, schools, students, teachers, and other professionals in relation to students' individual learning needs.

Domain IV—Analysis and Response

Competency 008 - (Analysis and Response): In a written response, analyze qualitative and quantitative data to identify a given student's strengths and needs, provide a thorough evaluation, and determine evidence- and research-based recommendations for meeting the student's educational needs.

For example:

- Analyze and interpret assessment information on a given student, including qualitative and quantitative assessment data (e.g., anecdotal notes, student work samples, parent/guardian checklists) from a variety of formal and informal assessments (e.g., cognitive, academic, communicative, social, physical, functional, adaptive, emotional) to identify the student's strengths and needs, including the presence or absence of a disability according to state and federal eligibility criteria. Knows the organizations and publications relevant to the field of educational diagnosis and demonstrates awareness of the importance of engaging in activities that foster professional competence and benefit individuals with exceptional learning needs, their families, and/or colleagues.
- Synthesize data and information on the individual student to generate one recommendation for evidence-based instruction and/or intervention.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct. [Office of Student Conduct](#)

Moffett Library

Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information. Get started on this [Moffett Library webpage](#) to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

Grading

Candidate performance in the knowledge and skills listed above will be formally assessed through grading rubrics, written products, multiple-choice/short-answer tests, and discussions. You will find the Modules on D2L with detailed instructions inside the folder for each. You are encouraged to preview all of your assignments to manage your time most effectively. All activities can be completed independently, except for certain components of the Adaptive Behavior Module and the Transition Module (you will need test subjects).

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Due Date	Points
Transition Module		
Transition Assessments Course (TEA) Certificate	6/11	100
Transition Assessment Report	6/11	50
Quiz 1	6/15	100
Assistive Technology Module		
IRIS Module - AT: An Overview	6/18	50
Multiple Choice Questions	6/18	50
Low Incidence Disability and AT Lecture Notes	6/18	50

Quiz 2	6/22	100
Adaptive Behavior Module		
Adaptive Behavior Module Part 1	6/25	50
Adaptive Behavior Module Part 2 - ABAS-3 Report and Lecture Notes	6/25	50
Vineland 3 Quiz	6/25	50
Quiz 3	6/29	100
Low Incidence Disabilities Exam	7/2	100
Total Points		850

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	761-850
B	676-760
C	591-675
D	506-590
F	Less than 505

Homework

This is an online, module-based course; therefore, all assignments are expected to be completed and submitted by the due date listed for each module. With the exception of recorded lectures, all course materials and assignments will be available beginning on the first day of class, allowing students the opportunity to work ahead and better manage their schedules. Because the course progresses on a scheduled timeline, late work will not be accepted unless prior arrangements have been approved by the instructor.

Quizzes

There are 3 quizzes covering the chapters in the assigned textbook. The quizzes are open-book. The quiz questions are available before you begin the quiz, so that as you read the text, you can answer the questions from the quiz. Please note that there are specific due dates for each quiz.

Exams

The exam for this course is the Low-Incidence Disabilities Exam. It is worth 100 points and is due on the last day of the semester.

Projects Required

There are projects/activities in each of the modules: Transition, Assistive Technology and Adaptive Behavior. Each of the projects/activities are critical in ensuring the student learns the information in this course.

Mid-Term Exam

There is no midterm exam in this course.

Final Exam

The Final Exam for this course is the Low-Incidence Disability Exam.

Extra Credit

There is no extra credit offered in this course. Students are expected to complete the work as assigned by the due date given.

Late Work

This is a graduate-level course, and students are expected to meet all assignment expectations and deadlines as outlined in the syllabus and posted in D2L. Due dates are provided in advance to allow students to plan accordingly. Late work will not be accepted except in documented extenuating circumstances or when prior arrangements have been approved by the instructor. The instructor may require documentation for approved exceptions.

Make Up Work/Tests

This is a graduate-level course, and students are expected to meet all assignment expectations and deadlines as outlined in the syllabus and posted in D2L. Due dates are provided in advance to allow students to plan accordingly. Late work will not be accepted except in documented extenuating circumstances or when prior arrangements have been approved by the instructor. The instructor may require documentation for approved exceptions.

Important Dates

- Last day for term schedule changes: Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Deadline to file for graduation: June 22nd.
- Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" June 17th.
- Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Attendance

This course is an online course. Students must log in to the D2L site for this class at least 2 times each week.

Online Computer Requirements

Taking an online class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. ****Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings.*** Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. ****Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!*** There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world which is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations however they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

Instructor Class Policies

Regular engagement in the course is expected. Students should check D2L and the university email regularly for announcements, updates, and course communication.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring

accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Student Wellness Center, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled "Run. Hide. Fight." which may be electronically accessed via the University police department's webpage: ["Run. Hide. Fight."](#)

Obligation to Report Sex Discrimination under State and Federal Law

Midwestern State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. State and federal law require University employees to report sex discrimination and sexual misconduct to the University's Office of Title IX. As a faculty member, I am required to report to the Title IX Coordinator any allegations, personally observed behavior, or other direct or indirect knowledge of conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination or sexual misconduct, which includes sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating violence, or stalking, involving a student or employee. After a report is made, the office of Title IX will reach out to the affected student or employee in an effort to connect such person(s) with resources and options in addressing the allegations made in the report. You are also encouraged to report any incidents to the office of Title IX. You may do so by contacting:

Laura Hetrick
Title IX Coordinator
Sunwatcher Village Clubhouse
940-397-4213

laura.hetrick@msutexas.edu

You may also file an online report 24/7 at [Online Reporting Form](#)

Should you wish to visit with someone about your experience in confidence, you may contact the MSU Counseling Center at 940-397-4618. For more information on the University's policy on Title IX or sexual misconduct, please visit [Title IX Website](#).

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

***Notice:** Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Schedule:

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date at midnight
Week 1 6/1 to 6/7	Welcome to Class Zoom – 6/3 10 am. Review D2L and the syllabus.	Zoom 6/3 10 am – 11 am
Week 2 6/8 to 6/14	Transition Module	6/11

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date at midnight
Week 3 6/15 to 6/21	Quiz 1 Assistive Technology Module	6/15 6/18
Week 4 6/22 to 6/28	Quiz 2 Adaptive Behavior Module	6/22 6/25
Week 5 6/29 to July 2	Quiz 3 Low Incidence Disability Exam	6/29 7/3