



Course Syllabus: SPED 6913 x11 -Special Education Law
Midwestern State University
College of Education
Fall 2024 August 26-Oct 18

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Edward Schultz
Office: Bridwell 310
Office hours:; Monday 11-12; Tuesday 10-12; Wed 10-12
Office phone: 940 397 6203
E-mail: edward.schultz@msutexas.edu

Instructor Response Policy

Please allow 24 hours response time during the semester. I prefer you email me through my D2I for class related issues. If you do not get a response in 24 hours, please send me a gentle reminder. I usually will respond much sooner than that.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Yell, M. (2019). The law and special education (5th ed.). Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Pearson.

Recommended Book:

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th ed.
Washington, DC: American Psychological Association, 2010.

Course Description

Historical foundations of special education law, federal and state regulations, and case law related to special education; includes assessment-related law.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes/Course Competencies

Specific learning objectives for the course derive from the TExES Examination Framework/Standards and Texas Ed Diag Standards. This course provides teacher candidates with a knowledge base of the environment in which they may serve as a diagnostician. Satisfactory completion of the course will document that students have demonstrated the ability to:

1. 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, and dismissal and/or graduation.
2. 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, and dismissal and/or graduation.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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 compliance with local, state, and federal monitoring and evaluation requirements.
6. 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 compliance with local, state, and federal monitoring and evaluation requirements.
7. 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.
8. Demonstrate knowledge of Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD)/Individualized Education Program (IEP) processes, rules, and procedures as determined by state and federal regulations.
9. Demonstrate knowledge of the rights and responsibilities of parents/guardians, schools, students, teachers, and other professionals in relation to students' individual learning needs.
10. Apply knowledge of professional ethical practices (e.g., in relation to confidentiality, informed consent, placement, and state accountability measures).

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook-2024-25](#)

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](#)

Artificial Intelligence

Advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI) have now provided generative and creative applications such as Chat GPT, Google Bard, Guru, Microsoft Copilot, and others. Certainly, these tools can be quite useful in the learning process; however, the content they generate does not represent the effort and learning of the student.

Submitting AI generated work in place of the original and genuine work of the student will be considered a form of academic misconduct.

Methods of Instruction

This course will be presented in a manner that will allow you to learn independently, from each other, through the discussion board, email, and postings. While you may work somewhat at your own pace, I have found that most students appreciate the structure of due dates. Please adhere to the due dates and adjust your study schedule accordingly.

Internet courses are a convenient and effective method of learning, however they require as much work and attention as traditional instruction. The following will ensure success this semester:

1. Do not think you can do this course in your spare time. Plan, plan, and plan some more. Schedule at least 12-15 hours a week to dedicate to this course.
2. Please adhere to all deadlines and due dates-this will help you plan-you may complete assignments early but do not turn them in late.
3. Please read and re-read assignments. Get clarification as soon as can (do not wait until the night before).

Grading/Assessment

Assignment/Points

Assignment	Points
Due Process Briefing (10 @20 Points each)	200
Midterm Exam	100
Lecture Notes (4@ ~12 points)	50
SPED Law Research Assignment (Key Assessment)	50
Final Exam	100
Total	500

All assignments must be completed, or you will receive a grade of "F"

Grade/Points

Grade	Points
A	450-500
B	400-449
C	350-399
D	300-349
F	Below 300

Course Schedule

Week of	Activity/Assignment	Due dates
8/26	Read Text, DP Case,	NA
9/2	Read Text, DP Case,	NA
9/16	Read Text, DP Case,	Case 1-3 Due 9/16 Lecture 1 and 2 Due
9/23	Read Text, DP Case, Key Assessment, Midterm	Midterm Exam
9/30	Read Text, DP Case, Key Assessment	Case 4-7 Due 9/30
10/7	Read Text, DP Case, Key Assessment	Case 8-10 Due Oct 11 Lecture 3 and 4 due
10/14	Final	Key Assessment due in Tk20 10/16 Final Exam Due 10/18

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

Case Briefing

Students will analyze TEA due process cases pertaining to a special education issue. Students will read and analyze assigned cases and write a brief using the template provided in D2L. You can find the cases here:

<https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/government-relations-and-legal/special-education-hearings/due-process-hearings/special-education-due-process-hearing-decisions>

Special Education Legislative Case Study

Special Education Legislative Research Assignment: See appendix

Quiz/Exams

Students will take a midterm and final exam on the assigned reading and course content. Each exam will be worth 100 points and will be multiple choice.

Extra Credit

Extra credit assignments will not be given in this course.

Late Work

Since not doing any assignment will result in a failing grade, late work will be accepted with significant point deduction (25% per day). Communicate with me if you have difficulty meeting a deadline.

Make Up Work/Tests

Make up work will only be accepted in extreme circumstances (death in the family, illness, etc). I must be contacted prior to the due date and appropriate documentation must be provided.

Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: August 26-29

Deadline to file for graduation: Sept 23. Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" October 9. Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).

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

Students are expected to attend all meetings of the classes in which they are enrolled. Although in general students are graded on intellectual effort and performance rather than attendance, absences may lower the student's grade where class attendance and class participation are deemed essential by the faculty member. In those classes where attendance is considered as part of the grade, the instructor should so inform students of the specifics in writing at the beginning of the semester in a syllabus or separate attendance policy statement. An instructor who has an attendance policy must keep records on a daily basis. The instructor must give the student a verbal or written warning prior to being

dropped from the class. Instructor's records will stand as evidence of absences. A student with excessive absences may be dropped from a course by the instructor. Any individual faculty member or college has the authority to establish an attendance policy, providing the policy is in accordance with the General University Policies.

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 that 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](#).

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 Northwestern State University (NSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to NSU 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) exists 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, Northwestern 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 Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 3974140. 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 MSU TEXAS 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 [Safety / Emergency Procedures](#). 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

https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?MSUTexas&layout_id=6

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 <https://msutexas.edu/titleix/>

[Grade Appeal Process](#)

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

References/Scientifically-Based Research/Additional Readings:

Ballard, J., Ramirez, B, Winetraub. F., (Eds.) (1982). *Special education in America: Its legal and governmental foundations*. Reston, VA: Council for Exceptional Children

Bonfield, L. (2006). *American law and the American legal system in a nutshell*. Eagan, MN: Thomson West.

- Davis, J. (2007). *Legislative law and process in a nutshell*. Eagan, MN: Thomson West.
- Hilyerd, W. A. (2004). Using the law library: A guide for educators-Part 1: Untangling the legal system. *Journal of Law and Education*, 33 (2), 213-224.
- Levine, E.L. & Wexler, E.M. (1981). P.L. 94-142: An act of Congress. New York: Macmillan.
- Martin, E. (2013). Breakthrough: Federal special education legislation 1965-1981. Sarasota, FL: Bardolf & Company.
- Reynolds, W.L. (2003). *Judicial process in a nutshell (3rd ed.)*. Eagan, MN: Thomson West.
- Tatgenhorst, A., Norlin, J., & Gorn, S. (2014). *What do I do when...The answer book on special education law (6th ed.)*. Beach Garden, FL: LRP Publications.
- Valverde, J.R (2017). An indefensible idea: Eliminating individualization from the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. *Journal of Law and Education*, 46 (2), 235-243.
- Winzer, M.A. (1993). History of special education: From isolation to integration. Washington, DC: Gallaudet Press.
- Yell, M.L., Katsiyannis, A., & Bradley, M.R. (2017). The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act: The continuing evolution of special education law. *Handbook of Special Education*. In J. M. Kauffman, D. P. Hallahan, and P. Pullen, *Handbook of Special Education (2nd ed.)*, (pp. 55-71). Philadelphia, PA: Taylor & Francis/Routledge.
- Yell, M.L., Shriner, J.G., Thomas, S.S., & Katsiyannis, A. (2019). Special education law for leaders and administrators of special education in J. Crockett, M.L. Boscardin, & Billingsley, B. (Eds.). *Special education leadership handbook (2nd ed. pp. 77-99)* Philadelphia, PA: Routledge.

Appendix A: Standards/Competencies/Assignment Alignment

Course Objectives, Standards or Competency, and Assignments

Course Objectives or Student Learning Outcomes	Standard or Competency	Assignment
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, and dismissal and/or graduation.	Standard I , III 006	Reading, Case Study, Research Project
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.	Standard I, III 006	Reading, Case Study, Research Project
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.	Standard I , IV, VIII 006	Reading, Case Analysis, Research Project
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 compliance with local, state, and federal monitoring and evaluation requirements.	Standard I 007	Reading, Case Study, Case Analysis, Research Project
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.	Standard I, IV 007	Reading, Case Analysis, Research Project
Demonstrate knowledge of Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD)/Individualized Education Program (IEP) processes, rules, and procedures as determined by state and federal regulations.	Standard I , IV 007	Reading, Case Analysis, Research Project

Demonstrate knowledge of the rights and responsibilities of parents/guardians, schools, students, teachers, and other professionals in relation to students' individual learning needs.	Standard I, II 007	Reading, Case Study, Research Project
Apply knowledge of professional ethical practices (e.g., in relation to confidentiality, informed consent, placement, and state accountability measures).	Standard I, II 007	Reading, Case Study, Case analysis, Research Project

Appendix B:

Standards/Competencies

[Educational Diagnostician Standards](#)

Educational Diagnostician Standard I

The educational diagnostician understands and applies knowledge of the purpose, philosophy and legal foundations of evaluation and special education.

Educational Diagnostician Standard II

The educational diagnostician understands and applies knowledge of ethical and professional practices, roles and responsibilities.

Educational Diagnostician Standard III

The educational diagnostician develops collaborative relationships with families, educators, the school, the community, outside agencies and related service personnel.

Educational Diagnostician Standard IV

The educational diagnostician understands and applies knowledge of student assessment and evaluation, program planning and instructional decision making

Educational Diagnostician Standard V

The educational diagnostician knows eligibility criteria and procedures for identifying students with disabilities and determining the presence of an educational need.

Educational Diagnostician Standard VI

The educational diagnostician selects, administers and interprets appropriate formal and informal assessments and evaluations.

Educational Diagnostician Standard VII

The educational diagnostician understands and applies knowledge of ethnic, linguistic, cultural and socioeconomic diversity and the significance of student diversity for evaluation, planning and instruction.

Educational Diagnostician Standard VIII

The educational diagnostician knows and demonstrates skills necessary for scheduling, time management and organization.

Educational Diagnostician Standard IX

The educational diagnostician addresses students' behavioral and social interaction skills through appropriate assessment, evaluation, planning and instructional strategies.

Educational Diagnostician Standard X

The educational diagnostician knows and understands appropriate curricula and instructional strategies for individuals with disabilities.

[Framework with Competencies](#)

DOMAIN I—IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT

Competency 001 (Identification for Special Education Evaluation and Services): 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:

- A. 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.
- B. Apply knowledge of the educational diagnostician's role in assisting local educational agencies (LEAs) in complying with Child Find.
- C. Apply knowledge of risk factors, characteristics of disabilities, and other indications that a student may have a need for specially designed instruction and related services.
- D. Demonstrate knowledge of issues related to the identification of and the overrepresentation and underrepresentation in special education of culturally and linguistically diverse student populations.
- E. Demonstrate knowledge of important student information needed (e.g., cognitive, academic, communicative, social, physical, functional, adaptive, and emotional characteristics) from a variety of sources, including information regarding students' educational, developmental, medical, and family histories.
- F. Demonstrate knowledge of the relationships between assessment and evaluation, goals and objectives, and services for students with disabilities.

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:

- A. Demonstrate knowledge of terminology and statistical concepts used in assessment and evaluation (e.g., data distributions, measures of central tendency).
- B. Demonstrate knowledge of standards for test norming, reliability, and validity; procedures used in administering and scoring assessment instruments; and sources of measurement error and potential bias.
- C. Apply knowledge of the uses and limitations of various types of assessment instruments (e.g., norm-referenced, criterion-referenced) and observation techniques (e.g., anecdotal, frequency, temporal) to identify students with disabilities and determine the presence of an educational need.
- D. 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.
- E. Apply knowledge of targeted individualized assessment strategies to inform instruction
(e.g., authentic assessment, contextual assessment, curriculum-based assessment, progress monitoring, teacher observations, student feedback).
- F. Apply knowledge of methods used for academic and nonacademic assessments (e.g., vocational, developmental, behavioral, assistive technology, motor skills).
- G. Demonstrate understanding of procedures for student screening; prereferral, including Response to Intervention (RtI) and multi-tiered support; referral; and eligibility.
- H. Apply knowledge of administration and scoring procedures for various standardized assessments (e.g., basal, ceilings, testing the limits) and nonstandardized assessments.
- I. 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 Evaluation (FIE).

For example:

- A. Demonstrate knowledge of the uses and limitations of various types of formal and informal assessment and evaluation data.
- B. Demonstrate knowledge of the appropriate application and interpretation of derived scores (e.g., standard scores, percentile ranks, age and grade equivalents, stanines, T-scores, z-scores).
- C. Apply knowledge of cultural and linguistic diversity in making appropriate evaluation and interpretation decisions.
- D. Apply performance data (including prereferral data) and information from teachers, other professionals, student, and parents/guardians to make appropriate educational recommendations within learning environments and to determine the effectiveness of instruction, modifications, and/or accommodations.
- E. Apply knowledge of strategies for effectively communicating to parents/guardians, classroom teachers, and other professionals about assessment purposes, assessment methods, and the implications and uses of assessment results.
- F. Analyze the need for further student assessment, adjustment of services, and/or evaluation as appropriate, including assessments conducted by other professionals, in specific areas (e.g., language skills, social skills, physical skills, emotional skills, assistive technology needs).
- G. Apply knowledge of components required to create Full and Individual Evaluation (FIE) reports according to federal and state guidelines.

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:

- A. Apply knowledge of characteristics and educational implications of disabilities for students of different ages, in various environments, and from culturally and linguistically diverse populations.
- B. Demonstrate knowledge of evidence-based instruction and curricula for the development of individual students' academic skills within the continuum of services in the least restrictive environment (LRE).
- C. Demonstrate knowledge of targeted instructional strategies, technology, and curriculum materials to address the individual needs of students with disabilities within the continuum of services.

- D. Apply knowledge of making individualized recommendations to assist the Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) committee in developing appropriate and ambitious Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) that target students' individual academic needs and goals.
- E. Demonstrate general knowledge of how to create, monitor the progress of, and collect data from appropriate, nonbiased, and culturally responsive interventions to assist in the ongoing appraisal of students' academic growth.
- F. 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:

- A. 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.
- B. Demonstrate general knowledge of appropriate, nonbiased, and culturally responsive evidence-based interventions, curricula, and instructional strategies for the development of functional skills based on knowledge of individual students with disabilities.
- C. Demonstrate knowledge of the effects of antecedents and consequences (e.g., environment, teacher attitudes and behaviors) on the behavior of students with disabilities.
- D. Analyze assessment and evaluation results in collaboration with members of the multidisciplinary team (e.g., licensed specialists in school psychology [LSSPs], special education teachers, related service providers) in addressing educationally relevant behavior (e.g., vocational, functional, academic, social) for students in various settings.
- E. Apply knowledge of requirements and procedures for functional behavioral assessments (FBAs), manifestation determination reviews, and behavioral intervention plans (BIPs) that incorporate positive behavioral supports and interventions.
- F. Apply knowledge of functional skills instruction for transitioning across environments (e.g., preschool to elementary school, school to work) and

the supports needed for transition and integration into various program placements.

- G. Apply knowledge of key concepts in behavior intervention (e.g., least intrusive intervention within the learning environment, social skills curricula, cognitive behavioral strategies) and ways of applying these concepts in collaboration with staff across educational settings (e.g., LSSPs, special education teachers).

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:

- A. Demonstrate knowledge of effective culturally responsive consultation and collaboration skills (e.g., knowledge of family systems, parents/guardians supporting student development and educational progress).
- B. 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, and dismissal and/or graduation.
- C. 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.
- D. Apply knowledge of strategies for encouraging students' and families' active participation in the educational team, addressing families' concerns, and fostering respectful and beneficial relationships between families and education professionals.
- E. Apply principles for maintaining accurate and detailed records of assessments, evaluations, and related proceedings (e.g., Full and Individual Evaluation [FIE], Admission, Review, and Dismissal [ARD]/Individualized Education Program [IEP] meetings, parent/guardian communications and notifications).
- F. 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:

- A. Demonstrate knowledge of models and theories that provide the basis for special education evaluations and recognize the purpose of evaluation procedures and their relationship to educational programming.
- B. 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 compliance with local, state, and federal monitoring and evaluation requirements.
- C. 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.
- D. Demonstrate knowledge of Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD)/Individualized Education Program (IEP) processes, rules, and procedures as determined by state and federal regulations.
- E. Demonstrate knowledge of the rights and responsibilities of parents/guardians, schools, students, teachers, and other professionals in relation to students' individual learning needs.
- F. Apply knowledge of professional ethical practices (e.g., in relation to confidentiality, informed consent, placement, and state accountability measures).
- G. Demonstrate knowledge of qualifications necessary to administer and interpret various assessment instruments and procedures for consistent use of these instruments across instructional settings.
- H. Demonstrate knowledge of organizations and publications relevant to the field of educational diagnosis and recognize the importance of engaging in activities that foster professional competence and benefit individuals with exceptional learning needs, their families, and/or colleagues.

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 researchbased recommendations for meeting the student's educational needs.

For example:

- A. 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.
- B. Synthesize data and information on the individual student to generate one recommendation for evidence-based instruction and/or intervention.
- C. Describe how a teacher would implement and monitor the progress of the recommendation.

Appendix C Key Assessment

Administration and Purpose: SPED Legislation Research Project

The Special Education Legislation Research Project assessment is administered in SPED 6913 Special Education Law. Candidates have been accepted into the program, are taking courses for the degree, and beginning courses directly designed for certification as an educational diagnostician. This assessment measures the candidate's ability to demonstrate understanding and application of competencies related to the TEA Educational Diagnostician Standards. Success on this evaluation is mandatory. Candidates who are not successful will be placed on an individual remediation plan. Expectations for completion of the Special Education Legislation Research Project Assessment are as follows:

1. The candidate is expected to articulate how students with disabilities are impacted by the key principals of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA).
2. The candidate will be able conduct a thorough literature review of one of the key principals which includes at least one historical court case that informed the selected key principle.
3. The candidate will articulate how they will apply the information from their research in their future practice.

Informing Candidates: SPED Legislation Research Project

Candidates are informed of the assessment in the course syllabus for SPED 6913 Special Education Law which provides candidates with the following instructions:

The Special Education Legislation Research Project is due the last Friday of classes. Candidates will examine in depth one of the key principles of Special Education Legislation found in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). They will choose one of the key principles and conduct a thorough research paper over that principle. They will need to include at least one

historical court case analysis in their paper. The paper must be between 1000-1,500 words double spaced (4 pages) with a minimum of 5 valid references and must follow 7th Edition of the APA writing style.

Choose one from the following list:

Key Principles of Special Education Legislation

1. Child Find/Zero Reject
2. Appropriate Evaluation
3. Individualized Education Program
4. Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)
5. Least Restrictive Environment
6. Related Services
7. Parent and Student Participation in Decision Making
8. Procedural Safeguards/Confidentiality

Candidates are successful on this assessment when they have 85% of all ratings assessed as "Expected" and no areas assessed as "Below". We expect candidates to be slightly higher than the "Expected" range of 85%. Candidates who are assessed at below 85% of the 'Expected" range or who have areas assessed at the 'Below" range will be examined individually, and a remediation plan will be developed and monitored before candidate is recommended for certification.

Content: SPED Legislation Research Project

Candidates are evaluated on three criteria. Each of the criterion is scored with one of four possible ratings: Accomplished 4, Expected 3, Developing 2, or Below 1. The criteria evaluated measures candidates' abilities related to the following Educational Diagnostician certification competencies.

- **SPED Competency 001 (Identification for Special Education Evaluation and Services):** *Apply knowledge of requirements for identifying students who meet disability criteria and for determining the need for specially designed instruction and related services. (CEC.APS 3)*
- **SPED 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. (CEC.APS 2, 3, 4, 5)*
- **SPED 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. (CEC.APS 3, 5, 6; CAEP A.1.1.6)*

Instrument: **SPED Legislation Research Project Rubric**

SPED Legislation Project Criteria	Accomplished 4	Expected 3	Developing 2	Below 1
<p>SPED Competency 001 (Identification for Special Education Evaluation and Services): <i>Apply knowledge of requirements for identifying students who meet disability criteria and for determining the need for specially designed instruction and related services.</i> CEC.APS.3</p>	<p>The candidate selected a historic court case directly related to one of the following key principles of IDEA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Child Find/Zero Reject 2. Appropriate Evaluation 3. Individualized Education Program 4. Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) 5. Least Restrictive Environment 6. Related Services 7. Parent and Student Participation in Decision Making 8. Procedural Safeguards/Confidentiality <p>AND the candidate thoroughly analyzed the case using at least 4 of the elements of semi-formal case analysis used in the course.</p>	<p>The candidate selected a historic court case related in part to one of the following key principles of IDEA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Child Find/Zero Reject 2. Appropriate Evaluation 3. Individualized Education Program 4. Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) 5. Least Restrictive Environment 6. Related Services 7. Parent and Student Participation in Decision Making 8. Procedural Safeguards/Confidentiality <p>AND the candidate thoroughly analyzed the case using at least 3 of the elements of semi-formal case analysis used in the course.</p>	<p>The candidate selected a historic court case minimally related to one of the following key principles of IDEA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Child Find/Zero Reject 2. Appropriate Evaluation 3. Individualized Education Program 4. Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) 5. Least Restrictive Environment 6. Related Services 7. Parent and Student Participation in Decision Making 8. Procedural Safeguards/Confidentiality <p>AND the candidate analyzed the case using at least 2 of the elements of semi-formal case analysis used in the course.</p>	<p>The candidate selected a historic court NOT related to one of the following key principles of IDEA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Child Find/Zero Reject 2. Appropriate Evaluation 3. Individualized Education Program 4. Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) 5. Least Restrictive Environment 6. Related Services 7. Parent and Student Participation in Decision Making 8. Procedural Safeguards/Confidentiality <p>AND the candidate analyzed the case using a different method than the semi-formal case analysis used in the course OR case and/or analysis not included.</p>
<p>SPED Competency 004 (Academic Instruction)</p>	<p>The candidate's research project demonstrates the candidate's ability to apply knowledge of educational</p>	<p>The candidate's research project demonstrates the candidate's ability to apply knowledge of educational</p>	<p>The candidate's research project demonstrates the candidate's ability to apply knowledge of educational</p>	<p>The candidate's research project does not demonstrate the candidate's ability to apply knowledge of educational</p>

SPED Legislation Project Criteria	Accomplished 4	Expected 3	Developing 2	Below 1
<p>and Strategies): <i>Apply knowledge of educational implications of disabilities, appropriate curricula, and instructional strategies, including accommodation s, modifications, and interventions, for students with disabilities.</i> CEC.APS.2, 3, 4, 5</p>	<p>implications of disabilities, appropriate curricula, and instructional strategies, including accommodations, modifications, and interventions, for students with disabilities including knowledge of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Evidence-based instruction and curricula for development of student's academic skills in the LRE b. Targeted Instructional strategies c. Technology d. Curriculum materials e. How to create, monitor, and collect data from appropriate, nonbiased, and culturally responsive interventions <p>AND ability to analyze:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Individual results of assessments b. Evidence-based practices c. Interventions d. Previous recommendations <p>AND ability to apply knowledge of:</p>	<p>implications of disabilities, appropriate curricula, and instructional strategies, including accommodations, modifications, and interventions, for students with disabilities including knowledge of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Evidence-based instruction and curricula for development of student's academic skills in the LRE b. Targeted Instructional strategies c. Technology d. Curriculum materials e. How to create, monitor, and collect data from appropriate, nonbiased, and culturally responsive interventions <p>AND ability to analyze:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Individual results of assessments b. Evidence-based practices c. Interventions d. Previous recommendations <p>HOWEVER, the candidate has NOT demonstrated the</p>	<p>implications of disabilities, appropriate curricula, and instructional strategies, including accommodations, modifications, and interventions, for students with disabilities including knowledge of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Evidence-based instruction and curricula for development of student's academic skills in the LRE b. Targeted Instructional strategies c. Technology d. Curriculum materials e. How to create, monitor, and collect data from appropriate, nonbiased, and culturally responsive interventions <p>OR ability to analyze:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Individual results of assessments b. Evidence-based practices c. Interventions d. Previous recommendations 	<p>implications of disabilities, appropriate curricula, and instructional strategies, accommodations, modifications, and interventions, for students with disabilities.</p>

SPED Legislation Project Criteria	Accomplished 4	Expected 3	Developing 2	Below 1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Characteristics and educational implications of disabilities for students of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Different ages 2. In various environments 3. From culturally and linguistically diverse populations b. Making individualized recommendations to assist ARD committee in developing IEPs 	ability to apply knowledge of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Characteristics and educational implications of disabilities for students of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Different ages 2. In various environments 3. From culturally and linguistically diverse populations b. Making individualized recommendations to assist ARD committee in developing IEPs 		
SPED Competency 007 (Legal and Ethical Practice): <i>Apply knowledge of professional practices, roles, and responsibilities and the legal and ethical foundations of evaluation related to</i>	The candidate's research project demonstrates ALL of following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Knowledge of models and theories b. Knowledge of state and federal laws c. Knowledge of due process rights d. Knowledge of ARD guidelines e. Knowledge of all 	The candidate's research project demonstrates 6 of following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Knowledge of models and theories b. Knowledge of state and federal laws c. Knowledge of due process rights d. Knowledge of ARD guidelines e. Knowledge of all 	The candidate's research project demonstrates 4 of following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Knowledge of models and theories b. Knowledge of state and federal laws c. Knowledge of due process rights d. Knowledge of ARD guidelines e. Knowledge of all 	The candidate's research project does not demonstrate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Knowledge of models and theories b. Knowledge of state and federal laws c. Knowledge of due process rights d. Knowledge of ARD guidelines e. Knowledge of all individual rights and

SPED Legislation Project Criteria	Accomplished 4	Expected 3	Developing 2	Below 1
<i>special education.</i> CEC.APS.3, 5, 6 CAEP A.1.1.6	individual rights and responsibiliti es f. Ethical practice g. Assessment instrument qualifications h. Knowledge of relevant organization s	individual rights and responsibiliti es f. Ethical practice g. Assessment instrument qualifications h. Knowledge of relevant organization s	individual rights and responsibiliti es f. Ethical practice g. Assessment instrument qualifications h. Knowledge of relevant organization s	responsibiliti es f. Ethical practice g. Assessment instrument qualifications h. Knowledge of relevant organization s