I. COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course focuses on content-area strategies for teaching language majority and language minority exceptional children.

II. RATIONALE
This course is for special education (EC-12) certification and diagnostician certification as required by the State of Texas. It will include an introduction to and demonstration of specific skills necessary for teaching the exceptional student.

III. STATE ADOPTED PROFICIENCIES FOR EDUCATORS
The state adopted proficiencies covered in this course include the following:

1. Learner-Centered Knowledge: The teacher possesses and draws on a rich knowledge base of content, pedagogy, and technology to provide relevant and meaningful learning experiences for all students.

2. Learner-Centered Instruction: To create a learner-centered community, the teacher collaboratively identifies needs; and plans, implements and assesses instruction using technology and other resources.

3. Equity in Excellence for All Learners: The teacher responds appropriate to diverse groups of learners.

IV. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
Students in this graduate program will:

- demonstrate knowledge of individuals with disabilities (SPED 5315, SPED 5320, and SPED 5397 are linked to this student learning outcome);
- evaluate the needs of individuals with disabilities (SPED 5386 and SPED 5387 are linked to this student learning outcome);
- demonstrate knowledge of fostering learning and development for individuals with disabilities (SPED 5320, SPED 5385, SPED 5386, SPED 5387, and SPED 5397 are linked to this student learning outcome);
- demonstrate knowledge of foundations of special education and professional roles and responsibilities of the special education educator (SPED 5385, SPED 5386, SPED 5387, SPED 5388, and SPED 5397 are linked to this student learning outcome); and
• develop a behavior intervention/change plan (SPED 5380 is linked to this student learning outcome).

IV. TEXES Examinations of Educator Standards (TEXES)

Domain I, Competency 001: The special education teacher understands and applies knowledge of the characteristics and needs of students with disabilities.
Domain I, Competency 002: The special education teacher understands and interprets formal and informal assessment procedures and knows how to evaluate student competencies to make instructional decisions.
Domain II Competency 003: The special education teacher understands and applies knowledge of procedures for planning instruction for individuals with disabilities.
Domain II, Competency 004: The special education teacher understands and applies knowledge of procedures for managing the teaching and learning environment, including procedures related to the use of assistive technology.
Domain II, Competency 005: The special education teacher promotes students’ academic performance in all content areas by facilitating their achievement in a variety of settings and situations.
Domain III, Competency 008: The special education teacher promotes students’ performance in English language arts and reading.
Domain III, Competency 009: The special education teacher promotes students’ performance in mathematics.
Domain IV, Competency 010: The special education teacher understands the philosophical, historical and legal foundations of special education.
Domain IV, Competency 011: The special education teacher applies knowledge of professional roles and responsibilities and adheres to legal and ethical requirements of the profession.
Domain IV, Competency 012: The special education teacher knows how to communicate and collaborate effectively in a variety of professional settings.
Domain I, Competency 002: The educational diagnostician understands and applies knowledge of ethnic, cultural, linguistic, and socioeconomic diversity and the significance of individual diversity for evaluation, planning, and instruction.
Domain II, Competency 003: Competency 003 The educational diagnostician understands and applies knowledge of student assessment and evaluation, program planning, and instructional decision making.
Domain III, Competency 006: The educational diagnostician understands appropriate curricula and instructional strategies for students with disabilities.

Council for Exceptional Children: Initial Level Content Standards

TAMUCC Special Education Program is aligned with the National CEC Standards

Beginning special educators demonstrate their mastery of the following standards:

Initial Content Standard 1: Foundations

Special educators understand the field as an evolving and changing discipline based on:

• philosophies and evidence-based principles and theories
• relevant laws and policies
• diverse and historical points of view
• human issues that influence the field and professional practice
• issues of human diversity that can impact families, cultures, and schools
• relationships of organizations of special education to the organizations and functions of schools, school systems, and other agencies

**Initial Content Standard 2: Development and Characteristics of Learners**

Special educators:
• know and demonstrate respect for their students first as unique human beings
• understand the similarities and differences in human development
• understand how exceptional conditions can interact with the domains of human development
• use this knowledge to respond to the varying abilities and behaviors of individuals with exceptional learning needs

**Initial Content Standard 3: Individual Learning Differences**

Special educators:
• know and understand the effects that an exceptional condition can have on an individual’s learning in school and throughout life
• utilize active and resourceful means in seeking to understand how primary language, culture, and familial backgrounds interact with the individual's exceptional condition
• understand learning differences provide the foundation upon which special educators individualize instruction

**Initial Content Standard 4: Instructional Strategies**

Special educators:
• possess a repertoire of evidence-based instructional strategies to individualize instruction for individuals with exceptional learning needs.
• select, adapt, and use these instructional strategies to promote positive learning results in general and special curricula
• modify learning environments appropriately for individuals with exceptional learning needs
• enhance the learning of critical thinking, problem-solving, and performance skills of individuals with exceptional learning needs
• promote increased student’ self-awareness, self-management, self-control, self-reliance, and self-esteem
• emphasize the development, maintenance, and generalization of knowledge and skills across environments, settings, and the life span.
Initial Content Standard 5: Learning Environments and Social Interactions

Special educators actively:

- create learning environments for individuals with exceptional learning needs
- foster cultural understanding, safety and emotional well-being, positive social interactions, and active engagement
- foster environments in which diversity is valued
- shape environments to encourage the independence, self-motivation, self-direction, personal empowerment, and self-advocacy
- help their general education colleagues integrate individuals with exceptional learning needs in general education environments and engage them in meaningful learning activities and interactions
- use direct motivational and instructional interventions
- teach students to respond effectively to current expectations
- intervene with individuals with exceptional learning needs in crisis
- coordinate all these efforts and provide guidance and direction to paraeducators and others, such as classroom volunteers and tutors.

Initial Content Standard 6: Language

Special educators:

- understand typical and atypical language development
- use individualized strategies to enhance language development and teach communication skills
- are familiar with augmentative, alternative, and assistive technologies to support and enhance communication
- match communication methods to an individual’s language proficiency and cultural and linguistic differences
- provide effective language models and use communication strategies and resources to facilitate understanding of subject matter for individuals with exceptional learning needs whose primary language is not English.

Initial Content Standard 7: Instructional Planning

Individualized decision-making and instruction is at the center of special education practice. Special educators:

- develop long-range individualized instructional plans anchored in both general and special education curricula
- systematically translate these individualized plans into carefully selected shorter-range goals and objectives taking into consideration an individual’s abilities and needs, the learning environment, and a myriad of cultural and linguistic factors
- emphasize explicit modeling and efficient guided practice to assure acquisition and fluency through maintenance and generalization.
• modify instructional plans based on ongoing analysis of the individual’s learning progress
• facilitate instructional planning in a collaborative context
• develop a variety of individualized transition plans from preschool to a variety of postsecondary work and learning contexts
• use appropriate technologies to support instructional planning and individualized instruction

**Initial Content Standard 8: Assessment**

Assessment is integral to the decision-making and teaching of special educators and special educators use multiple types of assessment information for a variety of educational decisions. Special educators use the results of assessments:
• to help identify exceptional learning needs and to develop and implement individualized instructional programs
• to adjust instruction in response to ongoing learning progress

Special educators understand:
• legal policies and ethical principles of measurement
• measurement theory and practices
• appropriate use and limitations of various types of assessments

Special educators collaborate with families and other colleagues to:
• assure nonbiased, meaningful assessments and decision-making
• conduct formal and informal assessments of behavior, learning, achievement and environments
• identify supports and adaptations required for individuals
• regularly monitor the progress of individuals
• use appropriate technologies to support their assessments.

**Initial Content Standard 9: Professional and Ethical Practice**

Special educators are guided by the profession’s ethical and professional practice standards to:
• to practice ongoing attention to legal matters along with serious professional and ethical considerations

Special educators view themselves as lifelong learners and regularly reflect on and adjust their practice to reflect current evidence-based best practices.

**Initial Content Standard 10: Collaboration**

Special educators routinely and effectively collaborate with families, other educators, related service providers, and personnel from community agencies in culturally responsive ways and promote and advocate the learning and well-being of individuals
with exceptional learning needs across a wide range of settings and a range of different learning experiences.

VI. COURSE OBJECTIVE AND OUTCOMES

After completing this course, students will:

1. Understand and apply special education laws, policies and procedures;
2. Identify and utilize assessment tools for planning and evaluating instruction;
3. Identify and utilize an array of strategies that facilitate communication and collaboration with parents and professionals;
4. Identify and utilize learning strategies, work skills, and organizational skills needed by special needs students to be successful in a general education classroom;
5. Identify and utilize procedures for modifying instruction for diverse learners;
6. Identify and utilize an array of reading strategies and adaptations and explain their impact on content area instruction;
7. Identify and utilize an array of strategies and adaptations for teaching mathematics, science, social studies and study skills; and
8. Describe and apply procedures for adapting testing, and grading for special needs students.

VII. COURSE TOPICS

The major topics to be considered are:
- Special Education Legal Framework and Regulations
- Collaboration and Consultation
- Evaluation of instruction
- Applied Assessment
- Adaptations of large- and small-group instruction
- Modifications of instruction for diverse learners
- Strategies for writing, spelling, and handwriting
- Content area strategies (mathematics, science and social studies)
- Study skills and test taking

VIII. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES

The methods and activities for instruction include the following:
- Readings and discussion
• Demonstrations  
• Assessment previews  
• Cooperative learning  
• Case studies  
• Videos/multi-media  
• Presentations of group/individual work  
• Research and writing

IX. EVALUATION AND GRADE ASSIGNMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Quizzes</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Activities, 10 points per unit</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share-a-Strategy Intervention Presentation*</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Summary*</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Instructions for these major assignments will be provided online.

The letter grade equivalent for the cumulative points earned is as follows:

- 450-500 points = A  
- 400-449 points = B  
- 350-399 points = C  
- 300-349 points = D  
- Below 300 = F

Virtually all assignments are graded using a rubric. It is always in your best interest to review the rubric and use it as a final checklist before submitting your work.

Unit Quizzes will consist of ten multiple-choice questions that must be completed in 15 minutes. The quizzes are designed to assess your knowledge and provide practice with assessment items similar to those on TExES certification examinations.

Unit Activities will enable you to demonstrate your understanding of course content by applying concepts in a variety of formats including case studies, participation in discussion forums, etc.

Share-a-Strategy Intervention Presentation* will allow you to present a strategic intervention in the context of a content area lesson.

Research Summary* will allow you to conduct research a strategic intervention in depth and summarize your findings.
Final Exam questions will include multiple choice (at least 50% of which will be drawn from unit quizzes), short answer and essay items.

*Instructions for these major assignments will be provided online.

**X. REQUIRED TEXT**


**XI. TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Dates/Class Meetings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Unit 1: Introduction to SPED 5387 | Unit Activities  
• Introduce yourself to your classmates, include an image that will help us get to know you  
• Take unit quiz (syllabus quiz) | 1/20-1/27 |
| Unit 2: Teaching Students with Learning and Behavior Problems in the World of RTI | Read Chapters 1 and 3 of the text and posted material  
Complete unit activities (to be posted)  
Take unit quiz | 1/28-2/11  
**Class Meeting 2/11** |
| Unit 3: Classroom Management as Instructional Support | Read Chapter 4 of the text  
Complete unit activities (to be posted)  
Take unit quiz | 2/12-2/18 |
| Unit 4: Working Effectively with Others | Read Chapter 5 of the text  
Complete unit activities (to be posted)  
Take unit quiz | 2/19-2/25 |
| Unit 5: Language and Learning—Assessing and Teaching Oral Language | Read Chapter 6 of the text  
Complete unit activities (to be posted)  
Take unit quiz | 2/26-3/2 |
| Unit 6: Reading in the Content Areas | Read posted material  
Complete unit activities (to be posted)  
Take unit quiz | 3/4-3/9  
**Class Meeting 3/9** |
| Unit 7: Math—Numeracy, Computation and Problem Solving | Read Chapter 11 of the text and posted material  
Complete unit activities (to be posted)  
Take unit quiz  
**Class Meeting 3/31** |
| Unit 8: Effective Content Area Instruction—Vocabulary, Study Skills, and Adaptations | Read Chapter 10 of the text  
Complete unit activities (to be posted)  
Take unit quiz | 4/1-4/7 |
<p>| Unit 9: Writing in the Content Areas | Read Chapter 9 of the text and posted material | 4/8-4/14 |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit 10: Science and Social Studies Supports</td>
<td>4/15-4/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete unit activities (to be posted)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take unit quiz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Read Chapter 11 of the text</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete unit activities (to be posted)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take unit quiz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share-a-Strategy Presentation</td>
<td>Class Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share-a-Strategy Presentations</td>
<td>4/28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>Due 5/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic to be approved by instructor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Due 5/9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**XII. COURSE POLICIES**

**Academic Integrity/Plagiarism**
University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in failure. See website [http://judicialaffairs.tamucc.edu/](http://judicialaffairs.tamucc.edu/).

**Submission of Work**
All written work turned in must be typewritten. Late work will not be accepted unless prior arrangements have been made in advance with the instructor or documentation is provided of a medical or family emergency.

**All online assignments must be submitted no later than 11:59 pm on the due date.**

**Dropping a Class**
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. Check the university academic calendar website for dates related to dropping a class with an automatic grade of "W" this term. See website [http://www.tamucc.edu/academics/academic_cal.html](http://www.tamucc.edu/academics/academic_cal.html).

**Preferred methods of scholarly citations**
Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA), Sixth Edition is the preferred method for citations within papers.

**Classroom/professional behavior**
All students are expected to act in a responsible manner with consideration of fellow students and toward TAMU-CC faculty and staff members. Specific rules and information is available in the TAMU-CC Student Handbook and available through the website [http://judicialaffairs.tamucc.edu/studentcofc.html](http://judicialaffairs.tamucc.edu/studentcofc.html).

**Statement of Academic Continuity**
In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

**Grade Appeals**
As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at [http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html](http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

**Disabilities Accommodations**
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in CCH 116. See website [http://disabilityservices.tamucc.edu/](http://disabilityservices.tamucc.edu/).

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

*Required by SACS*

Face-to-Face Expectations:
1. Be prompt and attend face-face-classes. Absences accompanied by doctor’s note or similar documentation will be excused. For each unexcused absence, 25 points will
be deducted from your semester total. Late arrivals and early departures from class will be recorded, and if excessive, will result in an absence.

2. Participate in class discussion and activities and put forth honest effort in-group work with peers. The professor will evaluate your participation in throughout the semester. Excessive private discussion during lecture or any class activities disrupts the class and will negatively affect your grade. If you find that you are a person who talks excessively to during class lecture and other activities where this is inappropriate, please monitor yourself and move to a seat where this is not tempting. The discipline this requires is greatly appreciated.

3. *All cell phones will be turned off or set to vibrate during class.* Please do not answer a call during class. Do not read or compose texts during class. Do not leave the classroom to answer a call, unless you anticipate an emergency call and provide the instructor notice prior to class.

Online Expectations (access via the Start Here link in Blackboard)

**XIII. BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Course content is supported by the following:


**Helpful Websites:**


Division for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Exceptional Learners  [http://community.cec.sped.org/DDEL/homepage](http://community.cec.sped.org/DDEL/homepage)

Discovery Lesson Plans, Customized Puzzles, K-12 with Modifications  [http://discoveryschool.com](http://discoveryschool.com)


Illuminations  [http://illuminations.nctm.org/](http://illuminations.nctm.org/)

Intervention Central  [http://www.interventioncentral.org](http://www.interventioncentral.org)


