

Gifted Education

Assessment and Measurement of Gifted Learners

Course participants will develop instructional strategies and leadership skills needed to support the identification and teaching of gifted students. Educators will examine instructional practices regarding assessment options, assessment bias, gifted services, and student creativity. Educators will collaborate and explore beliefs, best practices, challenges, current research, and ways to apply these to their own teaching practice.

Differentiating Instruction for Gifted Learners

Differentiating instruction is an effective method for reaching all gifted learners as mandated by No Child Left Behind. Ideal for teachers in mixed-ability classrooms and gifted support personnel, this course will focus on the how-to's of differentiation and the principles and practices that support effective differentiation. Participants will explore and practice various strategies to differentiate content, process, and products in response to learner readiness, interests, and learning profiles. Practical methods for setting up and managing a differentiated classroom that integrates gifted learners into the school environment will be explored.

Introduction to Curriculum for the Gifted

Educators wishing to develop a curriculum that meets the academic and social needs of all gifted students as mandated by No Child Left Behind will learn how to modify course content, the learning process, and the classroom environment to address those needs. Participants will gain experience in developing concept-based, open-ended, flexibly paced curriculum that can be implemented in the classroom immediately. This course provides practical solutions supported by current research to setting up a curriculum for gifted students.

Introduction to the Gifted and Talented

Boosting the achievement of all gifted and talented students is a requirement of the No Child Left Behind Act. Educators interested in understanding who gifted and talented students are, what it means to be gifted, and how to differentiate instruction to effectively teach gifted students will benefit from this course. Issues of excellence and equity, the meaning of intelligence, creative and critical thinking, grading, and special and underserved populations of gifted learners are also discussed. This course includes practical, hands-on strategies for immediate use in the classroom.

Models and Strategies for Teaching the Gifted

Research supports the use of many different models of instruction for teaching the gifted. Educators will explore and practice a wide variety of these models and instructional strategies to enhance their effectiveness when working with gifted students. While participants will examine learning theories, the focus will be on the practical issues surrounding the use of the various models with immediate classroom relevance. Educators will gain a strong background in developing learning environments that promote academic rigor and learner independence.

Socio-Emotional Needs of Gifted Learners

Gifted learners develop in unique ways that affect and reflect how they learn. In this course, educators will explore the characteristics, developmental traits, vulnerabilities, and subsequent unique guidance and counseling needs of gifted learners in all grade levels. Participants will reflect on and apply instructional strategies based on current research appropriate to their own educational situation.

Special Populations of Gifted Learners

The No Child Left Behind Act requires that schools boost inclusion rates of those learners who are members of traditionally underrepresented and underserved populations. This course will help participants learn the skills necessary to identify and develop the talents of underserved populations of gifted learners (cultural and ethnic minorities, economically disadvantaged, twice exceptional, underachieving, female, rural, and very young gifted students). Educators will practice specific strategies to understand and meet the unique needs of special populations of gifted learners.