

"We rise to great heights by a winding staircase of small steps."
Francis Bacon

SPED 4363 – 110. CRN 80805, Teaching Learners with Learning Disabilities

Fall 2021

Texas A&M University Central Texas
Warrior Hall 316

This is a blended face-to-face class that will make use of the Texas A&M-Central Texas Learning Management System [<http://tamuct.instructure.com/>]

We will meet in Warrior Hall in room 361 on the following Saturdays from 8:00-3:00.

Saturday meeting dates: 9/18, 10/2, 10/16, and 11/6

You are also responsible for all online work and assignments.

Instructor: Amanda G. Allen, Ed.D.
Office: Texas A&M University Central Texas, Warrior Hall; Office # 322O
Phone: (254) 519-5411
Email: agallen@tamuct.edu
Office hours: Mondays & Wednesdays: 11:00-4:00 and by appointment.

Student-instructor interaction:

Email, call, or personally ask for a meeting during my office hours. We can meet face-to-face in my office or in a conference room, or online through webex.

If you send an email that I deem requires a response outside of my regular office hours, I will reply within 48 hours except on weekends. Otherwise I will answer your email during my regular office hours. Email me at agallen@tamuct.edu and not through Canvas.

WARRIOR SHIELD

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas

Warrior Shield is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in Warrior Shield through their myCT email account.

Connect to Warrior Shield by [911Cellular](https://www.tamuct.edu/police/911cellular.html) [<https://www.tamuct.edu/police/911cellular.html>] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in Warrior Shield, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

For the most recent campus information regarding COVID-19, see the Texas A&M University Central Texas Fall 2021 Return to Campus Plan [<https://www.tamuct.edu/covid19/>]

Catalogue description:

Learning disabilities are examined with emphasis on history, definition, causation and characteristics. Content includes teaching methods for language, academic, and social skills as well as effective inclusive practices. Strategies for successful collaboration with parents, paraprofessionals and general education teachers are studied.

Course objective/Course understandings:

The student will develop a basic understanding of the needs of students with learning disabilities.

The student will define appropriate inclusionary and non-inclusionary strategies and practices for students with learning disabilities.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Develop appropriate IEP goals and objectives for students with learning disabilities.
2. Demonstrate how to organize a special education classroom for instruction.
3. Demonstrate how to document progress on IEP goals and objectives.
4. Demonstrate collaboration strategies with general education teachers.
5. Utilize technology ethically and legally.

RESOURCES

Required text

Mercer, C. D., Mercer, A. R., & Pullen, P. C. (2011). *Teaching students with learning problems* (8th ed.). Pearson.

Assessment Components

Quizzes, etc. (10 pts.) SLO 1-5

Complete quizzes on material we have covered.

Goals & Objectives (15 pts.) SLO 1, 3, 4

Correctly write a goal with three supporting yet graduating objectives. Further instruction will be provided.

Activities (15 pts.) SLO 1, 3, 4

Develop three tangible, hands-on activities for students with disabilities in different content areas, or you may choose to construct an emotional or behavioral activity or a classroom management activity. Begin looking in the chapters in the book for ideas. Write an IEP objective for which each activity may address. Further instruction will be provided.

Classroom and presentation (20 pts.) SLO 2, 5

Create a model classroom for best practices for either 1. an inclusion classroom or 2. a room for students with disabilities. (This does not have to be three dimensional.) You will present/defend your model to our class. Look in Chapter 2 and at other resources to begin your research. A rubric and further instruction will be provided.

Complete a final, comprehensive exam (10 pts.) SLO 1-5

Films (10 pts./ea.) SLO 1-5

Watch and reflect on the following films. Specifics will be provided.

- *It's so Much Work to Be Your Friend*
- *Last One Picked, First One Picked On*

Professionalism (10)

Professionalism includes but is not limited to the standards, policies, and requirements stated at the end of the syllabus.

Most work will be word-processed and double-spaced.

Use person-first language in all documentation. (State the person before the disability. – student with a disability rather than *the disabled student*)

Use correct grammar, mechanics, structure, and clarity.

Points will be deducted for these errors.

Assignment	Points	Grading Scale
Quizzes, etc.	10	90-100 – A
Goals & objectives	15	80-89 – B
Activities	15	70-79 – C
Classroom development and presentation	20	60-69 – D
<i>It's So Hard to Be Your Friend</i>	10	59> F
<i>Last One Picked, First One Picked On</i>	10	
Final exam	10	
Professionalism	10	
TOTAL	100	

Posting of Grades

Grades will be posted on Canvas.

*If your computer or other device is being defiant, eating your homework, or exhibiting other inappropriate behaviors, use the TAMUCT computer lab, the TAMUCT library, or a local library to complete your assignments or attend class. You may also email copies of assignments to me, or print hard copies of your assignments and bring them to me if necessary. All media are due on the same day at the same time.

COURSE OUTLINE AND UNIVERSITY CALENDAR

Course Outline:

The course outline will appear in a separate document.

Important University Dates – (You may need to cut and pasted the link into your browser.)

http://catalog.tamuct.edu/undergraduate_catalog/general-information/academic20calendars20and20final20exam20schedule/

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT:

Technology Requirements

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. **We strongly recommend the latest versions of Chrome or Firefox browsers. Canvas no longer supports any version of Internet Explorer.**

Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [https://tamuct.instructure.com/] or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link in myCT [https://tamuct.onecampus.com/]. You will log in through our Microsoft portal.

Username: Your MyCT email address. Password: Your MyCT password

Canvas Support

Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select “Chat with Canvas Support,” submit a support request through “Report a Problem,” or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

Online Proctored Testing

A&M-Central Texas uses Proctorio for online identity verification and proctored testing. This service is provided at no direct cost to students. If the course requires identity verification or proctored testing, the technology requirements are: Any computer meeting the minimum computing requirements, plus web camera, speaker, and microphone (or headset). Proctorio also requires the Chrome web browser with their custom plug in.

Other Technology Support

For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central
24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Email: helpdesk@tamu.edu

Phone: (254) 519-5466

[Web Chat](http://hdc.tamu.edu): [http://hdc.tamu.edu]

Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

Drop Policy

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete the [Drop Request](#) Dynamic Form through Warrior Web.

[[https://dynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com/casAuthentication.ashx?InstID=eaed95b9-f2be-45f3-a37d-](https://dynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com/casAuthentication.ashx?InstID=eaed95b9-f2be-45f3-a37d-46928168bc10&targetUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fdynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com%2FSubmit%2FForm%2FStart%2F53b8369e-0502-4f36-be43-f02a4202f612)

[46928168bc10&targetUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fdynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com%2FSubmit%2FForm%2FStart%2F53b8369e-0502-4f36-be43-f02a4202f612](https://dynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com/casAuthentication.ashx?InstID=eaed95b9-f2be-45f3-a37d-46928168bc10&targetUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fdynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com%2FSubmit%2FForm%2FStart%2F53b8369e-0502-4f36-be43-f02a4202f612)].

Faculty cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar's Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed. Once you submit the completed form to the Registrar's Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar's Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

Academic Integrity

Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student's academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, working with others in an unauthorized manner, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student's work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be referred to the university's Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university's standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

For more [information regarding the Student Conduct process](#),
[<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html>].

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may [submit a report](#),
[https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0].

Academic Accommodations

At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier-free education. The Office of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the university's programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations please contact the Office of Access and Inclusion, WH-212; or call (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information please visit our [Access & Inclusion](https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717) Canvas page (log-in required) [https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717]

Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit [Student Affairs](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html]. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf) online, please visit the website [http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf].

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender—including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs at (254) 501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University's Title IX Coordinator.

Tutoring

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, on a remote online basis. Visit the Academic Support Community in Canvas to view schedules and contact information. Subjects tutored on campus include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Tutors will return at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Suite 111 in fall 2020. Student success coaching is available online upon request.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, success coaching, or have any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at (254) 501-5836, visit the Office of Student Success at 212F Warrior Hall, or by emailing studentsuccess@tamuct.edu .

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject from on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log in and receive online tutoring support at no additional cost. This tool provides tutoring in over 40 subject areas except writing support. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

University Writing Center

University Writing Center: Located in Warrior Hall 416, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (A&M–Central Texas) is a free service open to all A&M–Central Texas students. For the Fall 2021 semester, the hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday in Warrior Hall 416 (with online tutoring available every hour as well) with satellite hours available online only Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. and Saturday 12:00-3:00 p.m.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the UWC is here to help!

Students may arrange a one-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by making an appointment via WCOonline at <https://tamuct.mywconline.com/>. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu if you have any questions about the UWC, need any assistance with scheduling, or would like to schedule a recurring appointment with your favorite tutor by making an appointment via WCOonline at <https://tamuct.mywconline.com/>. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu if you have any questions about the UWC, need any assistance with scheduling, or would like to schedule a recurring appointment with your favorite tutor.

University Library

The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 85,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available 24 hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place on Skype or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our [Library website](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index].

For Fall 2020, all reference service will be conducted virtually. Please go to our [Library website](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index] to access our virtual reference help and our current hours.

A Note about Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at TAMUCT, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues

confidentially, you can do so through Student Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don't agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don't be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the [Title IX webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html].

Behavioral Intervention

Texas A&M University-Central Texas cares about the safety, health, and well-being of its students, faculty, staff, and community. If you are aware of individuals for whom you have a concern, please make a referral to the Behavioral Intervention Team. Referring your concern shows you care. You can complete the [referral](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2) online [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2]. Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the [Behavioral Intervention Team](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/bat.html) website for more information [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/bat.html]. If a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M-Central Texas University Police at 254-501-5800.

INSTRUCTOR POLICIES:

Copyright Notice:

Students should assume that all course material is copyrighted by the respective author(s). Reproduction of course material is prohibited without consent by the author and/or course instructor. Violation of copyright is against the law and Texas A&M University-Central Texas' Code of Academic Honesty. All alleged violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

Attendance, Late Work, Class Policies:

Attendance, punctuality, and participation are required. Be prepared to participate includes completing assigned reading and bringing necessary textbooks, assignments and materials to class.

Attendance:

Attendance is required. An absence of three hours or more of a face-to-face class will result in a loss in professionalism points and in lowering the final points by one letter grade. Absences that accumulate for the equivalent of one face-to-face class will result in the loss of professionalism points and possible failure of the course. The student is responsible for scheduling a conference with me to discuss issues with absences in the class. Two partial attendances will equal one absence. Students missing class are responsible for notes, handouts, assignments and any changes in schedules. Find a reliable classmate who will take notes, collect handouts, and provide pertinent information if you must be absent.

Uncooperative Technology

If your computer or other device displays defiant tendencies, eats your homework, or exhibits other inappropriate behaviors, use a TAMUCT computer lab, the TAMUCT library, or a local library to complete your assignments. If an assignment is due on Canvas, you may email or print a hard copy of the assignment and send or bring it to me if necessary. All media are due on the required day and time.

Late Work:

The professor will deduct one point if an assignment is past due. One point will be deducted for each additional day the assignment is late. Supplemental assignments are **NOT** available. Be aware of the time and date each assignment is due.

Some assignments will be completed in class. If you are not present, supplemental assignments will **NOT** be available. You will therefore not receive the points for the assignments you missed.

Late work will be accepted without penalty only under extreme extenuating circumstances which are communicated **directly** to the professor in a timely manner. The professor will not accept information from another student.

Academic Integrity:

The professor will strictly adhere to the University's policy of Academic Integrity.

STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

Teachers have a responsibility for professional behavior and conduct at all times. The Teacher Education Program at TAMUCT expect high standards of professional conduct during your teacher preparation training and field-based observations. The following categories describe, in general, the expected professionalism.

I. Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance and punctuality are required for all classes, tests, seminars, group meetings, small and large group collaboration, and all field-based experiences.

II. Professional Attitude

Maturity and commitment to the profession of teaching is reflected by your positive attitude. Keeping a positive, professional attitude is crucially important to your course work.

III. Professional Communication Skills

Professionalism in your interactions with public school and university personnel implies (1) active listening, (2) thoughtful responses, (3) appropriate written and oral communication skills, and (4) active participation in class and field-based observations. Assuming full professional responsibility also means contributing to small and large group interactions, planning sessions, and assuming an active role in your professional development when appropriate.

Your professional behaviors communicate your integrity and character. These professional behaviors include how well you articulate your ideas and beliefs in facilitating instruction, the speech you use, the interactions with your peers, compliance with the school district dress and appearance guidelines, and the highest respect for teacher-student relationships.

It is extremely important to respect and honor the confidentiality of all interactions with school districts, administrators, teachers, and students during your pre-practicum experience.

IV. Honesty and Ethical Behavior Reflecting good Character

It is imperative that you do not undermine your personal integrity in any way nor project that appearance in any situation.

This syllabus is an overview of the course, a description of the learning tasks, an explanation of university policy, and a tentative calendar. The professor reserves the right to amend the syllabus during the term.

Be cognizant of Canvas Announcements and all emails that may indicate changes to the syllabus and the class.

Competency Goals Statements/TExES Competencies:

This course will develop concepts related to the following competencies of the following TExES All Level Special Education Standards:

Competency 001

The special education teacher understands and applies knowledge of the characteristics and needs of students with disabilities.

Competency 003

The special education teacher understands and applies knowledge of procedures for planning instruction for individuals with disabilities.

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.

Competency 005

The special education teacher knows how to promote students' educational performance in all content areas by facilitating their achievement in a variety of settings and situations.

Competency 007

The special education teacher understands and applies knowledge of transition issues and procedures across the life span.

Competency 008

The special education teacher promotes students' performance in English language arts and reading.

Competency 009

The special education teacher promotes students' performance in mathematics.

Competency 010

The special education teacher understands the philosophical, historical, and legal foundations of special education.

Competency 011

The special education teacher applies knowledge of professional roles and responsibilities and adheres to legal and ethical requirements of the profession.

Competency 012

The special education teacher knows how to communicate and collaborate effectively in a variety of professional settings.