



School of Education

EDST5458

Researching Special Education

Term 1 2021

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IMPORTANT:

For student policies and procedures relating to assessment, attendance and student support, please see website, <https://educaion/arts.unsw.edu.au/students/courses/course-outlines/>

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cusiodyans of the la/ds upon which we learn a/d teach.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Outcome	Assessment/s
1 Understand key concepts in special education research including purpose(s) of doing research, key philosophical and ethical issues, researcher/practitioner positionality/role, and the place of research in teachers' work and in special education more broadly	1, 2
2 Develop critical reading and synthesis skills in the context of critiquing the methodology of published research in special education;	1
3 Build knowledge and awareness of research methods, including different techniques for data collection, analysis, reporting, and engaging with existing special education research literature	1, 2
4 Build skills and understandings as preparation for conducting a small-scale project in education	2

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

Standard	Assessment/s
1 Advanced disciplinary knowledge and practices Demonstrate an advanced understanding of the field of education as it relates to their specialist area of study, and the ability to synthesize and apply disciplinary principles and practices to new or complex environments.	1, 2
2 Enquiry-based learning Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of research-based learning and the ability to plan, analyse, present implement and evaluate complex activities that contribute to advanced professional practice and/or intellectual scholarship in education	1, 2

6. COURSE CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

Module	Lecture Topic
Module 1	Introduction to special education research: conducting a literature search, APA style, journal article format Ethical issues in special education: conducting research with vulnerable populations, *UNSW Students: National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research, UNSW HREC

8. ASSESSMENT

Assessment Task	Length	Weight	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed	Program Learning Outcomes Assessed	Due Date
Task 1: Critical Reflections on Published Research	2000 words	40%	1-3	1-6	Monday March 29 th by 5pm
Task 2: Research Case Studies	4000 words	60%	1,3-4	1-5	Monday May 3 rd by 5pm

Submission of assessments

Students are required to follow their lecturer's instructions when submitting their work for assessment. All assessment will be submitted online via Moodle by 5pm. Students are also required to keep all drafts, original data and other evidence of the authenticity of the work for at least one year after examination. If an assessment is mislaid the student is responsible for providing a further copy. Please see the Student Policies and Procedures for information regarding submission, extensions, special consideration, late penalties and hurdle requirements etc. <https://education.arts.unsw.edu.au/students/courses/course-outlines/>

Assessment Details

Assignment 1: Critical reflection on published research.

This task requires you to find and select two peer reviewed original research papers published within the last 10 years. Answer the following questions critically:

1. *Briefly summarise* each of the two texts in terms of their topic(s) and where they 'fit' into the landscape of special education research (e.g. 'this is a paper in the area of autism that found...')
2. *Briefly describe the research method* used in each paper and each paper's *main finding/s* (e.g. 'this is a qualitative paper that used student focus groups and interpretive data analysis to show that...')
3. For each paper, *critique the research method used as it relates to the topic* – what are the strengths and weaknesses of using this method for this research problem, what other way/s might have been better, and how might *you* have approached the research problem?
4. Comment briefly on the *writing and layout of the paper*: to what extent did you find it easy or difficult (and/or interesting or not interesting!) to read? How might the writer have improved it?

Assessment 2: Research Case Studies. Choose 4 of the following case studies. Write a methodology section for each that includes:

1. Research question(s)
2. Participants (if applicable)
 - a. Who would you include in the study? Age? Disability? - Criteria for who is included or excluded from participating
 - b. How many participants would you need? *Justify with research
3. Setting
4. Instruments/Data collection

4. You use an iPhone and transportation app to teach mobility skills to 3 adults with intellectual disabilities. You accompany each them on their journeys over 4 weeks and prompt them

UNSW SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
FEEDBACK SHEET
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