

Teaching as a Profession

Syllabus

» Course Overview

Teaching can be a highly rewarding profession. Throughout the course, students will explore career opportunities within the field of education. They will learn what it means to be a professional in the classroom, whether it be working alongside co-teachers or managing an inclusive and diverse group of students. Students will learn about the code of conduct expected of educational professionals. Students will explore the history and best practices in the teaching profession as well as professional development opportunities. They will discover what it means to emerge as leaders in the field.

» Course Outline by Module

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| Module 1 | Career Skills and Opportunities in Education | Module 5 | Historical Foundations of Education, Current Best Practices, Accountability Systems, and Training Organizations |
| Module 2 | Professionalism in an Education Setting | Module 6 | Employment Practices |
| Module 3 | The Components of Diversity | Module 7 | Teamwork |
| Module 4 | Professional Code of Conduct | Module 8 | Leadership and CTSO Opportunities |

» Module Overview and Learning Objectives

| Module 1. Career Skills and Opportunities in Education

There are dozens and dozens of exciting opportunities in education. Whether you want to manage a classroom of elementary students, teach career and technical education to high school students, or find careers outside of the classroom, there is definitely an opportunity for you to do so. There are many traditional opportunities and careers like teaching middle school. Then there are careers that are outside of what people initially think when they consider education as a career field. Throughout the module, you will

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explore some of these careers, the educational requirements for the careers, as well as the outlook and demographic information for these careers. As you work through the readings, consider where you may want to be in the education landscape.

Learning Objectives: In this module, students will:

- Describe education and training career options (e.g. pre-school, infant toddler, elementary/middle/high school, exceptional student education, career and technical education, non-school opportunities).
- Research current demographic information affecting education and training (e.g., employment opportunities, salaries, student and family populations).
- Explain the differences of educational teaching pathways (i.e., pre-school, elementary school, middle school, high school, exceptional student education, and career-technical education).
- Identify the state professional standards which guide the practice of teaching in today's society as well as licensure, endorsement requirements, and respective education necessary to qualify for various teaching positions.
- Discuss traits, personal qualities and common dispositions of professional educators.
- Develop personal career goals and plan activities to meet those goals (ie: course /progress monitoring, career pathways, etc.) as well as research post-secondary institutions offering credentials and/or degrees in education.

| Module 2. Professionalism in an Education Setting

Professionalism in the field of education refers to the behavior, attitude, and approach that teachers, educators, and support staff display while working with students, colleagues, and the wider community. It encompasses various aspects such as a commitment to high ethical standards, respect for diversity, continuous learning, and effective communication. Professionalism in education also involves maintaining a positive and respectful relationship with colleagues, parents, and other stakeholders in the education sector. This includes displaying strong interpersonal skills, effective communication, and conflict resolution abilities. It's imperative to demonstrate professional behavior whether you are in front of students, speaking to parents, or collaborating with colleagues. Throughout the module, we'll explore the various ways that you can show professionalism and what it means for anyone working in the education field.

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Learning Objectives: In this module, students will:

- Explain what it means to be a professional educator and member of the education and training profession.
- Demonstrate positive work behaviors and personal qualities needed to work in the education and training profession (i.e. appropriate verbal and written communication, punctuality, body language, electronic devices, etc.).
- Discuss and identify cultural and generational values related to education.
- Understand the role of professional organizations for educators (e.g., National Education Association (NEA), Florida Association for the Education of Young Children (FLAEYC), Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE), etc.)
- Recognize and demonstrate appropriate, professional dress.
- Recognize the impact social media and your personal digital footprint has on your career and explore rules/regulations about social media use in a classroom environment with minors.

| Module 3. The Components of Diversity

"Diversity" refers to the characteristics that distinguish us, including our histories, personalities, experiences, and beliefs—all things that shape us. Our worldview, viewpoint, and method are all shaped by a confluence of our differences. Diversity also refers to accepting, valuing, and recognizing differences based on sexual orientation, gender, age, race, religion, and ethnicity. Diversity exists in every classroom. No two children have the same experiences, so everyone is bringing something different with them to school. As a teacher, it is your responsibility to respect differences, acknowledge and appreciate various cultures, and understand the needs of your diverse students. In this module, you will discover what diversity means as it pertains to education and classroom management. You will explore ways to be responsive to diversity in your classroom. You will begin to understand the ways in which diversity presents itself in the classroom, like in the way students behave and interact with one another. Finally, you will learn about how to support non-English speakers.

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Learning Objectives: In this module, students will:

- Define diversity as it relates to various educational settings.
- Recognize, discuss and be responsive to diversity.
- Describe how diversity of students and families influence teacher expectations and student achievement.
- Explain the importance of diversity and how it relates to a dynamic global society.
- Describe the impact of non-English speakers in an education and training setting (e.g. ESOL, ELL, etc.).

| Module 4. Professional Code of Conduct

A professional code of conduct is a set of standards that bring responsibility and accountability to people in a specific profession. There are legal and ethical issues and responsibilities of teachers and educators. Throughout the module, you will investigate the various facets of a professional code of conduct. You will begin to understand what your duties are and how they relate to various laws. You will learn about how your present and past legal issues may affect your ability to get credentials or licensure as a teacher. You will also understand the implications and expectations related to ethical behavior. On the other hand, you will discover consequences of unethical behavior. Finally, you will learn about how to apply the ethical behavior you've learned about as it pertains to your educational field experience.

Learning Objectives: In this module, students will:

- Differentiate legal and ethical issues in the education & training field (ie: Florida Consent Decree 6 Areas)
- Understand duties according to laws, regulations, policies and contract provisions.
- Explain the implications of an individual's past or present legal history on teaching credentials.
- Discuss the implications of ethical and unethical behavior.
- Demonstrate ethical behavior as it applies to educational field experience and observation.

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| Module 5. Historical Foundations of Education, Current Best Practices, Accountability Systems, and Training Organizations

To understand where education is heading, it's essential to understand its history. Throughout this module, you will research the development of modern education through the lens of the historical foundations of education. Additionally, you will learn about the various environments that teachers and educators work - including Montessori schools, public and private schools, virtual education, charter schools, and magnet schools. You will learn about the safety and environmental compliance that is required of schools and the educators that work within them. You will discover the methodology behind teaching and how teachers are evaluated. Finally, you will begin to understand the importance of professional development and how teachers accomplish it..

Learning Objectives: In this module, students will:

- Research the development of modern education and training and its impact on society.
- Describe various environments in which education and training are delivered (e.g. virtual, home-school, communities, Montessori, charter, magnet, private, etc.).
- Describe the accreditation/licensure requirements education and training organizations must meet
- Discuss the safety, health and environmental compliances for education and training organizations.
- Describe the methods education and training organizations use to evaluate and improve teaching and learning effectiveness.
- Describe the importance of professional development as it relates to teaching effectiveness.

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| Module 6. Employment Practices

There are facets of employment in any organization or professional field that you need to understand when you enter it. Human resources, for instance, is the part of employment that encompasses job recruitment, training for your role, professional development, and evaluations. Additionally, you need to understand your responsibilities and the responsibilities of your employer around issues in the workplace. These issues include things like discrimination and harassment. Legal implications may involve how discipline and termination work. In other words, what factors can lead to trouble for you in the workplace? What types of actions or behaviors can lead to being terminated. There are also aspects of the workplace that are specific to an organization or particular school district, for instance. You will learn about the various benefits and policies that affect you. Finally, you will learn about organized labor unions and how they impact your employment.

Learning Objectives: In this module, students will:

- Describe human resource functions and strategies (e.g., recruiting, training, continued professional development, and evaluating).
- Discuss legal implications concerning discrimination, harassment, discipline and termination.
- Describe how to access information about employee benefits and policies.
- Describe the role of organized labor (local/state/national unions, etc.).

| Module 7. Teamwork

Individuals perform well. When they are part of a team, they can be even better. Teamwork, particular within education, is critical. Teachers often work in teams to develop better techniques for teaching particular topics, brainstorming exciting ideas for lessons, and discussing problems or issues to get each others' perspectives. You may work as a team collectively or you may have a specific responsibility within a team. To work as part of a team, an individual needs to have interpersonal skills that make the collective team stronger. The structure of a team as well as how collaboratively a team works are highly based on the culture and climate of an organization. The culture of an organization is its personality - the beliefs and values that the leaders communicate and reinforce to their employees. You will identify ways that teams can help people reach individual goals more efficiently and how teams may help with conflict resolution and dispute management.

Learning Objectives: In this module, students will:

- Recognize the importance of teamwork and its impact on operations.
- Explain the roles and responsibilities of the individual as part of the team.
- Describe the interpersonal skills that contribute to leadership and teamwork.
- Explain the importance of the culture and climate of an organization.
- Assist team members in meeting their individual and team goals.
- Utilize conflict-resolution and dispute-management skills.

| Module 8. Leadership and CTSO Opportunities

A career and technical student organization (CTSO) is a group for students in career and technical professions. These organizations help students to gain knowledge and skills that will help them become leaders. They do this through activities, competitions, and other types of events. There are plenty of leadership opportunities that students may not get outside of these organizations, so they're highly beneficial. CTSO events and activities often provide rewards and benefits to their members. Within the module, you will learn about some specific organizations that you may wish to join to gain some of these benefits and advantages. You may even have some opportunities now in your own school that you can discover. Finally, you will learn about designing a portfolio to show off the knowledge, skills, awards, and work that you have accomplished throughout your academic career.

Learning Objectives: In this module, students will:

- Describe and emphasize the importance of Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) events and activities available for students and schools.
- Identify the leadership opportunities available through CTSO involvement (local, district, state and national levels).
- Identify the benefits and awards provided through participation in CTSO activities.
- Identify additional student organizations that relate to education.
- Identify the various high school service clubs and CTE organizations and explain their role in enhancing education.
- Design and Create a Student Professional Portfolio.