

Course Information Form (CIF)

Course Code: ECE 242

Course Title: The Exceptional Child

Department: Arts, Media, and Social Sciences

Effective Date: Summer 2026

PCS Code: 1.1 - Baccalaureate/Transfer

CIP Code: 13.1001

Repeatability: 0

Credit Hours

Catalog Notation: 3-2-4

Credit Hour Distribution:

Lecture: 3

Lab: 2

Clinical: 0

Total: 4

General Course Information

Catalog Description

Introduces range of cognitive, physical, social, and emotional special needs in children; identification, intervention strategies, methods, and programs in various settings; applicable laws, requirements, and family issues.

General Course Objectives

Enables students to identify and support children with a wide range of special needs.

Minimum Placement Levels

English	Reading	Math
Placement out of ENG 098	None	None

Prerequisites

Credit in PSY 207

Methods of Evaluation

2 objective/essay exams, quizzes, 5 assignments, IEP/IFSP analysis and presentation, online modules, application assignment, and discussion forums.

Instructional Materials and Additional Supplies

The Exceptional Child, by Eileen Allen and Glynnis Cowdery, 978-1305495999

Course Content

General Learning Outcomes (GLOs)

- Communication: Students will demonstrate the ability to read, write, listen, and speak effectively.
- Critical Thinking and Information Literacy: Students will demonstrate the ability to evaluate perspectives, evidence, and implications, and to locate, assess, and use information effectively.
- Global Awareness and Cultural Reasoning: Students will demonstrate their understanding of global issues, gender and sexual orientation, and multicultural perspectives.

Course Segments and Student Learning Outcomes

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
Introduction to Exceptionality	1. Recognize the unique challenges of working with children with exceptional cognitive, physical, social, and emotional characteristics. 2. Recognize and describe current theory. 3. Define evidence-based practices.	7	1	0
Understanding the Development of Children with Special Needs: cognitive delays and intellectual disabilities; communication disorders; emotional and behavior problems; physical and sensory disabilities; learning differences; health impairments; dual language learners; gifted	1. Recognize and describe the etiology, characteristics, and needs of children with each of the listed special needs.	16	6	0
Role of the Family and Society	1. Describe family-centered service delivery models. 2. Recognize challenges faced by families caring for children with special needs. 3. Identify cultural differences. 4. Describe the importance of a culturally sensitive approach. 5. Examine own understanding and attitudes. 6. Identify community resources to support children and families with special needs.	6	10	0
Current Practice	1. Demonstrate ability to plan experiences, guide behavior, and adapt schedules and equipment for children with each of the listed special needs using current evidence-based approaches and universal design. 2. Describe ways services are provided in the home, schools, and community settings. 3. Review and evaluate an IEP and an IFSP. 4. Describe collaborative approaches (e.g. interdisciplinary) and discuss their importance. 5. Describe how transitions should occur. 6. Identify appropriate technologies used with a variety of children with special needs. 7. Recognize important provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Educational Improvement Act, Section 504, and Illinois DCFS licensing standards.	16	13	0

Total Contact Hours

Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
45	30	0