



Educational Specialist Level 2 Program

Signature Assignment for EDSP 695S

Comprehensive Exam

Student Learning Outcome(s) Assessed:

SLO 6: Candidate will analyze and synthesize research in special education through written communication

Description of the Signature Assignment

Candidates will respond in writing to essay-type questions that require them to identify, discuss, and synthesize information regarding key issues across readings in the M.S. program. The comprehensive examination will comprise of 2 take-home exams and 1 in-person exam which will be spread across the semester. Students must successfully pass all 3 examinations in order to pass the comprehensive examinations and earn the M.S. degree.

Directions for Students

The comprehensive exams will include 2 take-home questions and a one day test experience. If a candidate receives a failing grade on one question, the candidate will be allowed to attempt a passing response to a related question during the following summer. If a candidate fails more than one question, he/she will need to take the entire exam again. He/she will have one additional opportunity to take the entire comprehensive exam during a later regularly scheduled semester. Candidates must receive a passing grade on all responses in order to have a passing grade submitted for the comprehensive exam at the end of the semester.

Note: The specific questions for the comprehensive exam change each year and are on file in the department office.

Scoring Rubric:

Criteria	Exceeds expectations	Meets expectations	Meets some expectations	Does not meet expectations	COMMENTS
Critical thinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of strong analysis and synthesis of key ideas across multiple readings and perspectives. Thesis statement and argument are strongly persuasive, compelling and logical 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of analysis and synthesis across multiple readings and perspectives Thesis statement and argument are persuasive and logical. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inconsistent evidence of analysis and synthesis across readings and perspectives. Thesis statement and argument are somewhat persuasive and logical. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient analysis and lacks synthesis, summary of individual articles Thesis statement and argument are not persuasive or logical. 	
Theory and Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates in depth knowledge of theoretical frameworks and research literature (major concepts, contributors, and controversies) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates knowledge of theoretical frameworks and research literature (major concepts, contributors, and controversies) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates superficial knowledge of theoretical frameworks and research literature (major concepts, contributors, and controversies) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates insufficient and/or incorrect knowledge of theoretical frameworks and research literature (major concepts, contributors, and controversies) 	
Supporting evidence from reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thesis statement and argument are strongly based in the literature. Uses multiple current, relevant sources to support thesis statement and assertions Supports arguments using relevant examples/elaboration from readings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thesis statement and argument are based in the literature. Uses multiple current, relevant sources to support thesis statement and assertions, Supports arguments using relevant examples/elaboration from readings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thesis statement and argument are somewhat based in the literature. Some seminal citations and/or relevant sources are missing. Insufficient evidence to support thesis statement and assertions. Supports arguments using incorrect or incomplete examples/elaboration from readings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thesis statement and argument are not based in the literature Seminal citations and/or relevant sources are missing. Lack of support using example/elaboration from readings 	
Writing style	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concise, comprehensive, and clearly organized response Minimal grammatical errors. Correct use of APA format. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive, organized response Minimal grammatical errors. Correct use of APA format. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partial response Some coherence in organization of the response Consistent grammatical and/or APA errors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incomplete response Disorganized response, may be off-topic Numerous and consistent grammatical and/or APA errors 	
Total					

Final Overall Score:

Pass with distinction _____

Pass _____

Pass with reservations _____

Fail _____

Legend

Total Points	College of Education Assessment Scale Equivalent
14-16	4 (Exceeds Expectations)
11-13	3 (Meets Expectations)
8-10	2 (Meets Some Expectations)
4-7	1 (Does Not Meet Expectations)
0-3	0 (Can't Score)