MED 599: Action Research Project
Syllabus

Credits: 1 Semester Credit

Prerequisites: Graduates Only

Course Description: Graduates only. Students will research a current problem in secondary mathematics education that is relevant to their own teaching situation. They will develop goals, review relevant literature and plan the project as they progress through the program.

Course Objectives: To assist students in selecting a problem, creating a literature review, and devising a plan for their Action Research Project.

Course Requirements: These differ depending on how many times the students have taken the course:

(1st Credit)
Locate and read at least 4 research- or practitioner-based journal articles related to an aspect of mathematics education that you are interested in examining or improving in your own situation. Write a beginning draft of the Introduction of the Action Research Project, including

♦ Purpose of action research
  o Describe the motivation for improving your own situation.

♦ Description of the innovation
  Describe the planned innovation to improve your own situation.

♦ Goals of the innovation
  o Describe the potential objectives and goals of the innovation.
  o Describe how these goals are aligned with state/national mathematics standards.

♦ Description of the setting
  o Describe the setting in which the innovation will be applied, including the following:
    _ demographics of students (e.g., ages, ability challenges);
    _ classroom environment (e.g., resources, materials, limitations, subject);
    _ other relevant contextual information (e.g., political or community influences).

(2nd Credit)
Locate and read at least 4 research- or practitioner-based journal articles related to an aspect of mathematics education that you are interested in examining or improving in your own situation. Write a beginning draft of the Review of Literature of the Action Research Project, including

♦ Educational significance of the action research
  o Describe the need in your situation for the innovation.
  o Describe how your need relates to the educational needs of your colleagues as presented in the journal articles you have read.

♦ Definition of variables
  o Describe all of the variables or factors involved in the implementation of the innovation
Research questions
- Describe the questions you hope to answer in the Action Research Project.
- Describe how these questions related to the information you have read in the journal articles.

(3rd Credit)
Write a beginning draft of the Plan of Action of the Action Research Project, including
- Summary of the plan of action
  - Describe the innovation you want to implement as a plan of action.
- Alignment of materials with the plan of action
  - Describe the materials that you will need to implement your plan of action, including the materials you will need to create and the materials that are available.
- Reliability and Validity of Instruments
  - Describe how you plan to assess the innovation you plan to implement.
  - Describe how you know that the assessment is reliable.
  - Describe how you know that the assessment is valid.
- Self Assessment
  - Describe how you plan to assess yourself during the plan of action.

Method of Evaluation: Letter Graded

Means of determining the student's grade: The student's progress on the Action Research Project will be evaluated using the appropriate portion of the rubric for the final evaluation of the entire project. An A or a B will indicate excellent or satisfactory progress toward completing the appropriate portion of the project; lower grades will indicate the need for substantial revisions.

Required Texts: The Action Research Project Guide and Evaluation Rubric

Disability Access: Students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Disability Access Center (351-2289) as soon as possible to ensure that accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.