

**Common Course Outline**  
**PSYC/EDTR 107**  
**Introduction to Special Education**  
**3 Semester Hours**  
**The Community College of Baltimore County**

**Description**

Introduction to Special Education

Presents modern psychological research and principles applied the education of special needs populations; covers historical foundations of special education; gifted and talented; mental retardation; sensorimotor, learning, and behavioral challenges; cultural perspectives; appropriate educational and environmental modifications; and federal and state regulations. Designed primarily for pre-service teachers or others interested in the educational process. Prerequisite: PSYC 101 or PSYC 215

**Course Objectives**

At the end of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Describe how the study of psychological principles applies to special education.
2. Evaluate the credibility of research sources in special education.
3. Use data derived from research in special education to evaluate alternatives and make decisions.
4. Describe the history of services for students with exceptionalities.
5. Identify laws and regulations that effect special needs populations.
6. Discuss the impact of legal issues for the classroom teacher.
7. Describe the categories and characteristics of various special needs populations.
8. Describe possible limitations for each type of exceptionality.
9. Identify the major classification systems of exceptionality used for the purposes of prevention and education.
10. Explain the process used to identify students with special needs.
11. Identify indicators of possible learning problems.
12. Describe the various educational responses to students with special needs.
13. Describe the process by which an Individualized Education Plan is developed.
14. Create an Individualized Education Plan for a student with special needs.

15. Identify resources that could help classroom teachers to deal with students who have disabilities.
16. Explain the possible roles of the parent in special education.
17. Discuss societal values and reactions to exceptionality
18. Explain cultural issues related to special education.

**Major Topics:**

Research issues and strategies in special education

History of special education

Federal and state legislation related to special education

Categories of exceptionality with characteristics and possible limitations

- a) Learning challenges
- b) Emotional Disorders
- c) Mental Retardation
- d) ADD/ADHD
- e) Physical/motor challenges
- f) Multiple disabilities
- g) Visual impairments
- h) Hearing impairments

Gifted/Talented education

Classification of special needs populations

Assessment of exceptionality

Individualized education plans

Educational responses to students with special needs

Resources to assist classroom teachers

The role of the parent in special education

Societal values and reactions to exceptionality

Cultural issues and exceptionality

**Course Requirements**

Evaluation and student feedback in this course will combine several of the following formats:

1. Tests/Quizzes
2. Portfolio projects
3. Research papers

4. Oral presentations
5. Cooperative learning group assignments
6. On-site classroom observations, in early childhood, elementary, secondary, higher education, or other appropriate special education setting.
7. Written observation reports applying course material
8. Classroom participation
9. Writing lesson plans
10. Writing an IEP

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