# RSED 5140/6140/6140D SEVERE DISABILITIES CURRICULUM

# Auburn University Department of Special Education, Rehabilitation, & Counseling

# SUMMER 2025 Mini-Semester May 19th to June 23rd

**Course Number**: **RSED 5140/6140/6140D**

**Course Title: Severe Disabilities Curriculum**

**Meeting Time/Place: For RSED 5140 & 6140 we will meet on campus in person**

**Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30 pm to 4:15 pm**

**College of Education Building: Room 1420**

**For RSED 6140D Graduate distance education**

**Asynchronous weekly material posted via CANVAS**

**Office hours:** In Person TBA and ZOOM Office Hour Meetings Available

Email for individual ZOOM Appointments

**Credit:** 3 semester hours

**Instructor:** Professor Suzanne Woods-Groves, Ph.D.

**Instructor’s email:** [woodssu@auburn.edu](mailto:woodssu@auburn.edu)

**Instructor’s phone:** 334-844-7621

**Office location:** College of Education Building 3140

1. **Date Syllabus Prepared:** May 2025

**REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY:**

All students in this course are expected to have all the equipment and software needed to be successful in the course. You will need to access weekly assignments, quizzes, and materials posted via CANVAS and PANOPTO. You will complete and submit your exams and assignments via CANVAS. Ensure you have a working computer and reliable internet connection. Be sure you have installed and have access to all of the software required to participate in the course and complete your assignments (Canvas, PDF reader, Panopto). **On campus students should bring their laptops and or tablets to class each week. Your device should have a webcam and with video and audio capability.**

# REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS are Available via ALL ACCESS (and can be ordered from another vendor):

Obtain your textbooks before the first day of class.

* **Teaching Students with Moderate and Severe Disabilities 2nd Edition** Browder, D. M., Spooner, F., Courtade, G. R. & Contributors. Published Guilford Press 2020.
* **High leverage Practices and Students with Extensive Support Needs**  Pennington, R., Ault, M. J., Courtade, G., Jameson, J. M., & Ruppar, A.  Routledge. Published 2023

# ALL ACCESS TEXT:

Please review ALL ACCESS information below and located in your CANVAS course home page.

[**http://aub.ie/allaccess**](http://aub.ie/allaccess)

**ADDITIONAL READINGS available via CANVAS**

# COURSE DESCRIPTION:

**This is a lecture course with a 10-hour Field experience for observation**. This course provides an understanding of a functional/developmental approach to the selection, development, implementation, and evaluation of appropriate curriculum activities for students with extensive support needs. There is an emphasis on educational grades Pre-K-12 and postsecondary. Content includes extensive exploration of various curricular theories, evidence-based practices and best practices/methods for supporting individuals with extensive support needs. **(Below see state standards addressed)**.

**Student Learning Outcomes/ Course Objectives: After completing this course you will:**

1.1.1 Understand how language, culture, and family background influence the learning of individuals with exceptionalities.

1.1.2 Use understanding of development and individual differences to respond to the needs of individuals with exceptionalities.

2.1.2 Use motivational and instructional interventions to teach individuals with exceptionalities how to adapt to different environments.

2.3.1 Plan instruction for individual functional life skills, adaptive behavior, and enhanced social participation across environments.

2.3.2/2.4.2 Demonstrate appropriate body mechanics to promote student and teacher safety in transfer, lifting, positioning, and seating as well as use proper positioning techniques and equipment to promote participation in academic and social environments.

3.1.1 Understand the central concepts, structures of the discipline, and tools of inquiry of the content areas they teach, and organize this knowledge, integrate cross-disciplinary skills, and develop meaningful learning progressions for individuals with exceptionalities. [“General curricula” means the academic content of the general curricula including math, reading, English language arts, science, social studies, and the arts. “Specialized curricula” means the content of specialized interventions or sets of interventions including, but not limited to academic, strategic, communicative, social, emotional, and independence curricula.]

3.1.2 Understand and use general and specialized content knowledge for teaching across curricular content areas to individualize learning for individuals with exceptionalities.

3.1.3 Modify general and specialized curricula to make them accessible to individuals with exceptionalities.

4.1.1 Select and use technically sound formal and informal assessments that minimize bias.

4.1.2 Use knowledge of measurement principles and practices to interpret assessment results and guide educational decisions for individuals with exceptionalities.

4.1.3 Collaborate with colleagues and families to use multiple types of assessment information in making decisions about individuals with exceptionalities.

5.1.1 Consider an individual’s abilities, interests, learning environments, and cultural and linguistic factors in the selection, development, and adaptation of learning experiences for individuals with exceptionalities. (Instructional strategies include intervention used in academic and specialized curricula.)

5.1.2 Use technologies to support instructional assessment, planning, and delivery for individuals with exceptionalities.

5.1.3 Use augmentative and alternative communication systems and a variety of assistive technologies to support the communication and learning of individuals with exceptionalities.

5.1.4 Use strategies to enhance language development and communications skills of individuals with exceptionalities.

5.1.6 Teach to mastery and promote generalization of learning.

**Justification for Graduate Credit:**

This is course is taken by undergraduates at the 5000 level and graduate students at the 6000 level. Some assignments and evaluations will differ for undergraduate and graduate students. Graduate students will sequentially progress through graduate level course material and will acquire knowledge and apply learned concepts within activities or projects. Graduate students will exhibit a synthesis of their independent learning by creating and presenting a cumulative project that supports learners with disabilities. Graduate learners will include evidence-based methods in their project and will provide a synopsis of area specific current research.

1. **COURSE CONTENT SCHEDULE This syllabus** is a tentative outline for the course and is **subject to change** with advance notice from the instructor.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Dates** | **Topic** | **Assigned Readings** | **Assignments & Due Date Quizzes & Exams will close after due**  **date** |
| **Tues**  **05/20**  **MODULE 1** | **Module 1:**  Learners with ESN  MAPS & Person-Centered Planning  IEP Collaboration  HLPs Collaboration & Assessment | **Read Syllabus**  **Textbooks:**  Browder Ch 1  HLP Ch 1 to 3 | **DUE Tuesday May 27th at 12:00pm**   * Quiz * Application Activity * Application Activity * Critical Thinking |
| **Thurs**  **05/22**  **MODULE 2** | **Module 2:**  Alabama Alternate Achievement (AAA)  MAST Data Collection  Teaching AAA Standards  HLPs Data-based Decision Making | **Textbooks:**  Browder Ch 4 & 5  HLP Ch 4 | **DUE Tuesday May 27th at 12:00pm**   * Quiz * Application Activity * Critical Thinking Activity |
| **Tues**  **05/27**  **MODULE 3** | **Module 3:**  Communication  AAA Standards  Task Analysis  Systematic Prompting  Video Modeling | **Textbook:**  Browder Ch 3  HLP Ch 9 & 19 | **DUE Tuesday June 3rd at 12:00pm**   * Quiz * Application Activity * Critical Thinking Activity |
| **Thurs**  **05/29**  **MODULE 4** | **Module 4:**  Teaching Literacy Skills  AAA Standards  HLPs Lesson Planning/Instruction/Assessment  Video Modeling | **Textbook:**  Browder Ch 9 & 14  HLP Ch 12 & 15 | **DUE Tuesday June 3rd at 12:00pm**   * Quiz * Application Activity * Critical Thinking Activity |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Dates** | **Topic** | **Assigned Readings** | **Assignments & Due Date Quizzes & Exams will close after due**  **date** |

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| **Tues**  **06/03**  **MODULE 5**  **Week 3** | **Module 5:**  Teaching Writing  Teaching Social Skills & Communication  HLPs Lesson Planning/Instruction/Assessment | **Textbook:**  Browder Ch 9 & 14  HLPs Ch 14 | **DUE Tuesday June 10th at 12:00pm**   * Quiz * Application Activity * Critical Thinking Activity |
| **Thurs**  **06/05**  **MODULE 6**  **Week 3** | **Module 6:**  Teaching Early Numeracy & Problem Solving  Teaching Mathematical Standards  AAA Standards  HLPs Lesson Planning/Instruction/Assessment | **Textbook:**  Browder Ch 10 & 11 | **DUE Tuesday June 10th at 12:00pm**   * Quiz * Application Activity * Critical Thinking Activity |
| **Tues**  **06/10**  **MODULE 7**  **Zoom Class**  **NO ON CAMPUS Meeting**  **Peer to Peer Video**  **Recordings** | **Module 7:**  **ZOOM Meeting**  Project Presentations  Peer to Peer video recordings of lessons  Teaching Personal & Daily Living Skills  Supporting Health Care & Physical Needs | **Textbook:**  Browder 15 & 16 | **DUE. Thursday June 12th by 12:00pm**   * Quiz * Critical Thinking Activity |
| **Thurs**  **06/12**  **MODULE 8**  **EXAM 1**  **No Class Meeting** | **Module 8 EXAM**  No Class Meeting  Complete Exam via CANVAS  **EXAM OPENS** June 12th Thursday at 12:30pm  **EXAM CLOSES** June 16th Monday at  at 11:59pm | **No Class Meeting**  **Complete EXAM via CANVAS** | No Class Meeting  Complete Exam via CANVAS  **EXAM OPENS** June 12th Thursday at 12:30pm  **EXAM CLOSES** June 16th Monday at  at 11:59pm |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Dates** | **Topic** | **Assigned Readings** | **Assignments & Due Date Quizzes & Exams will close after due**  **date** |
| **Tues**  **06/17** | **Module 9: continued**  Teaching Personal & Daily Living Skills  Supporting Health Care & Physical Needs | Browder 15 & 16 | **Project Presentations Continued**  **Field Hours DUE**  **Final Video Models Due** |
| **Tues**  **06/19**  **No Class**  **Meeting** | **No Class Meeting Juneteenth**  **Auburn University Closed** |  |  |

# COURSE REQUIREMENTS/EVALUATION:

**Students are required to**

1. Successfully complete all required activities, quizzes, and projects and will submit their projects via CANVAS no later than the date designated for each project,
2. Take and pass all required exams,
3. Distance Graduate Students Must Watch all class lectures,
4. Read assigned materials within the delineated time.
5. Attend weekly class sessions and participate in discussions and activities

# STRUCTURE/SCHEDULE OF CLASS SESSIONS:

* For students in RSED 5140 undergraduate level and RSED 6140 graduate level, you will attend the on campus weekly class meetings
* For students in RSED 6140D graduate level your material will be posted the following day after our class meetings via CANVAS.
* The course will include weekly assigned readings, assignments, lectures, activities, and quizzes. The course is not self-paced and you will need to ensure you keep up with the pace of the course and to complete weekly assignments. This course is organized by modules to help with the organization of the information and assignments as you move through the course.
* Weekly ZOOM Office Hours and in person hours are available by appointment. Email your instructor, to make an appointment. For virtual meetings the instructor will send you a ZOOM link. You can attend via video.

**ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMS**

# Exam ( Exam = 300 points)

A requirement of this course is the completion of **one** **120-minute online examinations** (CANVAS) see point value for exam below. The exam will consist of 50 items which will include a variety of item times such as multiple choice, true/false, applied activities, and matching questions. All exams will be completed via CANVAS All students will access and complete their exams via CANVAS. These exams are timed and must be completed during the allotted time period and due date. All exams must be completed individually and must represent your own work and responses.

# 2. Check for Understanding Quizzes (7 Quizzes = 20 points each) Total Points = 140

There will be 7 online quizzes each worth **20 points**. The quizzes will focus on the required readings, course materials, and class activities. These Check for Understanding Quizzes are designed for you to evaluate your understanding of course material and assignments. **You can take the Quiz up to 2 times. Your highest grade will be recorded.**

**You should complete these quizzes individually with your answers representing your own work.**

# 3. Application Activities (7 Activities; Points vary per activity) Total Points =

**There will be 7 Application Activities** designed to offer you a chance to demonstrate critical thinking and explore concepts and skills introduced within this course. **The Application Activities can only be COMPLETED ONCE and ARE NOT TIMED**.

1. **Undergraduate Level Instructional Planning Project (300 points)**

Demonstrate knowledge of mobility and positioning. You will complete an instructional planning project. You will identify a skill to assess and teach. First, you will create an assessment instrument (i.e., task analysis, self- monitoring tool) to use to measure pre-requisite skills and to monitor performance for skill acquisition. Second, you will create a long-term measurable Goal with all SMART components. Third, you will create three objectives that include SMART components that use your assessment instrument as a baseline and progress-monitoring tool. Fourth, you will design a systematic instructional plan where you will use a systematic instructional method(s) to teach the target skill and video modeling. The systematic instructional plan will include the following components: AT supports, accommodation supports to develop independence and autonomy, evidence-based steps in systematic instruction including fading supports and promoting generalization of the skill. Fifth, you will graph and interpret data. You will present your video model in class.

**Graduate Level Instructional Planning Project (350 points)**

Graduate students will complete ALL COMPONENTS of Instructional Planning Project included in the undergraduate level description above. In addition, graduate students will read two published peer-reviewed articles. The articles will pertain to an experimental study conducted with individuals with severe disabilities that investigated the systematic instructional method that is used in their Instructional Planning Project. Graduate students will complete article discussion questions, synopsis of articles, and deliver a brief presentation of their findings. You will video yourself presenting your video model.

**5.Distance Graduate Students Participation Points Watch Module Lectures (280 points)**

If you are a Distance Graduate Student you are required to **WATCH ALL LECTURES IN THEIR ENTIRETLY** within each MODULE. Each MODULE is worth 40 points. There are 7 MODULES. Participation points are earned by watching 100% of videos and by watching all of the lectures in each MODULE. CANVAS. **Panopto statistics record individual views and the viewing length times for each lecture. Lectures must be watched by the due date indicated in the syllabus.**

**6.Field service 10-hour requirement (200 points)**

Students in this course will complete 10 field hours within approved placements in classrooms that serve students with severe disabilities. Students will complete required documentation and activities.

**7. Critical Thinking Activity (7 Critical Thinking Activities = 50 points each) Total Points = 350**

For RSED 5140 and 6140 on campus students, you will complete each Critical Thinking Activity during the in-person meetings. These activities provide the student with hands-on learning experiences where they will apply concepts learned through lectures, readings, application activities, and other class materials.  **RSED 6140D students will complete their critical thinking activities via CANVAS.**

1. **EVALUATION:** Final grades will be based on points assigned through completion and evaluation of course requirements and grades will be assigned on the basis of number of accumulated points, as follows:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ASSIGNMENTS** | **Points per**  **activity** | **Total Points Possible**  **On-campus Students** | **Total Points Possible**  **Distance**  **Graduate**  **Students** |
| **Check for Understanding Quizzes (7)** | 20 | 140 | 140 |
| **Critical Thinking Activities (7)** | 50 | 350 | 350 |
| **Application Activities (7)** | vary | 500 | 500 |
| **Distance Graduate Students Participation Points** | 40 | --- | 280 |
| **Project: Instructional Planning VPM: Graduate & Undergraduate** | ---- | 300 | 350 |
| **Exam** | 300 | 300 | 300 |
| **10 Hour Field Service Requirement** | 200 | 200 | 200 |
| **Total Points** |  | **1,790** | **2,120** |

**Final Course Grades will be Assigned for Undergraduate or Graduate as follows:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Letter Grade** | **Percentage of Points**  **Undergraduate = (1,790 points)**  **Graduate = (2,120 points)** |
| **A** | **90 - 100** |
| **B** | **80- 89** |
| **C** | **70-79** |
| **D** | **65-69** |
| **F** | **64 and below** |

# CLASS POLICY:

***Extra Credit:* No extra credit opportunities will be provided. Final grades will be comprised of points earned on the activities, tests, and projects described in the syllabus.**

# ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Auburn University has adopted an Honor System proposed by its students and faculty to promote academic integrity and has enacted the following code:

*“We, the faculty, instructors, and students of the (University course here) pledge to fulfill our mutual responsibilities to each other and the academic community at large with honor and integrity in order to build and maintain a climate of respect and trust that will enhance our research, teaching, and learning. We will support the Honor System of the School and will not tolerate activities that undermine academic integrity.”*

Academic dishonesty is an offense that will be reported to the Academic Honesty Committee. Please refer to the following document for further information regarding academic honesty: [Auburn University Student Academic Honesty Code](https://sites.auburn.edu/admin/universitypolicies/policies/academichonestycode.pdf)

**Academic Honesty Policy**: All portions of the Auburn University student academic honesty code (Title XII) found in the Student Policy eHandbook will apply to university courses. All academic honesty violations or alleged violations of the SGA Code of Laws will be reported to the Office of the Provost, which will then refer the case to the Academic Honesty Committee

**Honesty Code**: The University Academic Honesty Code and the Tiger Cub Rules and Regulations pertaining to Cheating will apply to this class. The Auburn Academic Honesty Code is found in both the Tiger Cub and the Student Government Association’s Code of Laws. Students are to read the honor code carefully, making sure they understand the policy, its implications for their work (e.g. tests, reports, papers, projects), and the consequences of code violation. Non-compliance with this policy will result in formal action with the university academic honesty procedures. Among other things, students are responsible for understanding the definition of plagiarism. Individuals are to (a) reference materials they use, and (b) reference only material they access directly. Individuals who copy or use ideas from the works of others without properly acknowledging the author, risk grave consequences.

**Excused Absences:** Students are granted excused absences from class for the following reasons: Illness of the student or serious illness of a member of the student’s immediate family, death of a member of the student’s immediate family, trips for student organizations sponsored by an academic unit, trips for University classes, trips for participation in intercollegiate athletic events, subpoena for a court appearance and religious holidays. **Students who wish to have an excused absence from this class for any other reason must contact the instructor in advance of the absence to request permission. The instructor will weigh the merits of the request and render a decision. When feasible, the student must notify the instructor prior to the occurrence of any excused absences, but in no case shall such notification occur more than one week after the absence. Appropriate documentation for all excused absences is required.**

**Make-Up Policy:** Arrangements to make up missed major examination (e.g. hour exams, mid-term exams) due to properly authorized excused absences. Except in unusual circumstances, such as continued absence of the student or the advent of University holidays, a make-up exam will take place within two weeks from the time the student initiates arrangements for it. Except in extraordinary circumstance, no make-up exams will be arranged during the last three days before the final exam period begins. The format of the make-up exam will be (as specific by the instructor).

**Accommodations**: Students who need accommodations are asked to electronically submit their approved accommodations through AU Access and to arrange a meeting during office hours the first week of classes, or as soon as possible if accommodations are needed immediately. If you have a conflict with my office hours, an alternate time can be arranged. To set up this meeting, please contact me by e-mail. If you have not established accommodations through the Office of Accessibility, but need accommodations, make an appointment with the Office of Accessibility, 1228 Haley Center, 844-2096 (V/TT).

***Assignments:*** All written assignments are expected to use person-first language (i.e. “child with a disability” rather than “disabled child”). Written assignments are expected to be typewritten, grammatically accurate, and free of spelling and typographical errors. Assignments are to be of a quality that would be expected of a professional. **Please do not email me assignments, they will not be graded. All Assignments must be submitted via CANVAS or through Auburn BOX when indicated and typed.**

**All assignments must be turned in when due via CANVAS unless otherwise indicated. Assignments must be turned in by the student completing the assignment. No late assignments will be accepted unless the instructor has received prior notice of absence (via phone, email, etc…) that can be verified as a university approved excuse. When prior notice is provided and the student has a university approved excuse, he or she will have one week from the time he or she returns to class to turn in the assignment.**

***Professionalism:*** As faculty, staff, and students interact in professional settings, they are expected to demonstrate professional behaviors as defined in the College’s conceptual framework. These professional commitments or dispositions are listed below:

* + Engage in responsible and ethical professional practices
  + Contribute to collaborative learning communities
  + Demonstrate a commitment to diversity
  + Model and nurture intellectual vitality

**Classroom Behavior: “**Behavior in the classroom that impedes teaching and learning and creates obstacles to this goal [learning] is considered disruptive and therefore subject to sanctions… Students have the responsibility of complying with behavioral standards… Examples of improper behavior in the classroom (including the virtual classroom of e-mail, chat rooms, telephone, and web activities associated with courses) may include, but are not limited to the following: arriving after a class has begun; use of tobacco products; monopolizing discussion; persistent speaking out of turn; distractive talking including cell phone usage; audio or video recording of classroom activities or the use of electronic devices (including cell phones) without the permission of the instructor; refusal to comply with reasonable instructor directions; employing insulting language or gestures; verbal, psychological, or physical threats, harassment, and physical violence.” (See *Tiger Cub*).

***Student Academic Grievance Policy:*** The purpose of this university policy is to “resolve academic grievances of students, which results from actions of faculty or administration. This resolution should be achieved at the lowest level and in the most equitable way. The burden of proof rests with the complainants.” See *Tiger Cub* for steps toward redress.

**Confidentiality:** Respect family rights to privacy, the identity of children and families will be confidential.

**Emergency Contingency statement:**

If normal class and/or lab activities are disrupted due to illness, emergency, or crisis situation, the syllabus and other course plans and assignments may be modified to allow completion of the course. If this occurs, an addendum to your syllabus and/or course assignments will replace the original material.

If you are experiencing stress that feels unmanageable (personal or academic) during the semester, Auburn University’s Student Counseling & Psychological Services (SCPS) offers a variety of services to support you. The mission of SCPS is to provide comprehensive preventative and clinical mental health services to enhance the psychological well-being of individual students, as well as the broader campus culture. As an instructor, I am available to speak with you regarding stresses related to your work in this course, and I can assist in connecting you with the SCPS network of care. You can schedule an appointment yourself with the SCPS by calling [(334)844-5123](tel:+13348445123)

If you or someone you know needs to speak with a professional counselor immediately, the SCPS offers counseling during both summer term as well as the traditional academic year. Students may come directly to the SCPS and be seen by the counselor on call, or you may call [334.844.5123](tel:+13348445123) to speak with someone. Additional information can be found at [http://wp.auburn.edu/scs (Links to an external site.)](http://wp.auburn.edu/scs/)complainants.” See *Tiger Cub* for steps toward redress.