

**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY SAN MARCOS**  
**School of Education**  
**College of Education, Health and Human Services**

**EDMX 632**  
**Technology and Communication for Special Populations**

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**WELCOME!**

Welcome to EDMX 632: Technology and Communication for Special Populations. This semester, we will embark on sixteen weeks of learning how to support learners with diverse and unique needs who require access to specialized technology. A wide variety of high, medium and lower level-technology will be introduced, worked with hands-on and researched. Guest speakers will educate about technology and communication from a variety of perspectives—you may collaborate with parents, students, related-services professionals, administrators and other educators. Whether your knowledge-base about assistive technologies is emerging or advanced, you will learn and educate others about a wide variety of instructional strategies, tools, accommodations and information designed to make course participants strong, competent Education Specialists with knowledge for supporting students with a variety of technologies!

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Terms, trends, history, and current information bases on applications of technology and assistive and adaptive devices for working with children. Use of technologies for learners with mild, moderate, and severe disabilities for education programs in schools and agencies. Identification of interventions for effective learner communication and needed augmentative communication devices. Knowledge of system components and configuration of special and adaptive devices. Competency-based, requiring laboratory work. **Prerequisite:** EDUC 422 or equivalent is required. Course participants will work on both Mac and PC platforms, and should be able to navigate both.

## **SCHOOL OF EDUCATION MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the School of Education Community is to collaboratively transform public education by preparing thoughtful educators and advancing professional practices. We are committed to diversity, educational equity, and social justice, exemplified through reflective teaching, life-long learning, innovative research and on-going service. Our practices demonstrate a commitment to student-centered education, diversity, collaboration, professionalism, and shared governance. *(Adopted by Governance Community, October, 1997).*

## **REQUIRED MATERIALS**

There is no required text for this course, however required readings and other important course assignments and documents will be posted to the course site.

**University Email Account.** All students enrolled at CSUSM are automatically provided a university email address. Always check your university email at least two hours prior to each class meeting as well as the course site (in case any information needs to be shared with you urgently, prior to the start of class) and at least one other time during the week.

**University print card.** You are required to submit hard print copies of some lab assignments to be printed out in class. Purchase this print card in the Kellogg Library on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor (street level) near the Student Technology Help Desk and have available for use by the second class meeting. You may add money to the card on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of University Hall, but you must have a card first in order to do this. After purchasing this card bring it to every face-to-face class.

**USB/flash drive** for storage and transfer of documents. Bring to every class.

**Access to a PC computer** may be necessary for at least one lab/assignment. If trial software becomes available to your instructor by disk on either a Mac or PC platform, it will be shared with course participants, however at least one assignment may have to be completed via PC-Windows download. Please work with your colleagues to partner up or borrow a PC if you are a Mac user.

## PRELIMINARY EDUCATION SPECIALIST TEACHING CREDENTIAL STANDARDS

### *CCTC Education Specialist Standards and Levels of Competence:*

The following table indicates the CCTC Preliminary Education Specialist standards addressed by EDMX 632 and the level (i.e., knowledge, application) at which each standard is demonstrated.

Table of CCTC Education Specialist Standards and Levels of Competence

M/M/S 2	M/M/S 3	M/M/S 6	M/M 1	M/S 1	M/S 2	M/S 3	M/S 4	M/S 5	M/S 8
K/A	K/A	K/A	K/A	K/A	K/A	K/A	K/A	K/A	K/A

### **Key to Table Standards and Areas of Certification:**

M/M/S 2	Professional, legal and ethical practices
M/M/S 3	Educating diverse learners with disabilities
M/M/S 6	Using educational and assistive technology
M/M 1	Characteristics of students with mild/moderate disabilities
M/S 1	Characteristics of students with mild/moderate disabilities
M/S 2	Communication Skills
M/S 3	Developing social interaction skills and facilitating social context
M/S 4	Assessment, program planning and instruction
M/S 5	Movement, mobility, sensory and specialized health care
M/S 8	Augmentative and alternative communication

**M/M/S** = Program Standards for both Preliminary Mild/Moderate and Moderate/Severe Disability Education Specialist credentials

**M/M** = Mild/Moderate Disabilities Standards

**M/S** = Moderate/Severe Disabilities Standards

**K** = Competence at **knowledge** level

**A** = Competence at **application** level

## **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon completion of this course, credential candidates are able to:

1. Identify terms, concepts, events and trends in the use of technology in general and special education programs.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of national, state and local laws, policies and procedures relating to technology and learners with special learning needs.
3. Identify learner characteristics and needs for the purpose of technology evaluations.
4. Use telecommunications, electronic databases, reference systems and networks to access and provide information in general and special education.
5. Identify, select, and use various resources and agencies at national, state and local levels for improving the use of technology in the classroom to provide and allow for accommodations and modifications in the learning environment for individuals and groups within instruction.
6. Evaluate software for its potential usefulness including adaptations and modification to the educational environment and/or devices for improving education programs for learners.
7. Plan for the practical application for instructional use of computers; select, evaluate and use educational hardware and software, and design classrooms for the use of computer-assisted instruction for various groups of learners.
8. Use telecommunication and utility programs to access information base in general and special education through Internet use.
9. Plan for the use of technology that can be used to assist/enable persons with physical disabilities in accessing curriculum and their environments.
10. Explain how to evaluate the effectiveness of technology applications and devices for individual learners in special education programs.
11. Configure and use adaptive devices.
12. Configure and use specialized software such as: Classroom Suite © (comprehensive learning program for students with developing or cognitive challenges); Speak Q/Word Q© (word prediction and voice recognition software); Kurzweil/Wynn Wizard Literacy Software© (comprehensive literacy software/screen reading); Boardmaker © (picture communication material); SOLO™ by Don Johnston Inc. includes any or all of the four following programs: Write OutLoud™, Read OutLoud™, Co Writer™ and Draft Builder™, aimed to help students with a variety of Specific Learning Disabilities.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

A tentative course schedule, (which is subject to change based upon unforeseen events and the needs of the class) will be provided to each course section on the first evening of class.

## GRADING

### Grading Scale

**93% = A    90% = A-    87% = B+    83% = B    80% = B-    77% = C+**

A grade of C+ or better is required for a course to count toward a credential. Points below 77 = F.

Each assignment is due at the beginning of class on the date indicated on the course schedule.

Assignments are only accepted in hard-copy format. **Late work is not accepted.** Proof of work accomplished, is the responsibility of the student. Students are to keep a copy of all work, in case work becomes lost for grading purposes.

### Class and Assignment Tracking Form

### Maximum Points

#### In-Class Lab Collaboration and Participation

Class 1—Lab/Participation	/5
Class 2—Lab/Participation	/5
Class 3—Lab/Participation	/5
Class 4—Lab/Participation	/5
Class 5—Lab/Participation	/5
Class 6—Lab/Participation	/5
Class 7—Lab/Participation	/5
Class 8: Class + ½ —Lab/Participation	/8

#### Web-Based Instruction Labs (WBI)

WBI Lab—Intro to AT	/5
WBI Lab—Bookshare	/5
WBI Lab—News-2-You	/5
WBI Lab—Kurzweil/Literacy Software	/5
WBI Lab—Boardmaker	/5

#### Major Projects

Case Study/Vendor Project	/14
SBC Project	/10

#### Reading Reflections

Reading Reflection 1	/3
Reading Reflection 2	/3
Guest Speaker Reflection	/1
Guest Speaker Reflection	/1

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100 total possible points

## ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS

### **In-Class Lab Collaboration and Participation**

For each face-to-face class, points will be assigned based upon the following criteria:  
collaborative cooperation and active participation in labs, classes, and group assignments;  
respectful interaction with guest speakers, classmates, and instructor(s);  
respect for and patience and flexibility with technology;  
safe and appropriate use of lab hardware and software  
acquiring lab sheets and submitting work in hard copy by date and time required.

### **Web-Based Instruction Labs**

Class participants engage web-based labs outside of class in which they examine selected programs and software that provide students access to the content, product, and process of instruction. For each lab, follow the detailed lab instructions. Labs are to be followed and completed outside of class. The lab requirements are reviewed in a live class session one week or more before the due date. Labs are due by the designated due date. Late labs will not be accepted.

### **Case Study/Vendor Project**

Each student will be required to generate an independent case study based upon a student they have worked with or are currently working with. As a part of the case study, you will contact various vendors to locate and determine appropriate supports to trial with the student. Hard copy assignment directions will be provided and discussed further in class.

### **Standards Based Curriculum Project**

This is a project accomplished in pairs that requires team creation of a standards-based lesson using specialized access software and class presentation. The specific format for this assignment will be discussed in class with detailed directions provided.

### **Reading Reflections**

Read: Edyburn, D.L. (2006). Assistive technology and mild disabilities. *Special Education Technology Practice*, 8(4), 18 – 24.

Read: June Downing's Chapter 12 - Teaching communication skills in M.E. Snell, & F. Brown (Eds.) *Instruction of students with severe disabilities (7<sup>th</sup> ed.)*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Merrill.

See the class site for specific reading assignments and related writing prompts as well as the class schedule for due dates.

## **ADDITIONAL COURSE FEATURES AND ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Authorization to Teach English Learners.**

This credential program prepares teachers for the diversity of languages encountered in California public school classrooms. The authorization to teach English learners is met through the infusion of content and experiences within the credential program, as well as additional coursework. Students successfully completing this program receive a credential with authorization to teach English learners.

### **School Of Education Attendance Policy**

Due to the dynamic and interactive nature of courses in the School of Education, all students are expected to attend all classes and participate actively. At a minimum, students must attend more than 80% of class time, or s/he may not receive a passing grade for the course at the discretion of the instructor. Individual instructors may adopt more stringent attendance requirements. Should the student have extenuating circumstances, s/he should contact the instructor as soon as possible. *(Adopted by Governance Community, December, 1997).*

### **Students with Disabilities Reasonable Accommodations Requirement**

Students must be approved for services by providing appropriate and recent documentation to the Office of Disable Student Services (DSS). This office is located in Craven Hall 4300, and can be contacted by phone at (760) 750-4905, or TTY (760) 750-4909. Students authorized by DSS to receive reasonable accommodations should meet with their instructor during office hours or, in order to ensure confidentiality, in a more private setting.

### **All University Writing Requirement**

Every course at the university is required to have a writing requirement of at least 2500 words. This requirement is met via written components of labs, reflections, and projects.

### **CSUSM Academic Honesty Policy**

Students are expected to adhere to standards of academic honesty and integrity, as outlined in the Student Academic Honesty Policy. All written work and oral assignments must be original work. All ideas/materials that are borrowed from other sources must have appropriate references to the original sources. Any quoted material should give credit to the source and be punctuated with quotation marks.

If in doubt as to whether your work is paraphrased or plagiarized, see the Plagiarism Prevention for Students website, <http://library.csusm.edu/plagiarism/index.html>. The instructors reserve the right to discipline any student for academic dishonesty in accordance with the general rules and

regulations of the university. Disciplinary action may include the lowering of grades and/or the assignment of a failing grade for an assignment or the class.



## **PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

1. Use “person-first” language (e.g., Student with a Traumatic Brain Injury as opposed to “The Traumatic Brain-Injured student”) throughout all written and oral assignments and discussions. Always write professional and formally, respectfully.
2. Keep a copy of all of your work. Keep these records at least until you have received your grade for the semester. Also, you will want these copies for your records and for potential future use as professional portfolio entries.
3. Complete and hand in all assignments on the due dates for full credit. If you have extraordinary circumstances that impact completion of your assignments, please inform the instructor. Any time you have questions or concerns, please contact the designated instructor(s).
4. Participate in class discussions and group activities and demonstrate positive interpersonal skills with classmates and guests. Participation points are assigned on the basis of participation, collegiality, collaborative effort, professionalism, and on time arrival to class and from breaks.
5. Candidates are responsible for obtaining handouts. If a class is missed, contact class colleagues to obtain missed information. Be sure to exchange contact information with at least two other candidates in your course section.

## **WEB/COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES**

1. Communications by e-mail will be via your university email account. ***Check this e-mail at least twice a week—always 2 hours prior to class and at least one other time during the week as well as the course site.***
2. Never give out your password or allow anyone else to access any of your information using your password.
3. All work must be written professionally and respectfully from an academic (not casual, conversational) standpoint. If an interactive lesson takes place and you disagree with another person’s perspective, do so respectfully and provide clear reasons for your position.

## **TECHNOLOGY LAB POLICIES**

1. Store all equipment and clean up lab before leaving class.
2. Please honor the policy of no food/drink in the lab. Water bottles may be kept at the front tables (not back by the computers).
3. Assure that everyone in your group participates in the lab work. A collaborative professional considers their colleagues at all times. Much of the adaptive and assistive devices must be shared, and great care needs to be taken to safeguard them. Be sure to have each member of

the group have hands-on time with the devices and software in order to receive full credit for the lab work.

**Expanded Assignment Directions will be provided in class and are available on the course website.**