

University of Arkansas – Fort Smith
5210 Grand Avenue
P. O. Box 3649
Fort Smith, AR 72913-
3649479-788-7000

General Syllabus

ELML 3203 Introduction to Assessment

Credit Hours: 3 Lecture Hours: 3 Laboratory hours: 0

Prerequisite: Admission to the Educator Preparation Program

Prerequisites or corequisites: ELML 3013 Educational Psychology, ELML 3103 Practicum I, ELML 3303 Learning Environments, and READ 3303 Foundations of Teaching Reading and Writing

Effective Catalog: 2023-2024

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Provides teacher candidates with foundational knowledge, understanding, and skills to use assessment to make decisions.

B. Additional Information

Requires clinical experience in a local school.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Describe and discuss major issues in the area of assessment.
2. Collect, analyze, use, and communicate assessment results.
3. Develop classroom assessments to promote learning in diverse classrooms.
4. Lead and manage the classroom environment related to assessment.
5. Analyze the interrelated nature of curriculum, instruction, assessment, classroom management, and differentiation.
6. Analyze assessment data using appropriate technology tools.
7. Use basic measurement terms and concepts.
8. Describe methods for test standardization and evaluation.
9. Evaluate the effectiveness of formative, summative, and diagnostic assessments to plan and modify instruction.
10. Define and discuss the concepts of reliability, validity, and absence of bias.
11. Compare and contrast criterion-referenced and norm-referenced measures.

12. Discuss the measurement of achievement, interests, attitudes, and behavior.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Ethical Decision Making

Students will recognize and analyze ethical dilemmas, based on the ADE Code of Ethics. Students will apply ethical concepts and rules to determine viable alternatives in any given situation.

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Students will reflect upon cultural differences and demonstrate understanding or application of K6 education in a global environment. Students will reflect upon cultural and learning differences including socioeconomic, language, cultural, and special needs as well as neglected or abused children. Students will identify appropriate interventions to enhance learning in diverse environments.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will communicate effectively, both in writing and orally, in a variety of settings. Students will compose coherent documents, article reviews, research and essay papers, and reflections of observations. Students will give class presentations, share student work products orally, and work with children and families as part of practicum and internship experiences.

Analytical Skills/Critical Thinking Skills

Students will draw conclusions and/or solve problems related to student assessment data or issues. Students will access and evaluate appropriate written and electronic information for solving educational problems, conducting educational research, or working with students. Students will reach viable solutions to a problem and be able to justify those solutions.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. State and national content standard
- B. Accountability
- C. Differentiated instruction and assessment
- D. Using assessment data for decision-making
- E. Formative assessment
- F. Summative assessment
- G. Diagnostic assessment
- H. Performance assessment
- I. Assessment item writing
- J. Evaluation
- K. Rubrics
- L. Holistic versus analytic scoring
- M. Standardized testing
- N. Validity, reliability, and absence of bias

- O. Grading
- P. Technology tools for assessment
- Q. Professional responsibilities and ethics
- R. Communicating with parents and families