

**University of Arkansas - Fort Smith**  
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## **Graduate Studies General Syllabus**

### **MECI 5143 Teaching and Learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Classroom**

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

Prerequisites: Admission to the M.Ed. program.

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

#### **I. Graduate Course Information**

##### **A. Catalog Description**

Explore and enhance the vital components required for knowledge and competencies to promote 21st century learning skills. Reflect upon and modify current teaching practices to meet the learning needs of a diverse student population in the 21st century classroom.

##### **B. Additional Information**

Focuses on the set of skills that K-12 students need to be successful in the 21<sup>st</sup> century classroom: Deepening student understanding of the core subjects, as well as applying knowledge to the modern themes of global awareness, civic literacy, ICT (information, communication, technology) literacy and health and wellness literacy while utilizing authentically-responsive methods of content delivery and assessment.

#### **II. Student Learning Outcomes**

##### **A. Subject Matter**

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

1. Recognize the characteristics of the 21<sup>st</sup> century student and the challenges that the current generational cohorts bring to the modern classroom.
2. Reflect on current classroom practices and the connections between their own 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and values and those of their peers, students and community members and understand how the skills apply to everyday life.

3. Encourage innovative solutions to challenges found in the 21<sup>st</sup> century literacies through creative, logical, critical, reflective and metacognitive thinking skills.
4. Model and promote digital citizenship in the classroom and professional communities.
5. Construct authentic learning opportunities through collaboration, communication, critical/creative thinking and global awareness, to support tolerance and diversity.
6. Apply International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) standards for students and for educators to every learning opportunity, recognizing that learning is a student-driven process.
7. Utilize information, communication and technology literacies to develop, manage and assess information.
8. Apply preventative mental and physical health measures to promote overall wellness in the K-12 21<sup>st</sup> century classroom.

## **B. Program Learning Outcomes (PLO)**

The M.Ed. program bases Program Learning Outcomes on the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). The NBPTS establishes and upholds rigorous expectations for what expert teachers should know and do. This graduate course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

**Commitment:** Teachers believe that all students can learn and meet high expectations. Teachers are committed to all learners and are passionate about teaching. They develop relationships with students in a variety of educational settings. Teachers create learning experiences that differentiate instruction to meet the needs of all students. They understand their subjects and how to teach those subjects to students.

**Responsibility:** Teachers facilitate and supervise student learning. Teachers embrace a variety of methods to increase student success. They establish social norms within a variety of dynamic grouping options. They motivate and engage students while assessing student performance.

**Systematic Thinking:** Teachers critique their practices and learn from experience. Teachers evaluate their practices and expand their learning based on best practices, current research, evolving technologies, and student data.

**Leadership:** Teachers demonstrate leadership that fosters excellence, effectiveness, and collaboration with colleagues, families, and the community. Teachers approach their work with a team mentality. They collaborate with all stakeholders sharing vital information and planning a course of action that will improve the effectiveness of the school.

### **III. Major Graduate Course Topics**

- A. Defining 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills
- B. Defining the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learner
- C. 21<sup>st</sup> Skills Advancement via Professional Learning Communities
- D. Supporting 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills in the Learning Environment
- E. Assessing 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills
- F. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Leadership and Change Agency
- G. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Student Outcomes and Support Systems