

COURSE NAME and ID Number

Independent Study Special Topic Exploration, ID#454

DOMAIN

SOEE Directed Study Portfolio

COURSE STATEMENT

Strategically apply strategies or insights gained from a professional development experience and professional readings to your work as an educator.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Professional growth is an essential aspect of our career as educators. However, when we engage in professional development, we often return to our classrooms, file away the handouts and ideas, and continue on without implementing the insights gained from our experiences. In this course, you will have the opportunity to prioritize the information presented, explore additional strategies through further reading, determine how to apply the most relevant information to your work, and plan or create a project demonstrating your ability to apply the strategies discovered.

This course is intended to be customizable to your goals and educational setting. There is guidance for how to approach each activity and discussion, but the experiences and content you engage with during this course is completely self-directed. This is an opportunity for you to focus on a topic of your choice, whether it be a nagging issue or a new approach that you have been eager to learn about.

In this course, you will be asked to reflect on your professional development and reading, and then apply the strategies learned to create an innovative project (e.g., a lesson/unit plan, or professional development initiative). You will also be expected to keep a time log to document the time spent on this course. The requirements for the final assessment and the time log will depend on how many credits you are taking this course for.

For example, if you are creating a lesson/unit plan:

- 1 unit: 1 lesson, 15 hours
- 2 unit: 2 lessons, 30 hours
- 3 unit: 3 lessons, 45 hours

Additionally, throughout the course, you will submit work to your instructor through Interactive Discussions. Many of the discussions will focus on work that will become components of the final assessment. Make sure to use the instructor feedback you receive to refine your work along the way.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon successful mastery of this course, you will be able to:

- Identify meaningful professional development experiences to support your work as an educator.
- Apply strategies and insights gained to an Innovative Project that you will use in your work.
- Reflect on how these professional development experiences will impact future growth.

DEMONSTRATING MASTERY: A TWO-STEP PROCESS

Step One: Learning and Understanding

This course is broken down into **Learning Objectives** and related **Topics**. For each objective, you will participate in Learning Activities designed to enhance and reinforce understanding. **Learning Activities** include Interactive Discussions, readings, video and audio clips, slide presentations, Discussion Board prompts, Learning Journal prompts, practice exercises, demonstrations, as well as links to web and library resources.

Course Structure

The table below details the Learning Objectives along with their corresponding Topics.

Objectives	Topics
Identify meaningful professional development experiences to support your work as an educator.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Overview● Participate in a Professional Development Event● Read Professional Materials Related to Your Professional Development Experience
Apply strategies and insights gained to an Innovative Project that you will use in your work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Share Learning Objectives & Summary of Plans● Outline Lesson/Unit Plan or Professional Development Initiative● Identify Lesson Plan Resources
Reflect on how these professional development experiences will impact future growth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Demonstrate Growth

Step Two: Final Assessment

Once you have successfully progressed through the Learning Activities, you are ready to demonstrate that you have mastered the course. In order to demonstrate mastery, you

must be evaluated as proficient or exemplary on each rubric category for the corresponding performance-based assessment (paper, presentation, project, etc.). Please note that submissions may be checked for plagiarism.

STUDENT RESOURCES

Brandman Online Library Resources

Brandman University provides comprehensive online library services including access to books, journals, databases, and other resources. Librarians are available via email and phone to provide support. Students can access the library directly when logged into their courses.

Writing and Math Help

Brandman's Online Writing and Math Center (OWMC) offers subject-specific tutoring services, live workshops, video tutorials, tutorial office hours, and links to top academic sites in order to ensure student success. Students can access the OWMC directly when logged into their courses.

Netiquette

Communicating in an efficient and respectful manner is critical to the learning process. Please view the following clip which provides netiquette guidelines:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=6dRoClqDJh0

Standards of Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is a core Brandman University value which insures respect for the academic reputation of the University, its students, faculty and staff, and the degrees it confers. Students are required to read, understand, and apply the standards set forth concerning academic integrity found in the policy link below.

<http://www.brandman.edu/current-students/resources/catalogs>

Americans with Disabilities Act Statement

Brandman University is committed to ensuring equal educational access and opportunity for all members of our academic community. Students will be provided timely, efficient, and equitable accommodations and services that are in compliance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)/Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAA). More details are available in the current Brandman University Academic Catalog.

<http://www.brandman.edu/current-students/resources/catalogs>