

**MARIAN UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION**

**COURSE NUMBER:** TDE604

**SEMESTER/YEAR:** Spring 2012

**COURSE TITLE:** Visual, Social & Behavioral Strategies for the Student/Child with Autism

**INSTRUCTOR:** Michele Skarda

**CREDITS:** 1, 2 or 3 credit  
option

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**I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This class accompanies the AEP Connections Conference February 23-24, 2012 in Richmond, Virginia.

Day one of this conference, "Practical Solutions for Increasing Independent Functioning Using Visual Support Strategies," will demonstrate how to appropriately use adult support to teach independent functioning skills. A primary goal when teaching students with ASD is decreasing dependence on adults. However, this can be quite challenging in school-based settings where the education climate fosters adult support. This instructional style for students with ASD, who can become "prompt dependent," can be extremely detrimental and result in life-long ramifications. Numerous, practical evidence-based techniques using various modes of technology as visual support strategies will be shared, as well as a unique educational planning guide, designed to assist teams in identifying contexts and situations that require adult support, necessitating the need for instruction and development of independent skills. The training will also highlight applications galore! Discover how the most popular form of technology, the iPhone/iTouch/iPad can make a difference in supporting a person with ASD. Numerous, innovative applications that will revolutionize your intervention strategies for people with ASD will be demonstrated with "in your pocket" technology, for communication, social relations, planning/organization, academics, and relaxation/self-regulation, will be shown.

Day two of this conference, "Evidenced-based Strategies to Address Social Skills, Academic Deficits, and Challenging Behavior for Students with Autism/Asperger's Syndrome K-12," will address what the research tells us to be the most effective ways to teach children with autism spectrum disorders. No Child Left Behind requires educators to utilize research-based methodology when providing instruction to school-aged children. For children with autism, this requirement also extends to social skills instruction and methods educators use to address challenging behaviors. The presentation will include many video-taped examples of children with ASD, IEP goals, and strategies, as well as numerous strategies to address social ineptness, academic deficits, and difficult behaviors.

Prerequisite(s): None

## **PURPOSE AND RELATIONSHIP TO THE CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK:**

The conceptual framework for professional preparation programs in the School of Education at Marian University is oriented toward the development of learning-centered educators. The framework is organized around five interconnected themes: *Values and Ethics, Knowledge, Reflection, Collaboration, and Accountability.*

The purpose of this course is to explore and reflect on the numerous components necessary for successful inclusion programs for the K-12 students with autism spectrum disorder. The course will also give an overview of current thinking in the area of social, communication, self-regulation, sensory and academic interventions. This course will also address how to appropriately use adult support to *teach* independent functioning skills. Finally, the course will highlight applications such as the iPhone/iTouch/iPad which can make a difference in supporting a person with ASD. Numerous, innovative applications that will revolutionize your intervention strategies for people with ASD will be demonstrated.

## **II. COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

The participant will:

- A. Develop an understanding of the importance of increasing independent functioning skills in students with ASD.
- B. Learn strategies for utilizing 1:1 adult support to teach independent functioning skills to students with ASD.
- C. Learn numerous uses of technology to teach independent functioning skills to students with ASD.
- D. Learn a strategy for assessing independent functioning needs, and subsequent development of strategies to teach independent functioning.
- E. Discover the ease of use of the iPhone/iTouch/iPad and the need to use up-dated modes of technology for supporting persons with ASD.
- F. Learn numerous applications that can provide support in various skill areas for persons with ASD.
- G. Identify research-based strategies for teaching social skills.
- H. Establish social skills groups within the school setting that will not take away from instructional time and utilize typical peers.
- I. Write measurable IEP goals to address social skills deficits.
- J. Adapt materials and create environmental supports to address problem behaviors.
- K. Effectively utilize data collection to address difficult behaviors.
- L. Implement strategies to support children with sensory processing dysfunction in the classroom.

**III. SEQUENTIAL CONTENT:** This conference will explore the numerous strategies necessary for successful inclusion programs for the K-12 students with autism spectrum disorder. The course will also give an overview of current thinking in the area of social, communication, self-regulation, sensory and academic interventions.

#### IV. TEACHING STRATEGIES

- A. Lecture
- B. Discovery Learning
- C. Demonstration
- D. Reflection

#### V. EVALUATION METHODS:

A. Attend all sessions of the conference	70%
B. Reflective Paper	30%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### Reflective Paper Requirements and Tips

- A. List the speaker(s) name and write a line or two on what they will speak about at the event. Provide their current position and the background that gives them the authority to speak on their chosen subjects.
- B. Write down the original goal of the conference. Why you attended the conference. For example, I am an elementary teacher and I wanted to learn more about .... That would be the theme statement of your report.
- C. Write down the highlights from the speaker(s). If you are unclear about any of the speaker's main points, ask them about them afterwards or talk to other key people at the conference and get their opinion on the most important topics discussed.
- D. Write your reflective paper and finish it within 72 hours of the conference. It is important to get the information on paper while it is still fresh in your mind (plus there is also a deadline of one week after the conference ends to email your paper to [mlskarda57@marianuniversity.edu](mailto:mlskarda57@marianuniversity.edu) within 7 days after the end of the conference.
- E. Read over your paper at least twice before you send it in and be sure to check your grammar, spelling and key facts. It's always better to let another pair of eyes check your work before you submit it.
- F. For 1 Graduate Credit Option.**  
*One Day Attendance and Reflective Paper*  
Paper should be 2 – 3 pages, 12 point font, doubled spaced.
- G. For 2 Graduate Credit Option.**  
*One Day Attendance and Reflective Paper*  
Paper should be 6 – 7 pages, 12 point font, doubled. The paper required for this 2 credit option should also include some additional research that you do on the topic covered at the conference. Use APA style formatting, including a works cited page for the additional research that you did on this topic.
- OR**  
*Two Day Attendance and Reflective Paper*  
Paper should be 2 – 3 pages, 12 point font, doubled.
- H. For 3 Graduate Credit Option.**  
*Two Day Attendance at the conference plus Reflective Paper*  
Paper should be 6 – 7 pages, 12 point font, doubled. The paper required for the 3 credit option should also include some additional research that you do on the topic covered at the conference. Use APA style formatting, including a works cited page for the additional research that you did on this topic.

## **VI. Academic Honesty Policy:**

A policy of academic honesty is consistent with the mission statement of Marian University by ensuring academic integrity and thereby furthering the personal, moral, and intellectual development of the learning community. The intent of this policy is to establish consistency and to heighten the responsibility of the entire University community (faculty, staff and students) by identifying areas that would violate the concept of academic honesty. Little distinction is made between the student who is actually guilty of academic dishonesty and anyone who aids the student (e.g. by providing a copy of a stolen exam or by writing a paper for another student). An instructor and the University may change a student's grade at any time, even after a course has been completed, if the student has violated the Academic Honesty Policy.

The rules and procedures for academic honesty are set forth in the Academic Honesty Policy Sections of the Marian *University Graduate Educational Studies Information Guide*. Students are expected to have familiarized themselves with these rules and procedures. This applies to cheating, plagiarism and intentional misrepresentation of the truth. If an assignment is prepared by a student for this class, it is expected that it be the student's own work and that any use of the work of another in a student's paper be properly quoted and cited pursuant to the American Psychological Association (APA) Manual.

## **VII. INCOMPLETE POLICY (CHANGE OF GRADE)**

The rules and procedures for academic honesty are set forth in the Incomplete Policy Section of the Marian *University Graduate Educational Studies Information Guide*. Upon the assignment of an incomplete (I), the student will have until the end of the following semester to complete the course work. An extension may be granted by the Chair of Educational Studies. If the work is not completed by the end of the following semester, the incomplete will be changed to an "F". (This does not apply to practicum courses or to Action Research courses.)

## **VIII. ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Marian University has at the heart of its core values that it is a community committed to learning. Class attendance is essential to the learning process of the entire community. Absence from class by a student not only limits that student's learning, but it also limits the learning of the entire class which is deprived of that student's input. Any absence, for any reason, prevents the student and the class from getting the full benefit of the course. Students should be aware that class attendance may also be required for financial aid purposes and could impact existing or future financial aid. Students are, therefore, expected to attend all classes of the courses in which they are registered and to be on time. Instructors may include class attendance as a measure of academic performance for grading purposes in the course syllabus. Such criteria are supported by Marian University. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the instructor to discuss any missed class work due to absences. When a student is absent from class, it is up to the instructor to determine what make-up work, project or test may be allowed.

## **IX. DISABILITY STATEMENT**

Marian University will provide reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities. If you feel you need accommodations to fully participate in this course, please contact Lisa Olig, Coordinator of Disability Services and Academic Support at 920-923-8951 or [lmolig65@marianuniversity.edu](mailto:lmolig65@marianuniversity.edu)

## **X. REQUIRED READINGS**

Optional

## **XI. GRADE INFORMATION AND TRANSCRIPTS**

Marian University, like most Institutes of Higher Education do not mail out individual grade reports anymore. Instead they make it available to request an official transcript or download an unofficial one to verify course completions. Once a new student registers for a class, they are entered into the Marian Registration system; you will then be sent information from our IT Department to set up a username and password to allow you to access our online student services system known as SabreNet. If you have any trouble with this process you can email the help desk at [helpdesk@marianuniversity.edu](mailto:helpdesk@marianuniversity.edu) and they will walk you through it. This system will allow you to print off an unofficial transcript with your grade on it, once grades have been posted. You can also get an official copy of your transcript through Marian by going to the Registrar's page at <http://www.marianuniversity.edu/registrar/> and filling out the transcript request form. Marian does not charge for official transcripts at this time, so if you need a copy of your grade for tuition remission or other such purposes, I would recommend going to this link and mailing in the form to request an official copy for your records, which you can then copy for your records and submit to your school district.