

**College of Education Valdosta State University Department of Curriculum, Leadership,
and Technology**

**ITED 8999 Action Research Project
Three (3) Semester Hours**

Required Texts

APA Manual (5th edition)

Action Research Project Handbook (available on Course Website).

Recommended supplementary texts:

Galvan, J. L. (2006). *Writing literature reviews* (3rd ed.). Glendale, CA: Pyczak Publishing.

Jones, W.P., & Kottler, J.A. (2006). *Understanding research: Becoming a competent and critical consumer*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson.

Required Technology

This course will require you to have equipment and skills allowing ready and constant access to a computer with Internet connection to the WWW. You must also use the VSU e-mail account which you check regularly, the ability to attach and open documents readable in MS-Word, access to Adobe Acrobat (5.0 or higher) and access to a fax machine. You will also need a headphone/microphone for the LiveClassroom presentation and discussion. These individual requirements are not fulfilled by Valdosta State University, but must be supplied by you at your home (preferable) or workplace.

Course Description

Prerequisites: ITED 8970. The data collection, analysis, and reporting phase of the Education Specialist action-research project. May be repeated.

Department of Curriculum, Leadership, and Technology Program Standards

The Department (CLT) recognizes the College of Education Conceptual Framework Standards as a guide to the education of teachers as they seek certification. Curriculum and Instructional Technology Programs serve some students who are teachers, but many students within the program are media specialists, technology supervisors and general trainers. Only a small proportion of our students seek certification and those students do so in an area that is governed by standards that are published by the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) and approved by NCATE. The departmental programs are designed to align with the standards published by the Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT), which are also NCATE approved. This syllabus contains the AECT standards, upon which the Ed.S. Instructional Technology Program is based.

Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT) Domains

Instructional Technology is the theory and practice of the design, development, utilization, management and evaluation of the processes and resources for learning (AECT, 1994).

1. **DESIGN Domain:** Candidates demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to design conditions for learning by applying principles, theories and research associated with instructional systems design, message design, instructional strategies and learner characteristics.
2. **DEVELOPMENT Domain:** Candidates demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to develop instructional materials and experiences by applying principles, theories and research related to print, audiovisual, computer-based, and integrated technologies.
3. **UTILIZATION Domain:** Candidates demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to use processes and resources for learning by applying principles, theories, and research related to media utilization, diffusion of innovations, implementations, and policy-making.
4. **MANAGEMENT Domain:** Candidates demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to plan, organize, coordinate, and supervise instructional technology by applying principles, theories, and research related to project, resources, delivery system, and information management.
5. **EVALUATION Domain:** Candidates demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to evaluate the adequacy of instruction and learning by applying principles, theories and research related to problem analysis, criterion-referenced measurement, formative and summative evaluation, and long-range planning.

Course Objectives

The student will:

1. Collect data following approved procedures. (AECT, Management & Evaluation Domains)
2. Identify and avoid sources of bias based on gender, socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, age or religion within research, evaluation, assessment and personal communication. (AECT, Evaluation Domain)
3. Analyze research data (AECT, Management & Evaluation Domains)
4. Identify and utilize appropriate dissemination method (e.g., journal, website) for designated IT audience. (AECT, Utilization Domain)
5. Report research findings. (AECT, Evaluation Domain)
6. Generate and communicate plan to apply research findings in an appropriate IT setting. (AECT, Development and Evaluation Domains)
7. Demonstrate effective communication skills. (AECT, Design Domain)

Course Activities / Assignments / Requirements

A number of course activities are inherent in completion of the processes and products described in the Course Evaluation methods generally described below (more detailed descriptions of each Course Evaluation can be found on the course website). These activities include: Data Collection (Course objectives 1-2); Analysis of Research Findings (Course objectives 2-3); Action Project Report Writing (Course objectives 2-6);

Review/Revision by Expert, Peer & Self (Course objectives 1-7); and Multimedia Presentation (Course objectives 6-7).

Course Evaluation

All students must register for ITED 8999 Action Research Project each semester in which they are actively working on the project. Students must be enrolled in this course to receive guidance from the course instructor. A minimum of 3 semester hours of credit in the capstone experience course (Action Research Project, ITED 8999) is required for the degree.

Evaluation Instruments/Methods

1) **Approved Action Research Proposal** (constructed in ITED 8970) including area of focus, support from the literature, definition of the variables, research question(s), proposed intervention (if any), methods and procedures for data collection and analysis, and methods for communicating results. Support from the literature within action research plan should include background knowledge and justification for the area of focus for the action research project, summary and critique of research findings, and adherence to APA format. The ARP should be submitted for review within the first two weeks of ITED 8999. The ARP must be approved prior to beginning the research project in the learning community.

2) **Communication of Findings: Action Research Multimedia Presentation**

A formal presentation consisting of a description of the action research project followed by an open discussion will be presented during a scheduled synchronous class meeting. The presentation (with speaker's dialogue and notes) will be submitted to the instructor at least one week prior to the scheduled presentation for review. This presentation is in addition to the celebration and communication of findings for the local learning community. The presentation will be delivered in LiveClassroom within WebCT. Peers and course instructor will have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss the research project and its findings. Other members of the C &IT faculty may be present during the presentation. A discussion board for follow up comments will be available in WebCT.

3) **Action Research Project Report**

The student will write a report of the Action Research Project following the formal presentation. The written report will include an abstract summarizing the complete research project and communication of findings; the Action Research Multimedia Presentation in slide/note view; the Action Research Proposal; a Reflection; and a signed release form. Specific details for the Action Research Project Report are available in the course handbook (available on the course website).

4) **Learning Report and Exit Survey**

There will be additional data collected at the completion of the course related to student learning. In addition, an exit survey must be completed prior to graduation. All forms and links to surveys will be available on the course website.

Criteria for evaluation: contains all pertinent elements, uses specified formats, is written in clear and grammatically-correct language, is submitted on due date, and describes a project which is feasible and has potential to contribute to personal insight, reflective practice, positive change in the educational environment, positive change in educational

practices in general, improved learner outcomes, and improved lives of those involved. Specific guidelines and criteria for each research product, as well as formatting guidelines for the project, are available on the course website. (Course objectives 1-7).

Grading Scale

Quality is expected in all products and performances. A grade for each term of enrollment is assigned by the instructor. IP – In Progress – grades will be given until the project is completed. The final grade is Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory.

Professionalism / Disposition

Within your coursework and fieldwork, you are expected to respect intellectual property, complete assignments with consistent punctuality, regularly attend class (online and/or face-to-face), make an effort to complete assignments completely and correctly, pay careful attention to detail in following instructions, show willingness to revise based on instructor or peer feedback, strive for creativity in devising products and processes, demonstrate enthusiasm in face-to-face and online endeavors, be helpful to peers, show self-reliance to enable independent progress/ completion of your work, display courtesy in written and oral communications, and exhibit cooperation in group work situations. As a professional, you should practice fairness based upon a belief that all learners can achieve.

Participation Policy

Students are expected to maintain a regular and frequent presence in the online course, particularly when involved in group projects and online discussion groups. It is the responsibility of the students to make sure that they have adequate equipment and access to maintain this online presence. Because students are being prepared to accept professional duties and responsibilities, attendance decisions are viewed as critical to developing professionalism. Online work is generally conducted asynchronously, and does not require students to be online at scheduled times. There may be occasional synchronous class activities such as chats that will be scheduled at mutually agreed upon times. The formal presentation of the Action Research Project will be a synchronous class meeting.

Policy Statement on Plagiarism and Cheating

The full text of this policy is available in the College of Education Dean's Office, EC room 227, or online as requested. The following penalties will be enforced, as stated in the Policy: First Offense – The student will earn a "0" on the assignment, test, project, etc.; Second Offense – The student will earn the letter grade "F" for the course; Third Offense – The student will earn the letter grade "F" for the course, and further action involving referral of the matter (with documentation) to the appropriate college (university) officials within the administrative structure will be taken. (Please also see page 39 of the VSU Student Handbook.) Professional ethics, behavior, and quality are expected in all products and performances. Content copied and pasted from websites or other sources will not be considered original student work and may not be used under any circumstances without the use of quotation marks and proper APA citations.

Special Needs Statement

Valdosta State University is an equal opportunity educational institution. It is not the intent of our institution to discriminate against any applicant for admission or any student or employee of the institution based on the sex, race, religion, color, national origin or handicap of the individual. It is the intent of the institution to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and subsequent executive orders as well as the Title IX in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. *Students requesting classroom accommodations or modifications due to a documented disability must contact the Access Office for Students with Disabilities located in the Farber Hall. The phone numbers are 245-2498 (V/VP) and 219-1348 (TTY).*

Instructors

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