NEW OR REVISED COURSE PROPOSAL FORM

COURSE NUMBER:
EDCI 5454

COURSE TITLE:
Collab Practices in
Spec Education

Jimmy Caldwell, Jr., PhD 09/3/2024

*The **Course Rationale** states the reason this course is being proposed. What is your course rationale?*

This course is proposed to support Xavier University's Division of Education & Counseling in expanding its Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program by offering an Add-on Certificate in Special Education. The rationale for this course is grounded in the growing demand for qualified special education teachers who can meet the diverse needs of students with disabilities in Louisiana.

The course will specifically address the need for collaborative teamwork among educational professionals, which is crucial for supporting students with significant disabilities. By integrating this course into the curriculum, Xavier will align with the broader educational standards and certification requirements as seen in similar programs at other institutions that are required by Louisiana's Department of Education.

As indicated on the Louisiana Department of Education's Teach Louisiana website, there is a critical need for educators who are not only licensed but also specialized in areas such as special education. This course will enable Xavier University to equip educators with the necessary skills and certifications to effectively serve this student population, thereby enhancing the quality of education across the state. By integrating this Add-on Certificate into the MAT program, the Division of Education & Counseling will address both state and national educational priorities, supporting the development of inclusive and equitable educational practices.

*The **Course Catalog Description** should include the information that would be listed in the university catalog for this course (course description, pre-requisites, credit hours, etc.) What is your course catalog description?*

This course, "Collaborative Practices in Special Education," focuses on models of teamwork, group decision-making, team processes, leadership, and communication. It explores how these elements influence services for individuals with significant disabilities and their families. The course provides an in-depth understanding of collaborative structures and demonstrates the skills and strategies needed to maintain effective relationships with a variety of stakeholders in educational settings.

Topics covered will include legal and ethical issues in special education, instructional strategies for diverse learners, behavior management techniques, and collaboration with families and professionals. Pre-requisites include enrollment in the MAT program or equivalent qualifications, as determined by the Division of Education & Counseling. Course can be cross-listed with XULA educational leadership graduate program.

This course will be offered as part of the Division of Education & Counseling, Graduate School of Education curriculum. Prerequisites: None. Credit Hours: 3.

*The **Course Effects** should state the effect of this change on other Xavier departments, divisions, Admissions, etc. What are your course effects?*

The creation of this course will have several positive effects on Xavier's Division of Education & Counseling. It will enable the division to offer an Add-on Certification in Special Education, thus attracting a broader student base interested in specializing in this high-demand area. Additionally, this course will foster interdisciplinary collaboration

within the division by encouraging participation from other departments that contribute to the education of students with significant disabilities. Admissions may see an increase in applications from professionals seeking to enhance their qualifications with specialized certifications. The course will also foster stronger relationships with local school districts, as it will prepare graduates who are equipped to meet the specific needs of students with disabilities. Furthermore, this course aligns with Xavier's mission to contribute to the promotion of a more just and humane society by preparing educators who are equipped to meet the needs of all students, particularly those with significant disabilities.

*What are the **Budget and Resource** requirements for this course including fees and faculty load?*

The development and implementation of this course will require allocation of resources for faculty training, curriculum development, and materials specific to special education teacher preparation. Additional faculty with expertise in special education may need to be hired or existing faculty workloads adjusted to accommodate this new course. Furthermore, there may be a need for specialized instructional materials, including access to online resources and software that supports special education instruction.

The primary resources required for this course include the instructor's time and expertise, which will be managed within the existing faculty load. As the course will be delivered hybrid format, there are minimal physical resource requirements. However, there will be a need for technical support to ensure smooth delivery via D2L (Brightspace). No additional fees are anticipated for students beyond standard tuition. The course will utilize existing resources, such as the required and recommended textbooks, as well as supplementary materials available online, ensuring that the course is both cost-effective and resource-efficient.

*Attach a **SAMPLE SYLLABUS** for this course.*

See attached: