EDPS 265: The Inclusive Classroom

Jasmine Begeske

WHY ARE YOU TRANSFORMING YOUR COURSE?
This foundational lecture course has large enrollment and is taught in a lecture hall with a stadium-style seating arrangement. This configuration results in a course that is not student-centered, promotes one-way communication and hinders cooperative learning. Education courses should be structured so that the course in itself is instructive. This course teaches interventions for reaching all students, using techniques that engage students in the learning process. The structure of this course, the physical space and the format should model best practices in the classroom.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
After completing this course, students in EDPS 265 will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the following:
1. Strategies for creating an inclusive learning environments that supports all students.
2. Etiologies and identifying characteristics of individuals with exceptional learning needs.
3. Laws related to students’ and teachers’ rights and responsibilities and the importance of complying with those laws, including major principles of federal disabilities legislation (IDEA, Section 504, and ADA).
4. The roles of general and special educators.
5. Theoretical and historical perspectives of special education.

WHAT IMPROVEMENTS TO STUDENT LEARNING DO YOU HOPE TO FOSTER?
- Increase student achievement
- Increase cooperation among students
- Increase participation
- Increase empathy for students with disabilities
- Increase confidence in the P-12 classroom

WHAT ARE THE GREATEST BENEFITS TO YOU FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE IMPACT PROGRAM?
- Collaboration with faculty from around campus
- Information and training about the resources available
- Time dedicated to improvement
- Looking at my course from the students’ perspective

WHAT RESEARCH QUESTION(S) ARE YOU ADDRESSING WITH YOUR REDESIGN?
I would like to implement, and evaluate student-centered instructional strategies and technologies to reach the goals of increasing the level of student achievement, increasing cooperation among students and creating a more active learning environment.