

# **Integrated Curriculum for K12 Instruction**

Creating Integrated Learning

## **A Graduate Course**

### **Syllabus**

Teacher Education Institute ©

#### **Course Description**

This course explores the principles, theories, and practices involved in creating an integrated curriculum at the college level. Integrated curriculum design aims to foster interdisciplinary connections, promote critical thinking, and enhance student engagement. Participants will learn to design, implement, and assess integrated curricula that align with educational goals, support students' development, and address real-world challenges. The course will encourage collaborative learning, research, and creativity to design innovative and effective integrated curricula.

This graduate-level course offers a comprehensive exploration of integrated curriculum design, providing educators with the knowledge and skills to create cohesive and engaging learning experiences for students across various disciplines. Through a combination of theoretical frameworks, and hands-on activities, participants will gain a deep understanding of the principles and benefits of an integrated curriculum.

Throughout this course, participants will delve into strategies for aligning subject areas, connecting learning objectives, and fostering cross-disciplinary connections that promote critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity. Additionally, emphasis is placed on cultivating collaborative teaching practices, encouraging educators to work together to design interdisciplinary projects that bridge gaps between traditional subjects and inspire a deeper understanding of real-world applications. By the end of the course, participants will be equipped with the tools to design and implement integrated curriculum plans that cater to diverse learning styles and nurture students' curiosity, enabling them to thrive in today's complex and interconnected world.

#### **Learner Outcomes**

*Students will:*

1. Explain the theoretical foundations of integrated curriculum design.
2. Identify the benefits and challenges of an integrated approach in college-level education.
3. Analyze various interdisciplinary connections within academic disciplines.
4. Design integrated curriculum units that promote critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity.
5. Incorporate student-centered and active learning strategies in integrated curricula.

6. Apply appropriate assessment methods for evaluating integrated curricular outcomes.
7. Collaborate effectively with colleagues to develop interdisciplinary initiatives.
8. Reflect on their own teaching practices and integrate interdisciplinary approaches into their future curricular design.

### **Course Requirements**

Creating Integrated Learning is a 45-hour, three-credit graduate-level course completed over two weekends or 5 consecutive days.

### **Required Text**

Ainsworth, Larry, and Kyra Donovan. *Rigorous Curriculum Design: How to Create Curricular Units of Study That Align Standards, Instruction, and Assessment*. International Center for Leadership in Education Inc., 2019.

### **Student Requirements**

1. Participation: Actively participate in all activities
2. Reading assignments: Complete all readings and reflection assignments
3. Students are required to put integrated curriculum strategies and concepts into action and will be required to construct a portfolio during the course that will serve as a toolkit of specific ideas and protocols for their classrooms as a part of their final project due by the end of the course.

### **Course Evaluation**

<b><u>Assignment</u></b>	<b><u>Points</u></b>	<b><u>Grading Scale</u></b>	
Participation	25	95-88	A
Assignments	45	87-81	B
Final Project	25	80-73	C
Total Points	95		

### **Student Academic Integrity**

Participants guarantee that all academic classwork is original. Any academic dishonesty or plagiarism (to take ideas, writings, etc. from another and offer them as one's own), is a violation of student academic behavior standards as outlined by our partnering colleges and universities and is subject to disciplinary action.

### **Course Schedule**

#### **Session One: Introduction to Integrated Curriculum Design**

1. Prioritize Standards

2. Decide on the Curricular Units of Study

**Session Two:** *Building the Foundation for Designing Curricular Units- Dig Deep and Clarify the Focus*

1. Decide Where to Start
2. Plan Engaging and Relevant Learning Experiences

**Session Three:** *Interdisciplinary Connections*

1. Explore connections between academic disciplines
2. Identifying Common Themes

**Session Four:** *Student-Centered Learning*

1. Understanding student learning styles and preferences
2. Designing a Curriculum that aligns with student needs

**Session Five:** *Curriculum Mapping and Alignment*

1. Explore cross-curricular connections
2. Align integrated curriculum with student learning goals

**Session Six:** *Addressing Real-World Connections*

1. Designing a curriculum that addresses real-world experiences
2. Incorporating learning with real-world applications

**Session Seven:** *Innovative Instructional Strategies*

1. Explore creative teaching strategies to support student learning in an integrated curricular approach

**Session Eight:** *Designing Curricular Unit of Study as a Process*

1. Create strategies and assessments for the successful implementation of integrated curricula

**Session Nine:** *Implementing Rigorous Curriculum*

1. Implement strategies to help students explore meaningful learning opportunities

**Session Ten:** *Reflection and Future Directions*

1. Reflect on professional experiences in designing and implementing integrated curriculum