

**COURSE OUTLINE**  
**EDUC-200**  
**An Introduction to Special Education**  
3 Semester Hours

**HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**Description**

This course prepares students to identify disabilities and their medical, psychological, and educational impact on students, parents, and teachers. This course meets the Maryland State Department of Education Inclusion of Special Needs Student Populations requirement for an initial certificate in Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education and Secondary Education. This course also meets the MSDE Historical, Philosophical, and Legal Foundations of Special Education requirement for an initial certificate in Generic Special Education Infant/Primary, Generic Special Education Elementary/Middle, and Generic Special Education Secondary/Adult. A 15-hour Field Experience outside of class time is required. Students are placed in a Howard County Public School or may use a K-12 school where they are employed. Prerequisite: Eligible to enroll in ENGL-121. (3 hours weekly)

**Overall Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

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Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Relate the history of special education to current practice.
2. Describe the litigation and legislation that have influenced the education of children with disabilities.
3. Discuss current trends in special education.
4. Identify the roles of various professionals in the provision of special education.
5. Describe the process for determining student eligibility for special education services.
6. Define terminology related to major disabilities.
7. Distinguish among major disabilities using criteria of diagnostic characteristics, causes and incidence.
8. Describe selected educational interventions used in special education.
9. Discuss cultural issues in the provision of special education services to students from cultural minorities.
10. Analyze attitudes toward individuals with disabilities in school and community settings.
11. Examine issues of socialization and family adjustment as they relate to youngsters with disabilities.

## **Major Topics**

- I. Understanding exceptionality
- II. Education for all multicultural and diversity issues
- III. Inclusion and collaboration in the early childhood and elementary school years
- IV. Transition and adult life
- V. Exceptionality and the family
- VI. Mental retardation (intellectual disabilities)
- VII. Gifted, creative and talented
- VIII. Learning disabilities
- IX. Attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder
- X. Emotional/behavioral disorders
- XI. Autism
- XII. Communication Disorders
- XIII. Hearing Loss
- XIV. Vision Loss
- XV. Physical disabilities
- XVI. Traumatic and acquired brain injury
- XVII. Health disorders

## **Course Requirements**

Grading/Exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but may include the following:

- Tests
- Special project
- Observation journal
- Class participation

## **Other Course Information**

Meets Maryland State Department of Education requirements for recertification coursework.

This course is required for the Early Childhood Development AAS Degree.

This course is a Arts and Sciences Elective.