

SPECIALIZATION COURSES

Two 6-credit specialization courses are required for students whose clusters **started** in the **Fall 2003** term or later. These courses will be offered online every term (subject to minimum enrollments) effective with the Summer 2004 term.

Similar courses were offered on-site at Summer Instruction 2003. The course descriptions below are in the process of revision; however, the fundamental focus of the courses will not change.

All coursework including pre-assignments and post-assignments will begin the first day of the term in WebCT at <http://webct.nova.edu>.

Access to your course at webct.nova.edu is granted by the course start date if you are a registered student in the course. Please contact the Help Desk at ext. HELP (4357) if you are unable to access your course area(s) or components of your course within WebCT.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS (minor revisions pending)

EDL 8301 *Issues in Special Education Administration* (6 Credits)

This course is designed for those who are responsible for planning, developing, and implementing educational programs for students with disabilities. It will provide these educators with the legal and ethical bases for providing services to children with disabilities, and with instructional and organizational methods to help these children succeed in their schools.

EDL 8302 *School Law* (6 Credits)

This course will provide a comprehensive review of the federal and state constitutions, court decisions, and laws governing K-12 public school education. The course will focus on the analysis of legal concepts, procedures, and implications of U.S. Supreme Court and lower federal court decisions on all aspects of public schools. The federal role in exceptional student education will be examined in depth as it affects public schools. Collective Bargaining concepts will be studied as they apply to public schools. Recent federal legislation will be studied as it has ramifications for all levels of public schools. Three different textbooks will be used to present the information in the three major course areas: law, collective bargaining, and special education. Students will also use the internet to research relevant class material.

The course has been designed to develop the learning skills and body of knowledge of public school education law which will inform public school administrators of their legal responsibilities, rights, and obligations to meet the requirements of federal and state laws. The students will be required to find, read, and brief court decisions at the federal and state level. Additional course assignments will be designed to develop student knowledge in specific aspects of the legal system. Students will be expected to submit a weekly response to each class lecture. Each online chat session will provide students with the opportunity to apply their knowledge to legal questions confronting a school administrator. There will be objective assessments of student learning in the course.

EDL 8304 *Technology Trends and Issues* (6 Credits)

This course addresses leadership issues related to planning and integrating technology for effective utilization and personnel delineation. Topics will include current and emerging trends and issues evolving from an information technology rich organization such as safety, acceptable use policies, ethics copyright regulations, data privacy, confidentiality, and purchasing timelines as well as the impact of the use of information technology on schools which results in changes in work execution, work roles, and management issues unique to an educational organization. The development of standard operating procedures that insure effective and efficient technology utilization will be accomplished. Techniques for assessing the need for technology, involving all stakeholders in the design process will be explored. Human resource issues including hiring, funding, and personnel delineation related to the implementation design will be integrated in the planning and evaluation process.

EDL 8307 *Leading and Managing Systems* (6 Credits)

To be an organizational leader demands an understanding of the basic principles and practices underlying the management of large and diverse organizations. The contrast of management of stability and control with the management of chaos and instability suggests different techniques of leadership and management. Students will explore various organizational systems such as information and communication, politics and accountability, power and influence, decision-making, and conflict resolution.

EDL 8308 *Leading a Learning Organization* (6 Credits)

Developing a learning-based culture is essential for today's educational organization. There must be a strong, common set of shared values and understandings that tie together the people in diverse partnerships. Research demonstrates that strong adaptive cultures are tied to profitability and sustained success. Students will examine ways of how learning organizations create learning cultures as well as leadership strategies that foster growth, creativity, and risk-taking while managing innovation, change, and future planning.

Students will explore how leaders develop and promote leadership within organizations. Leadership is different from management but complementary. The leadership challenge of building a learning organization is to understand the complex, systemic issues confronting the organization. This course will explore the types of leaders found in learning organizations, and how a culture of learning centered on learning and practicing leadership is created. Every organization is unique because of its culture, with each organization having its own set of beliefs, values, behaviors, and rules. But, what makes every organization similar is constant change, which when done correctly results in organizational growth.

Keeping within the theme of this course, students will then explore how to foster growth, creativity, risk-taking and "entrepreneurship" within their educational organization. A leader must be able to anticipate changing strategic demands and create systematically different streams of innovation. Within this course, students will develop their own understanding of the difference between management and leadership and how it impacts the dynamics of change. The last theme of this course focuses on strategic planning, forecasting, and futuring. Strategic leaders create direction and purpose, formulate and implement strategy within their organization. The process of how leaders' vision, plan, and communicate that vision, and enlist others to embrace that future vision will be explored. Remember, the very future of K-12 education in America is at stake.

This course will focus on governance and management for K-12 education. It is about management and governance; external forces which impact schools; internal dynamics that contribute to policy development, decision-making, and management of the organizations; and an examination of the school's effectiveness—how well it serves students and the community. In sum, the course will provide students with an opportunity to consider an organization's governance, management, and accountability for outcomes.