EDU 121: Introduction to Education

Course Abstract

If you need accommodations due to a disability, contact Disability Services in Edison Hall Room 100, 732.906.2546.

To foster a productive learning environment, the College requires that all students adhere to the Code of Student Conduct which is published in the college catalog and website.

Course ID and Name: Introduction to Education    EDU121

Department: History and Social Sciences
Chairperson or Course Coordinator: Dr. Kathleen Pearle
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Prerequisites: N/A  Co-requisites: N/A

Course Description:
This course provides an introduction to the field of education (K-12) with a focus on elementary education. It includes a review of historical, cultural, and societal influences on education as well as current trends in the field. It also explores the role of the educator, the educational setting, and addresses general teaching approaches, educational theory, and classroom management issues. Students will be required to complete 25 observation hours in an elementary school setting.

General Education Status:

Credits: 3  Lecture Hours: 3  Lab Hours:

Learning Outcomes:
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and discuss educational theories and concepts related to elementary education (as indicated in the course content area below).
2. Identify and describe historical, societal, cultural, and contemporary influences on education.
3. Articulate the importance and value of education to the individual and society.
4. Describe the essential components of an effective educator and the educational environment.
5. Develop oral, visual, and written summaries of concepts related to elementary education.

Course Content Areas:
Educator
Characteristics of an effective educator; Teaching philosophy; Teacher qualifications and overview of certification process

Field of Education and Educational Setting
Overview of early childhood, elementary, high school and special education school settings; Role of Board of Education; Historical, social, and cultural influences on education; Legal (ex. Brown vs. Board of Education; IDEA, NCLB) and Ethical issues in education; Current trends and contemporary issues (ex. Charter schools; Merit pay)

Teaching and Assessment Practices
Physical characteristics of educational setting; Teaching approaches for the elementary school classroom; Classroom management strategies; Teaching with technology; Bloom’s taxonomy and planning lessons; Evaluating learning through assessment and standardized testing; Working with parents and the community