



Course Overview

Students with disabilities are being taught more than ever in general education classrooms. This provides unique opportunities for special and general education teachers to work together to support these students in more rigorous Common Core general education classrooms. However, general and special education teachers run the risk of falling short of their potential to impact students' success unless they know the how to effectively collaborate. How can professionals with different sets of expertise effectively and successfully support students with disabilities?

This course is based on supports and related services designed to meet the unique needs of students with disabilities and to enable their access to the general education curriculum, based on IDEA 34 CFR §300.34, 2004. (See *Application of the CCSS for Students with Disabilities from the Common Core State Standards Initiative**).

Course outcomes include:

- Participants will develop a personalized collaborative agreement with their teacher colleague that includes teacher and student goals and mission statement and that guides their teaching partnership
- Participants will acquire the skills necessary to develop or improve an existing collaborative colleague partnership that includes regular planning, open communication, productive problem solving and shared responsibility for the success of students
- Participants will acquire the skills necessary to design a lesson that takes advantage of the resources of a collaborative classroom and incorporates collaborative structures to support students with disabilities and other diverse learners

Teachers will develop a personal course portfolio that will include:

- A pre and post assessment of learner knowledge of collaborative teaching
- A personalized collaborative agreement that includes teacher and student goals and a mission statement
- A collaborative teaching self-rating scale that provides actionable steps for improving practices
- A collaborative teaching schedule and plan for regular collaboration
- A lesson plan that reflects collaborative practices and clear roles and responsibilities for teaching partners
- A reflection journal that includes how the course content applies to their teaching partnerships and actionable steps they take and results of incorporating evidence-based practices into their collaborative practices
- A plan for moving forward with effective co-teaching practices

Topics by Session:

- Session 1: Explores the definition and rationale of inclusive education and its connections to key education legislation.
- Session 2: Examines different models of inclusive education practices in K-12 settings.
- Session 3: Guides participants through preliminary steps to build a co-teaching partnership, including different co-teaching approaches.
- Session 4: Takes participants through effective communication and planning practices for co-teaching.
- Session 5: Addresses recognizing effective practices and signs of successful co-teaching.
- Session 6: Dives into how to build support and capacity for effective long term co-teaching practices