A. Course Title: SPED 632 Research in Special Education 1  
Credits: 3

B. Course Description: This course focuses on the planning and preparation needed to conduct empirical research. Topics include ethical issues in research, stylistic requirements for manuscript preparation, methods of comprehensive literature search, statistical analysis, and experimental design. Candidates will complete the first three chapters of their master’s thesis.

C. Prerequisites, Co-Requisites and Restrictions:  
   § SPED 629 Current Issues in Special Education

D. Course Objectives: LDT-C candidates will . . .
   1. summarize in written form the problem the research is addressing
   2. state the importance of the research to current issues in special education
   3. review, analyze, and summarize a selected body of existing literature related to the topic and empirical hypothesis
   4. prepare citations and a bibliography in APA format
   5. develop an appropriate research design
   6. select, adapt, and prepare appropriate measurement instruments and other materials needed for the research
   7. identify the pool from which subjects will be drawn
   8. describe common methods of statistical analysis for educational research
   9. select a method of statistical analysis
   10. describe the ethical issues involved in research in general
   11. identify those ethical issues that that pertain to the specific research projects that are being conducted
   12. accept and give feedback in sharing progress with peers

E. LDT-C Candidate Learning Outcomes: The LDT-C candidate will . . .
   1. demonstrate the ability to plan graduate level research by completing the first three chapters of a masters thesis including the statement of the problem, a verifiable hypothesis, an examination of relevant literature, a feasible method of investigation and a bibliography in approved format
Plan graduate level research through the completion of Chapters 1-3 of a masters thesis.

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**F. Course Content:**
1. Referencing print resources, and electronic data bases
2. Evaluation of references
3. Quantitative & qualitative research designs
4. True experimental designs
5. Action research
6. Surveys
7. Identifying and obtaining subjects
8. Ethical practices in research
9. Developing plans for data analysis
10. APA style – citations and references
11. procedures for statistical analysis – t tests, analysis of variance, correlations

**G. Teaching/Learning Methods:**
- Lecture and discussion
- Assigned readings
- Small group projects
- Case studies
- Audio-visual materials
- Guest lecturers
- Reflective writing and sharing

**H. Performance-Based Assessment:**
1. Completion of Chapters 1-3 as assessed on a rubric


**J. Preparer’s Name:** Peter Griswold, Ed. D.

**K. Department Approval Date:**

**L. Current Revision:** N/A

**M. Current Department Approval Date:** N/A
N. Selected Bibliography


