Stephen F. Austin State University
Perkins College of Education
Department of Education Studies

SPED 5316.501 - Structure and Function of the Visual System

Summer 2023

Instructor: Laura Hampton, TSVI, M.Ed.

Course Time & Location: 6:00 PM. to 8:00PM Central / 4 PM. to 6 PM. Pacific
5/30, 6/6, 6/13, 6/20, 6/27, 7/11, 7/18, 7/25,
Online: D2L and ZOOM

Office: N/A; online course delivery

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 10:00am-12:00pm; or by arrangement

Office Phone: 817-988-8550

Credits: 3 credits

Email: hamptonlaura@d2l.sfasu.edu

A Word about Office Hours:
I will check my D2L email daily through the regular work week (Monday-Friday). You may also text or call me if I am not available leave a voicemail. It may take several hours before I am able to respond, but I will do so as soon as possible.

Prerequisites:
Admission into the university and the Visual Impairment Preparation program

I. Course Description

Graduate Bulletin Description: Structure, function, and possible pathologies of the eye. Social, vocational, and educational implications of visual problems together with skills in communicating with medical rehabilitation specialists.

SPED 5316.601 - Structure and Function of the Visual System (3 credits; fully online with synchronous meetings) spans 12 weeks. The class has 8 online/synchronous meetings across the semester that are 2-hours per meeting. The course contains extensive written content that includes the same information students in a face-to-face lecture course receive, requiring students to engage the online modules for at least three hours per week. Primary source readings are woven into the content to support key concepts or provide perspective on visual impairment related activities including assessments. In addition, students are required to research and complete fact sheets on three specific eye conditions and complete a Functional Vision Assessment. For every hour, a student spends engaging with the content, he/she spends at least two hours completing associated activities and assessments. Students are also required to complete and document 40 hours of field experience hours during the semester.

This class is designed to familiarize the student with the various parts of the visual system and their impact on the process of seeing. The Functional Vision/Learning Media Assessment process is also introduced. Although this is a 3 credit-hour course, it spans across the entirety of the Summer I and Summer II sessions in order to be completed. Final grades are entered at the end of the Summer II session. Structure and Function of the Visual System is one of the initial courses taken at the beginning of the program and usually in conjunction with the Unified English Braille course.

Zoom meeting times: The class will meet weekly using the Zoom link on Tuesdays, the live lecture will be provided at 6:00 – 8:00 pm (CST) / 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm (PST). It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the instructor is aware their presence to be counted as present for the week’s class.
The James I. Perkins College of Education is committed to proactively recruiting and retaining a diverse faculty, staff, and student population. Through open dialogue, mutual respect, and shared responsibility, faculty, staff, and students will demonstrate an understanding and sensitivity to ethnicity, race, gender, exceptionalities, culture, language/dialect, age, social class, family structure, sexual orientation, religion, and spiritual values in order to enhance the quality of life in a diverse, global community.

**Purpose**

This course is designed to provide the student:

- Knowledge of the anatomy of the visual system,
- Experience with, and knowledge of the function of, the various structures of the eye,
- Tools to research how various visual pathologies may impact the function of these structures,
- Opportunities to investigate the functional and educational impact of various conditions on vision,
- Skills in the area of evaluation of functional vision and learning media,
- Practice in informative and collaborative communication of concepts and findings to meet the needs of various audiences, and
- Field-based learning experiences/opportunities with individuals with visual impairments

There are two critical assignments collected in this course that relate to accountability and accreditation – Eye Condition Fact Sheets and Functional Vision Assessment.

**DIVERSITY STATEMENT:**

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http://coe.sfasu.edu/about-us/

II. Intended Learning Outcomes/Goals/Objectives (Program/Student Learning Outcomes):

The mission of the PCOE is to prepare competent, successful, caring and enthusiastic professionals from diverse backgrounds dedicated to responsible service, leadership, social justice and continued professional and intellectual development in an interconnected global society.

To accomplish this mission, the goals of the Perkins College of Education and the Vision Impairment Program, this course, our faculty, and staff are to:

- Provide TRANSFORMATIONAL EXPERIENCES for our students.
- Promote MEANINGFUL AND SUSTAINED ENROLLMENT GROWTH.
- ATTRACT/SUPPORT HIGH QUALITY FACULTY AND STAFF.
- Improve and maintain an optimal COLLEGE CULTURE.
- Provide ACADEMIC & CO-CURRICULAR INNOVATIONS.
- INCREASE CONNECTIONS with stakeholders.

The intent of this course and our program as a whole is to make every effort to ensure that this course (and all other vision courses) is solidly grounded in the realities of practice. It is intended to be a pragmatic, practical course with maximum emphasis being placed on equipping you to be effective and efficient facilitators of learning for individuals with visual impairments, their families, teachers, as well as caseworkers, and other stakeholders who strive to meet their unique needs.

**The Core Values of the Perkins College of Education are:**

- Life-long learning
- Collaboration and shared decision-making
- Openness to new ideas, to culturally diverse people, and to innovation and change
- Integrity, responsibility, diligence, and ethical behavior
- Service that enriches the community

**Program Learning Outcomes:**

The following is a list of desired Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) in which data will be collected for Nuventive Improve throughout the program. An asterisk (*) denotes the PLO will be addressed during SPED 5316:
Program Outcome #1: The student will demonstrate applied knowledge of the most common conditions causing visual dysfunction in the population of students with visual impairments.

Program Outcome #2: The student will demonstrate understanding and applied knowledge of formal and informal assessments designed to address and measure the unique needs of students with visual impairments.

Program Outcome #3: The student will model and demonstrate applied knowledge of strategies that improve access to curriculum and promote the development of learners with visual impairments.

Program Outcome #4: The student will document and express knowledge, ideals, skills, and standards associated with professional practice in the field of visual impairment.

Program Outcome #5: The Master’s candidate will demonstrate advanced knowledge and understanding in the field of visual impairment.

Program Outcome #6: The student will demonstrate proficiency in Unified English Braille production and interpretation using both the literary and the Nemeth code.

Program Outcome #7: The student should be able to demonstrate cultural awareness and professional behavior in all settings related to the provision of services to students with visual impairments.

This course supports the ISTE Standards to provide the competencies for learning, teaching and leading in digital age providing a comprehensive roadmap for the effective use of technology in schools worldwide. These standards include:

2.1 Learner Educators continually improve their practice by learning from and with others and exploring proven and promising practices that leverage technology to improve student learning. Educators:
2.1.b Pursue professional interests by creating and actively participating in local and global learning networks. 
2.1.c Stay current with research that supports improved student learning outcomes, including findings from the learning sciences.

2.2 Leader Educators seek out opportunities for leadership to support student empowerment and success and to improve teaching and learning. Educators:
2.2. Model for colleagues the identification, exploration, evaluation, curation and adoption of new digital resources and tools for learning.

2.3 Citizen Educators inspire students to positively contribute to and responsibly participate in the digital world. Educators:
2.3.b Establish a learning culture that promotes curiosity and critical examination of online resources and fosters digital literacy and media fluency
2.3.c Mentor students in safe, legal and ethical practices with digital tools and the protection of intellectual rights and property

2.4 Collaborator Educators dedicate time to collaborate with both colleagues and students to improve practice, discover and share resources and ideas, and solve problems. Educators:
2.4.c Use collaborative tools to expand students' authentic, real-world learning experiences by engaging virtually with experts, teams and students, locally and globally.

2.6 Facilitator Educators facilitate learning with technology to support student achievement of the ISTE Standards for Students. Educators:
2.6.d Model and nurture creativity and creative expression to communicate ideas, knowledge or connections

This course emphasizes these values in its content, philosophy, and in its assessment of outcomes. We, as instructors, strive to reflect these principles in the teaching of this course and we also have the highest expectations that you, our students, will also demonstrate these values as you develop as leaders in the field of visual impairment. These values are analogous with ethical standards that have developed by the Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AERBVI), and one intention of this course is to provide you the skills to lead others to embrace these principles.

This course supports the Core Objectives established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating board. The core objectives established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) are:
• **Critical Thinking Skills** - to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information. FOR THIS COURSE – This is demonstrated through resource collection, and course reading requirements.

• **Communication Skills** - to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication. FOR THIS COURSE – This is achieved through the module discussions, collaboration with other students, and ZOOM meetings.

• **Empirical and Quantitative Skills** - to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions. FOR THIS COURSE – This is developed through completion of learning activities.

• **Teamwork** - to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal. FOR THIS COURSE – This is demonstrated through module discussions and ZOOM meetings.

• **Personal Responsibility** - to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making. FOR THIS COURSE – This is exhibited through maintaining schedules, course requirements, and meeting deadlines.

• **Social Responsibility** - to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities. FOR THIS COURSE – This is acquired through the review of various laws and agencies as they relate to visual impairment, and completion of Module 6: Roles and Responsibilities.

**This course also supports the mission of the Visual Impairment Preparation Program**

It is the mission of the Visual Impairment Preparation Program to train Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments (TSVs) and Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists (COMS) who are practically and pragmatically prepared to meet the needs of persons with visual impairments across the state of Texas and in the nation as a whole. We believe that completers from our program should be equipped to effectively deliver instructional services which provide opportunities for students and clients with visual impairments to be more independent, lead more meaningful lives, and participate to a greater extent in society at large. In order to meet these goals, we believe that it is our responsibility to mentor and educate our graduates in the importance of exhibiting caring and compassionate approaches to instruction and positive beliefs about the worth of all individuals regardless of age, gender, race, sexual orientation or level of disability.

**This course supports the codes of ethics for professional practice developed for professionals in the field of visual impairments by the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER):**

I. Commitment to the student
II. Commitment to the community
III. Commitment to the profession
IV. Commitment to colleagues, other professionals and to professional employers

**This course supports the codes of ethics for professional practice developed for professionals in the field of visual impairments by the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP):**

I. Commitment to the learner
II. Commitment to the community
III. Commitment to the profession
IV. Commitment to colleagues and other professionals
V. Commitment to professional employment practices

**This course directly supports the standards of the Council for Exceptional Children, specifically:**

Standard I: Foundations of the field of Visual Impairment
Standard II: Development and Characteristics of Learners
Standard III: Individual Learning Differences
Standard IV: Assessment
Standard VI: Professional and Ethical Practice Standard VII: Collaboration

**This course directly supports the Curricular Standards for Orientation and Mobility Specialists set forth by the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired, specifically:**

Standard I: Medical Aspects of Blindness and Visual Impairment – d, e, f
Standard II: Sensory Motor Functioning – a, c
Standard III: Psychosocial Aspects of Blindness & Visual Impairments – a, b, c, d, e, f, h, i, j
Standard IV: Human Growth and Development over the Lifespan – b, d, h
Standard V: Concept Development – b, c, d, e, f
Standard IX: Instructional Methods, Strategies, and Assessment – a, n, q, r, s, t, v, w, x, y
Standard X: History and Philosophy of Orientation and Mobility – a, b, c, f, g, i, n, o, p, q
Standard XII: Development, Administration, and Supervision of O&M Program – c, d, e, g, h, i, j
Standard XIII: Clinical Practice Competencies – a, f, j, m

This course supports the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP) guidelines for certification.

ACVREP states that to be eligible to sit for the certifying examination, applicants must provide:

- Proof of a minimum of a bachelor’s degree from an accredited university or college in any field of study and proof of completion of an Orientation and Mobility certification preparation program from an accredited university or college that meets the following 13 core domain areas
  - Domain 1. Know Professional Information
  - Domain 2. Understanding Relevant Medical Information
  - Domain 3. Understand and Apply Learning Theories to O&M
  - Domain 4. Plan and Conduct O&M Assessment
  - Domain 5. Plan O&M Programs
  - Domain 6. Teach O&M Related Concepts
  - Domain 7. Teach Orientation Skills and Strategies
  - Domain 8. Teach Mobility Skills
  - Domain 9. Teach Use of Senses
  - Domain 10. Teach Consumers who have Additional Disabilities
  - Domain 11. Teach Diverse Consumers
  - Domain 12. Analyze and Modify Environment
  - Domain 13. Know the Psychosocial Implications of Blindness and Visual Impairment

This course specifically addresses the following ACVREP Domains through practice and didactic instruction: 1, 6, 11, and 13

This course supports the development for professional educators in Visual Impairment, by the Texas Education Agency (TEA), specifically:

**Standard I:** The teacher of students with visual impairments understands and applies knowledge of the characteristics and needs of students with visual impairments, including those with additional disabilities. (1.10k, 1.1s, 1.2s, 1.5s, 1.6s, 1.7s)

**Standard II:** The teacher of students with visual impairments, including those with additional disabilities, understands and applies the knowledge of formal and informal assessments and evaluations and know how to use resulting data and other information to make service and programming recommendations and to participate in the development of the students’ Individual Educational Programs (IEPs) and Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs) (2.1k, 2.2k, 2.5k, 2.7k, 2.8k, 2.10k, 2.11k, 2.8s, 2.10s, 2.14s)

**Standard III:** The teacher of students with visual impairments, including those with additional disabilities, understands and applies the knowledge of strategies for planning instruction in the school, home, and community environments to facilitate student achievement. (31.k, 3.3k, 3.4k, 3.5k, 3.6k, 3.1s)

**Standard IV:** The teacher of students with visual impairments, including those with additional disabilities, knows how to promote students’ development of concepts and skills for academic achievement, social interaction, and independent living. (4.1k, 4.2k, 4.5k, 4.11k, 4.12k, 4.17k, 4.19k, 4.22k, 4.23k, 4.4s, 4.12s, 4.21s, 4.22s)

**Standard V:** The teacher of students with visual impairments, including those with additional disabilities, knows how to communicate and collaborate effectively in a variety of professional settings. (5.1k, 5.3k, 5.4k, 5.5k, 5.6k, 5.7k, 5.8k, 5.9k, 5.10k, 5.11k, 5.12k, 5.13k, 5.7s, 5.9s, 5.12s)
Standard VI: The teacher of students with visual impairments, including those with additional disabilities, understands and applies the knowledge of the foundations of the profession, including legal requirements and ethical considerations relating to students’ education, and actively seeks to expand professional knowledge and skills (6.1k, 6.2k, 6.3k, 6.4k, 6.5k, 6.6k, 6.7k)

This course supports Nuventive Improve objectives that have been developed for the program, specifically:

The student will:

1. Research and compile data on various common etiologies associated with visual impairment and demonstrate knowledge of the impact on the development and educational needs of students with visual impairments. To accomplish this the student will:
   - Identify common conditions. CEC standard 1 (BVI-1K3)
   - Identify part of the eye that is affected. CEC 1 (BVI.1K1)
   - Identify effects of condition on visual abilities. CEC 1 (BVI.1.K4)
   - Identify functional and educational implications of condition. CEC 1 (BVI.1.K5);
   - Detail references and resources for specific conditions. CEC 6 (BVI 6.S7)
   - Effectively communicate information. CEC standard 7 (BVI 7K1)

2. Demonstrate knowledge of the impact on the development and educational needs of students with visual impairments. The students will research and develop a group class presentation on etiology and impact of one of the most common occurring eye conditions. To do this the students will:
   - Work collaboratively to develop and plan presentation
   - Define condition and detail prevalence. BVI.1.K2
   - Identify part of the eye that is affected. CEC 1 (BVI.1K1)
   - Identify effects of condition on visual abilities. CEC 1 (BVI.1.K4)
   - Identify functional and educational implications of condition. CEC 1 (BVI.1.K5)
   - Review a Functional Vision Evaluation/Learning Media Assessment/Expanded Core Curriculum Screening detailing implications of condition on the life of an individual or their family CEC 1 (BVI.1.S1), CEC 4 (BVI.4.S1)
   - Detail references and available resources for individuals with specific condition. CEC 6 (BVI 6.K2)
   - Develop materials to effectively communicate information to others. CEC standard 7 (BVI 7K1)

Student Learning Outcomes:
At the end of this course the student will be able to apply the following skills to their service in support of individuals who are visually impaired.

1. The student will demonstrate applied knowledge of the most common conditions causing visual dysfunction in the population of students with visual impairments.
2. The student will investigate and explore the fundamentals of visual dysfunction. The student will be able to identify the structures of the eye and the role of each structure in vision.
3. The student will be able to apply knowledge of the eye to identify functional implications of various eye conditions.
4. The student will develop materials about ocular issues to facilitate communication with parents and teachers.
5. The student will be able to interpret prescriptions and describe the optics of the eye and of corrective lenses.
6. The student will be able to analyze and interpret eye medical reports to draw conclusions and discover areas of concern.
7. The student will experience an eye exam and identify the needs, purposes, and practices surrounding various pieces of exam equipment so that they may better serve their client/students.
8. The student will practice and develop skills in the direct assessment of functional vision.
9. The student will investigate the impact of various prescriptions medications on the visual performance and abilities.
10. The student will categorize the needs and functions of various low vision devices.
11. The student will take part in real world experiences and interactions with individuals with visual impairments, parents/caregivers/families of these individuals, and professionals who serve them.

III. Course Assignments, Activities, Instructional Strategies, use of Technology:
This course will be delivered using distance education online format. Classes will also meet (synchronously) using web conferencing to support instruction in a program called Zoom to deliver presentations and explore concepts. Instruction throughout the class will be supported through other material presented online on the class website.
Brightspace, aka d2l) to further knowledge and promote instruction. Students will also be required to facilitate and/or participate (synchronously) in online discussions investigating topics and required readings. Assignments will be detailed on the website and discussed during class time (Learning Modules).

A. Attendance:
Regular and punctual attendance is expected at all classes, laboratories, and other activities for which a student is registered. Attendance and participation are imperative in this class and is therefore a factor in the course grade (40 points), and an accurate record of attendance will be maintained by the instructor. Regardless of attendance, every student is responsible for course content and assignments. Students may receive excused absences for illness and family emergencies but must present written documentation for such absence (doctor's note, emergency room admissions, funeral notices) to their instructor, and are responsible to make up work missed during their absence.

B. Excused Absences:
It is University policy to excuse students from attendance for certain reasons. Among these are absences related to health, family emergencies, and student participation in certain University-sponsored events. Students are responsible for providing documentation satisfactory to the instructor for each class missed. Students with acceptable excuses will be permitted to make up work for excused absences, due the following class day. Students will be allowed one unexcused absence without penalty. After that, one letter grade will be subtracted from the final grade for each unexcused absence. After three unexcused absences, the student will receive a failing grade for the course.

C. Class Participation:
This class is designed to be highly interactive. It works better when you are involved and asking questions. I will be asking questions and calling on every student at some point during the semester. Class participation includes the following:

- Attendance (physical and mental) to class activities and discussions
- Preparation for class
- Appropriateness of participation in class discussions
- Willingness to answer questions
- Evidence of critical thinking and creativity during class discussions and activities
- Demonstration of good “consulting skills” (politeness, manners, diplomacy, etc.)
- Display of a positive attitude toward the subject material, class activities, etc.
- Completion of the course evaluation

Additionally, remember that we are a small community, and we are learning this together. Therefore:

- Honest disagreements in the spirit of critical academic exchange are encouraged. While you can disagree, do not personalize it; stick to the issues. No name-calling or stereotyping.
- Derogatory comments based on race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexual orientation, or nationality will not be tolerated.
- What we say stays here unless we agree to change that. What we learn here, though, we can share with others.
- If you are offended, say so, and say why.

Adapted from The Guide for training study circle facilitators (1998)
Study Circle Resource Center, © Topsfield Foundation.
D. Modules of Instruction: MOST of the instructional material for this course will be provided through Modules on the Brightspace/Desire2Learn (D2L) internet platform and supplemented and enhanced through each class meeting. The material and requirements covered in each Module contribute to grades counted in discussions, study guides, quizzes, assignments, and tests. Because this class is very dependent on the internet, the student must be able to use the internet to obtain instructions on completing assignments, submitting assignments, and participating in class activities. It is, therefore, essential that the student not only have ready access to the internet, but also that they are comfortable in using it. Detailed instructions for using D2L are available on their “My Home” page on D2L, under the title “Helpful Links”, including the phone number for D2L Support, which is 936-468-1919.

E. Graded Assignments: The requirements for this course include:

1. Learning Assignments (240 points - 30 points each) – A specific set of instructions will be provided for each of these activities/quizzes within D2L. While the method for completing the activities changes, the objective is to give the student an opportunity to APPLY the information obtained in the class.

   - **What Can Go Wrong Assignment (30 pts)** The student will apply knowledge of the eye to identify functional implications of various eye conditions.

   - **Interpreting Eye Reports Assignment (30 pts)** The student will read a variety of eye reports to analyze and interpret eye medical reports to draw conclusions and discover areas of concern.

   - **Optical Devices Assignment (30 pts)** Students will complete a chart to categorize the needs and functions of various low vision devices.

   - **Eye Care Specialist’s Office Tour (30 points)** – Students are required to visit an eye care specialist’s office and discuss with him/her the procedures used in a standard optometric/ophthalmological assessment. A series of specific questions and objectives will be provided to help guide the student’s visit.

   - **Professional Interview Reflection Activity – (30 points)** Students are required to complete three interviews with the ONE of the following individuals:

     A Certified Orientation and Mobility Instructor, VI Rehabilitation Specialist or Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments A series of guiding questions will be assigned which will help students express (1) what they learned from the interviews; and (2) how they felt about the information they received.

     - **Personal Interview Reflection Activity – (30 points)** Students are required to complete three interviews with the ONE of the following individuals: A person, or the primary caregivers, of a person with visual impairments A series of guiding questions will be assigned which will help students express (1) what they learned from the interviews; and (2) how they felt about the information they received.

2. Quizzes (120 points – 30 points each) Students are required to complete 4 open note quizzes, which will also serve as study guides throughout the course. Each quiz will assist the student in the application of the anatomy and function of the visual system.

   - **Anatomy Terms Quiz (30 pts)** The student will be able to identify the structure of the eye and the role of each structure in vision.

   - **Anterior Posterior Structure Quiz (30 pts)** The student will be able to identify the structures of the eye and the role of each structure in vision.

   - **Visual Dysfunction Quiz (30 pts)** The student will be able to identify the structures of the eye and the role of each structure in vision.
3. Discussion Post (30 points) – Students will demonstrate their ability to engage in the required use of technology necessary to complete the course as well as respond to a Discussion Post theme.

- **Introduction Post (10 Pts)** The student will collaborate with both colleagues on a digital platform to improve practice, discover and share resources and ideas, and solve problems

- **Vision Related Technology Post (10 Pts)** The student will explore technological devices from low to high tech for the instructional needs specific to visual impairment.

- **Diversity Post (10 Pts)** The student will convey the importance of role models with visual impairment for a full range of individual learners across diverse settings.

4. 3 Projects (270 points – 90 points each)

- **Group Project- Case Study Summary (90 points)** Students will demonstrate collaborative skills while developing a multimedia presentation which summarizes the Functional Vision Evaluation of a case subject. The project will be presented to the class and each group participant MUST submit a written summary in LiveText.

- **1 Eye Condition Fact Sheets (90 points)** students are required to research and complete fact sheets on three specific eye conditions. The eye condition fact sheets MUST be submitted in LiveText.

- **Functional Vision Evaluation (90 points)** – Each student will conduct a Functional Vision Evaluation, designed to practice performing the necessary evaluation techniques to determine the implications of a visual impairment.

5. Exams (300 points) – Two exams will be administered, which will be composed of multiple choice, fill in the blank, and/or short answer questions. The **Midterm is 100 points** and the **Final is 200 points**.

6. Field Based Experience - Students are required to complete 40 hours of field-based experience, which include:

- **Eye Care Specialist’s Office Tour– (2hrs)** Students are required to visit an eye care specialist’s office and discuss with him/her the procedures used in a standard optometric/ophthalmological assessment. A series of specific questions and objectives will be provided to help guide the student’s visit.

- **Interview Reflection Activities – (4.5hrs total)** Students are required to complete three interviews with the following individuals:
  - A Certified Orientation and Mobility Instructor, VI Rehabilitation Specialist or Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments
  - A person, or the primary caregivers, of a person with visual impairments (30 points) A series of guiding questions will be assigned which will help students express
    (1) what they learned from the interviews; and
    (2) how they felt about the information they received.

- **10 Hours minimum of Observation or Direct Service** – Students are required to complete reflection notes based on observation experiences.

- **23.5 hours of continued observations, interviews or training relating to individuals with visual impairments**

IV. Evaluation and Assessments (Grading):
Learning Activities and exams will be submitted to the instructor and will be evaluated based on a weighted rubric basis. Final grades will be computed on a percentage with letter grades assigned as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>5 points each class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Assignments</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>30 points each assignment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Quizzes</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>30 points each quiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Discussion Posts</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>10 points each post</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Functional Vision Evaluation</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>90 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical Eye Fact Sheet in Live Text</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>90 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Project Case Study Summary in Live Text</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>90 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid term</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Points</td>
<td>970</td>
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</tbody>
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Grading Scale:

- 970-873: A
- 872-776: B
- 775-679: C
- 678-582: D
- 581 and below: F
## V. Tentative Course Outline/Calendar

All dates are tentative and subject to change. All assignments due by 11:30 pm CST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Required Reading</th>
<th>Assignment/Assessment</th>
<th>Tentative Due Dates</th>
<th>Professional Standards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1, 2 and 3</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Introduction Discussion Post (10 pts)</td>
<td>ISTE 2.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Familiarize yourself with D2L</td>
<td>The Little Eye Book Ch 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>• Syllabus Quiz (30 pts), Vision Related Technology Discussion Post (10 pts)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>D2L: Getting Started, Syllabus, Field Based Experience</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Eye Anatomy Structure &amp; Function</td>
<td>The Little Eye Book Ch 3</td>
<td>• Exterior Structures of the Eye Quiz (30 pts), Anterior and Posterior Structures Quiz (30 pts)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoom 1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Essential Tools Pp. 27-36</td>
<td>• Field Based Experience Hours in Live Text</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>D2L: Live Text, Helpful Resources, Module 1 Structure of the Visual System and links, Virtual Eye Dissection</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Eye Anatomy Structure &amp; Function Continued</td>
<td>The Little Eye Book Ch 4 &amp; 5</td>
<td>• Anatomy Terms Quiz (30 pts)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoom 2</td>
<td>Virtual Cow Eye Dissection</td>
<td>Essential Tools Pp. 45-49</td>
<td>• Visual Dysfunction Quiz (30 pts)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eye Exam Tour</td>
<td>D2L: Medical Eye Condition Fact Sheets</td>
<td>• Eye Care Specialist Tour (30 pts)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Visual Dysfunction</td>
<td>The Little Eye Book Ch 6 &amp; 7</td>
<td>• What Can Go Wrong (30 pts)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoom 3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Essential Tools</td>
<td>• Eye Condition Fact Sheets in Live Text* (90 pts)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Zoom 4</td>
<td>Typical Visual Development &amp; Visual Impairment</td>
<td><strong>The Little Eye Book</strong> Ch 8 &amp; 9</td>
<td>Essential Tools Pp.51-94 Pp. 100-103</td>
<td><strong>D2L</strong>: Module 2 Visual Dysfunction and links</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MIDTERM** (100 pts) Opens Fri @ 7:00 am CST Closes Sun @ 11:30 pm CST

|--------|--------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|

|--------|--------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 10</th>
<th>Zoom 11</th>
<th>Optics &amp; Assistive Visual Devices</th>
<th>Essential Tools Pp. 104-109</th>
<th><strong>D2L</strong>: Module 7 Optical Devices</th>
<th>• Optical Devices (30 pts)</th>
<th><strong>BVI.5.S11</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
VI. Readings (Required and recommended—including texts, websites, articles, etc.):

Required texts:


LiveText/Watermark Statement:

This course uses the LiveText/Watermark data management system to collect critical assessments for students who are Perkins College of Education majors (undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral) or majors in other colleges seeking educator certification through the Perkins College of Education. Students who do not have an existing LiveText/Watermark account will receive an access code via the SFA email system within the first week of class. You will be required to register your LiveText/Watermark account, and you will be notified how to do this via email. If you forward your SFA e-mail to another account and do not receive an e-mail concerning LiveText/Watermark registration, please be sure to check your junk mail folder and your spam filter for these e-mails.

If you have questions about obtaining or registering your LiveText/Watermark account or any technical questions, call 936-468-2395 or e-mail LiveText@sfasu.edu. Failure to activate the account and/or submit the required assignment(s) within the LiveText/Watermark system may result in course failure.

FEM Statement: FEM is used for field experiences, practica, and internships in a way to document the offsite experiences. You will record your field-based experience hours in FEM.

VII. Course Evaluations:

Near the conclusion of each semester, students in the Perkins College of Education electronically evaluate courses taken within the PCOE. Evaluation data is used for a variety of important purposes including:

1. Course and program improvement, planning, and accreditation;
2. Instruction evaluation purposes; and
3. Making decisions on faculty tenure, promotion, pay, and retention.

As you evaluate this course, please be thoughtful, thorough, and accurate in completing the evaluation. Please know that the PCOE faculty is committed to excellence in teaching and continued improvement. Therefore, your response is critical!

In the Perkins College of Education, the course evaluation process has been simplified and is completed electronically through MySFA. Although the instructor will be able to view the names of students who complete the survey, all ratings and comments are confidential and anonymous, and will not be available to the instructor until after final grades are posted.

VIII. Student Ethics and Other Policy Information: Found at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/

Class Attendance and Excused Absence: Policy 6.7

Regular, punctual attendance, documented participation, and, if indicated in the syllabus, submission of completed assignments are expected at all classes, laboratories, and other activities for which the student is registered. Based on university policy, failure of students to adhere to these requirements shall influence the course grade, financial
assistance, and/or enrollment status. The instructor shall maintain an accurate record of each student's attendance and participation as well as note this information in required reports (including the first 12 day attendance report) and in determining final grades. Students may be excused from attendance for reasons such as health, family emergencies, or student participation in approved university-sponsored events. However, students are responsible for notifying their instructors in advance, when possible, for excusable absences. Whether absences are excused or unexcused, a student is still responsible for all course content and assignments. Students with accepted excuses may be permitted to make up work for up to three weeks of absences during a semester or one week of a summer term, depending on the nature of the missed work. Make-up work must be completed as soon as possible after returning from an absence.

**Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities: Policy 6.1 and 6.6**

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 936-468-3004 as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/)

**Student Academic Dishonesty: Policy 4.1**

Abiding by university policy on academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members must promote the components of academic integrity in their instruction, and course syllabi are required to provide information about penalties for cheating and plagiarism, as well as the appeal process.

**Definition of Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

- using or attempting to use unauthorized materials on any class assignment or exam;
- falsifying or inventing of any information, including citations, on an assignment;
- helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism.

Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were one’s own. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- submitting an assignment as one's own work when it is at least partly the work of another person;
- submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from the Internet or another source;
- incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper or presentation without giving the author credit.

**Penalties for Academic Dishonesty**

Penalties may include, but are not limited to, reprimand, no credit for the assignment or exam, re-submission of the work, make-up exam, failure of the course, or expulsion from the university.

For the purposes of this course, as part of the Visual Impairment/Orientation & Mobility Preparation (VIP) Program, any indication of academic dishonesty as defined by SFASU and the Perkins College of Education, as described above, in the VIP Program handbook, and in each course syllabus, will result in the following consequences:

**1st offense** – The student will receive an F in the course. A Report of Academic Dishonesty will be filed with the Associate Dean of Student Services and Advising. Failure of the course does not rule out further actions on the part of the program and/or SFASU. The student’s status/continuation in our graduate (M.Ed.) program will be determined by consensus of the VIP Program faculty. This may result in program discontinuation, and the student must repay associated grant fees as per initial agreement.

The student must self-pay to retake the course later. All regular course assignments must be completed, along with a "re-taker packet" which requires additional coursework determined by the instructor (for instance, the student may be asked to write and submit a thesis paper on ethical practices). If the course is satisfactorily completed (passed with an A or B) on the second attempt, SFASU will replace the original (F) grade.

**2nd offense** – Dismissal from the VIP Program, and student must repay associated grant fees as per initial agreement. These consequences do not rule out further actions on the part of the VIP Program and/or SFASU.

**Student Appeals**

A student who wishes to appeal decisions related to academic dishonesty should follow procedures outlined in Academic Appeals by Students (6.3).

**Withheld Grades: Policy 5.5**

At the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic unit head, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work by the deadline set by the instructor of record, not to exceed one calendar year from the end of the
semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F, except as allowed through policy [i.e., Military Service Activation (6.14)]. If students register for the same course in future semesters, the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Student Code of Conduct: Policy 10.4
Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program. Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This policy applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program at SFA.

SFASU values students' mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support students mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

On-campus Resources:
SFASU Counseling Services
www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices
3rd Floor Rusk Building
936-468-2401

SFASU Human Services Counseling Clinic
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
Human Services Room 202
936-468-1041

Crisis Resources:
Burke 24-hour crisis line 1(800) 392-8343
Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1(800) 273-TALK (8255)
Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741

Additional Information Specific to Educator Preparation:

Code of Ethics for the Texas Educator:
The Texas educator shall comply with standard practices and ethical conduct toward students, professional colleagues, school officials, parents, and members of the community and shall safeguard academic freedom. The Texas educator, in maintaining the dignity of the profession, shall respect and obey the law, demonstrate personal integrity, and exemplify honesty and good moral character. The Texas educator, in exemplifying ethical relations with colleagues, shall extend just and equitable treatment to all members of the profession. The Texas educator, in accepting a position of public trust, shall measure success by the progress of each student toward realization of his or her potential as an effective citizen. The Texas educator, in fulfilling responsibilities in the community, shall cooperate with parents and others to improve the public schools of the community. This chapter shall apply to educators and candidates for certification.


To complete Certification/Licensing Requirements in Texas related to public education and other professional settings, you will be required to:

1. Candidates must undergo a criminal history background check prior to clinical teaching and prior to employment as an educator. The public school campuses are responsible for completing the criminal background check. A person who is enrolled or planning to enroll in a State Board for Educator Certification-approved educator preparation program or planning to take a certification examination may request a preliminary criminal history evaluation letter regarding the person's potential ineligibility for certification due to a conviction or deferred adjudication for a felony or misdemeanor offense.

A Preliminary Criminal History Evaluation is a non-mandatory, non-binding evaluation of an individual's self-reported criminal history. In addition, the agency obtains your name-based Texas criminal history information. The service is provided to the requestor for a non-refundable fee. The requestor will receive an evaluation letter by email from agency
staff advising of potential ineligibility for educator certification. You are eligible to request a Preliminary Criminal History Evaluation if:

- You enrolled or planning to enroll in an educator preparation program or
- You are planning to take a certification exam for initial educator certification, and
- You have reason to believe that you may be ineligible for educator certification due to a conviction or deferred adjudication for a felony or misdemeanor offense.

You are not eligible for a preliminary evaluation of your criminal history if you do not have a conviction or deferred adjudication for a felony or misdemeanor offense.

In addition, you must complete the fingerprinting process when you apply for certification. Participation in the evaluation does not preclude you from submitting to a national criminal history review at the time you apply for your educator certification. Your criminal history will be reviewed and you may be subject to an investigation based on that criminal history, including any information you failed to submit for evaluation. Additional information can be found at https://tea.texas.gov/Texas_Educators/Investigations/Preliminary_Criminal_History_Evaluation-FAQs/.

2. Provide one of the following primary ID documents: passport, driver's license, state or providence ID cards, a national ID card, or military ID card to take the TExES exams (additional information available at http://www.tx.nesinc.com/PageView.aspx?f=GEN_Tests.html). YOU must provide legal documentation to be allowed to take these mandated examinations that are related to certification/licensing requirements in Texas. If you do not have legal documentation, you may want to reconsider your major while at SFASU.

3. Successfully complete state mandated a fingerprint background check. If you have a history of criminal activity, you may want to reconsider your major while at SFASU.

   For further information, contact the Office of Assessment and Accountability at 936-468-1282 or edprep@sfasu.edu.

IX. Other Relevant Course Information:
The above schedule and procedures in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.

Case Study Summary Report Rubric

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course: SPED-5316</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Criteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criterion 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual System BVI.1.K1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Criterion 2</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Visual Dysfunction</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Criterion 3</strong>&lt;br&gt;Eye Condition Etiology BVI.1.K2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Criterion 4</strong>&lt;br&gt;Interpret Medical Reports BVI.1.K4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Criterion 5</strong>&lt;br&gt;Terminology BVI.1.K3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Criteria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Criterion 6 Educational Implications BVI.1.K4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Criterion 7 Strategies BVI.5.S7 BVI.5.S5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Criterion 8 Communication BVI.7.K1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Criterion 9</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Medical Eye Condition Fact Sheet Rubric

Performance Assessment (Facts Rubric)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content (B&amp;VI1-K4, ICC2-K7, ICC8-S1)</th>
<th>Exceeds Standard (3,000 pts)</th>
<th>Meets Standard (2,000 pts)</th>
<th>Below Standard (1,000 pt)</th>
<th>Not Attempted (0.000 pt)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student has explored subject, has included pertinent details, and has provided extensive and accurate information pertaining to condition and the effect upon the visual system.</td>
<td>Student has explored subject, has included pertinent details, and has provided adequate and accurate information pertaining to condition and the effect upon the visual system.</td>
<td>Student has failed to explore subject, has omitted pertinent details, or has included inaccurate information pertaining to condition and the effect upon the visual system.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education and Functional Implications (ICC-2K3, B&amp;VI3-S2)</td>
<td>Student has researched and synthesized information to predict educational and functional implications of condition.</td>
<td>Student has researched and compiled information to predict educational and functional implications of condition.</td>
<td>Student has failed to effectively research information and/or failed to accurately predict educational and functional implications of condition.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communicate (B&amp;VI – 1k4, ICC 8-S5,</td>
<td>Student effectively communicates concepts, analyzes information, and explains terminology. Student fact sheets have no mistakes in grammar, spelling, and formatting.</td>
<td>Student communicates concepts, information, and explains most terminology. Student fact sheets have few mistakes in grammar, spelling, and formatting.</td>
<td>Student fails to communicate concepts and information. Jargon and terms are not explained. Student fact sheets have several mistakes in grammar, spelling, and formatting.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resources and References (B&amp;VI 10-K2)</td>
<td>Student includes information on numerous resources that are current and valuable. References indicate substantial research and are in appropriate style (APA).</td>
<td>Student has included minimum number of appropriate resources. References show research. References show some style errors.</td>
<td>Student has not provided adequate resources and or references to meet assignment standard. References show numerous style errors.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Compilation of Fact Sheets (ICC10-S10)</td>
<td>The student has compiled a comprehensive resource including all developed fact sheets. Fact sheets are organized and cataloged.</td>
<td>The student has compiled an adequate resource including most of the fact sheets presented in class. Fact sheets are collected in a usable manner.</td>
<td>The student has failed to develop resources or failed to collect fact sheets in a manner that would make them usable.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Definition of Condition (ICC10-S10)</td>
<td>The student has developed a clear, comprehensive, and usable definition of the identified conditions. Terms are explained so that the information can be understood by a variety of audiences.</td>
<td>The student has developed an adequate definition for the identified conditions that can be understood by most audiences. Most of the technical terms are explained.</td>
<td>The student has failed to develop definitions that are comprehensive or that can be used and/or be understood by the majority of audiences. Terms are not explained.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Practice FVE

Course: SPED-5316-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Level 3</th>
<th>Level 2</th>
<th>Level 1</th>
<th>Criterion Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Criterion 1 Interpreting an Eye Exam</td>
<td>10 points</td>
<td>5 points</td>
<td>0 points</td>
<td>/ 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicated information found on an Eye Exam</td>
<td>A visual diagnosis or prognosis was not reported.</td>
<td>Information regarding an eye report was not provided.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Criterion 2 Tools and Materials</td>
<td>10 points</td>
<td>5 points</td>
<td>0 points</td>
<td>/ 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listed 5-10 tools and materials used during the evaluation</td>
<td>Four or fewer tools and materials were listed</td>
<td>Did not address the criterion.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Criterion 3</td>
<td>10 points</td>
<td>5 points</td>
<td>0 points</td>
<td>/ 10</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Used appropriate protocol and report format.</td>
<td>Removed all highlights and instructional notations.</td>
<td>Highlighting was visible or instructional notations remained within the document</td>
<td>Did not address the criterion.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion 4</th>
<th>50 points</th>
<th>20 points</th>
<th>0 points</th>
<th>/ 50</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation Process</td>
<td>Addressed a minimum of 30 FVE indicators within the following areas: visual characteristics, visual abilities, visual behaviors, fields. near and distance results.</td>
<td>15 or fewer indicators were assessed within the following areas: visual characteristics, visual abilities, visual behaviors, fields. near and distance results.</td>
<td>Did not address the criterion.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion 5</th>
<th>10 points</th>
<th>5 points</th>
<th>0 points</th>
<th>/ 10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Implications and Recommendations</td>
<td>Provided educational recommendations linked to findings</td>
<td>Educational recommendations did not link to findings within the report.</td>
<td>Did not address the criterion.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Discussion Board Rubric (10 points)

**Name: _________________________________**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Excellent (Exceeds Standards)</th>
<th>Acceptable (Meets Standards)</th>
<th>Unacceptable (Below Standards)</th>
<th>SCOR E</th>
<th>POINTS EARNED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Content</strong></td>
<td>Student responds to all prompt questions and reflects knowledge from module themes, readings, or viewings. 5 points</td>
<td>Student responds to some of the prompts and reflects knowledge from module themes, readings, or viewings. 3 points</td>
<td>Discussion post contains no information as required. 0 points</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Critical Thinking</strong></td>
<td>The student comments upon at least three other students’ posts thoughtfully. 5 points</td>
<td>The student posts comments on less than three posts thoughtfully. 3 points</td>
<td>Student does not post any posts. 0 points</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10 points possible