

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2026

TA1234 (EC): The Role of the Educational Assistant – 3 (2-0-0-3) 45 hours practicum - 75 Hours for 15 Weeks

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

INSTRUCTOR: Kirsten Clark
OFFICE: H212/off campus
OFFICE HOURS: By appointment

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CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: This course develops knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for educational assistants to perform their roles and responsibilities as members of an instructional team. Students are equipped to function effectively and professionally in a wide variety of educational settings from kindergarten through senior high school. Students will have the opportunity to integrate the skills and knowledge learned in their courses with practical experience in classroom environments.

Note: Students are responsible for securing a placement to complete the 45 hour practicum component in a school environment.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: None.

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS: All materials provided on MyClass.
Students are responsible for all fees associated with ProctorU, a live proctoring service for online exams. Fees are paid when you schedule your exams through ProctorU.

Pricing per exam is as follows:
60 minutes or less - \$16 USD
61-120 minutes - \$25 USD
121 - 180 minutes - \$31 USD

DELIVERY MODE(S): Online through MyClass and In-person through self-secured practicum placement.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon completion of the course learners will be able to:

- Define and explain the complexity of the role of the educational assistant within the context of the classroom in relation to the teacher, students and other colleagues within the educational setting.
- Demonstrate professional conduct based on ethical standards of educational practice.
- Explore the knowledge, skills, and values necessary for working with students with varying abilities and cultural diversity.
- Demonstrate the ability to utilize appropriate strategies and techniques to provide instructional support in teaching.
- Research and explain the personal care and/or health related concerns of students with diverse needs.

TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.alberta.ca>.

**** Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability.**

EVALUATIONS: Your final grade for this course will be based on:

Quizzes: 30%	● 10 Open-Book Quizzes, each worth 3%
Assignments: 50%	● Tutoring Toolkit: 10% ● Tutoring Video Assignment: 30% ● Practicum Reflection: 10%
Discussion Posts: 20%	● 10 Posts, each worth 2% (includes a response to at least one classmate)

***Students must complete 45 practicum hours in a school environment to receive credit in this course.**

****Please note that all of the above must be completed without the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence tools.**

GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**. You must receive a final mark of a C- or above to pass this course.

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines		Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	95-100		C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-94		C	2.0	63-66

A-	3.7	80-84	C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79	D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76	D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72	F	0.0	00-49

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Modules & Dates	Assigned Tasks	Due Date
Week 1: Welcome and Introductions January 6-11	Discussion Post: Introduce Yourself	January 11
Week 2: History January 12-18	- Discussion Post: History - the Classroom - Quiz: History - Optional Zoom Meeting about Practicum Expectations and Requirements	January 18
Week 3: Roles and Responsibilities January 19-25	- Discussion Post: Rethinking the Role of the EA - Quiz: Roles and Responsibilities	January 25
Week 4: Professionalism/Ethics January 26-February 1	- Discussion Post: Professionalism and Ethics - Quiz: Professionalism and Ethics	February 1
Week 5: Routines and Schedules; Reading February 2-8	- Discussion Post: Reading - Quiz: Schedules, Routines, and Reading	February 8
Week 6: Instructional Skills/ Tutoring February 9-15		N/A
Week 7: Catch-up February 16-22		N/A
Week 8: Teamwork February 23-March 1	- Discussion Post: Teamwork - Quiz: Teamwork - Assignment: Tutoring Toolkit Due	March 1
Week 9: Differentiated Instruction	Discussion Post: Differentiated	March 8

March 2-8	- Instruction - Quiz: Differentiated Instruction	
Week 10: Building Independence March 9-15	- Discussion Post: Building Independence - Quiz: Building Independence - Assignment: Tutoring Due	March 15
Week 11: Subject Areas March 16-22	- Discussion Post: Handwriting - Quiz: Subject Areas	March 22
Week 12: The Hidden Curriculum March 23-29	Quiz: The Hidden Curriculum	March 29
Week 13: Learning Preferences March 30-April 5	Discussion Post: Learning Styles	April 5
Week 14: Managing Health Needs and Wrap-up April 6-12 <i>(Plus bonus days of April 13-17)</i>	- Quiz: Managing Health Needs - Assignment: Practicum Reflection Due - Proof of Practicum Hours	April 17 <i>*no late submissions accepted</i>

*all work is due by 11:59 p.m. on the dates indicated above.

Late assignments will be penalized by a deduction of 2% per day up to a maximum of seven days upon which they will receive a "0."

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES: Northwestern Polytechnic expects students' conduct to be in accordance with basic rights and responsibilities. Please refer to the NWP calendar regarding rights and responsibilities.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy available at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/index.html>.

**Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- ❖ **Statement on the Use of AI in this Course:** Completing learning activities, assignments, and other course components is a critical part of learning and essential to the development of your practice as a paraprofessional. Therefore, in this course, all learners will pledge to use AI tools in ethical and appropriate ways.

For example, it *would not be* ethical or appropriate to use Generative Artificial Intelligence applications such as ChatGPT to write a draft of a learning activity or assignment and submit it as your own work. The use of Generative Artificial Applications such as ChatGPT without proper citation will be considered plagiarism and treated as such using Northwestern Polytechnic's Academic Misconduct Procedures.

In comparison, it *would be* ethical and appropriate for you to use AI tools such as Spell Check or Grammarly to identify spelling and grammar errors in your own work so you can correct them before submission.

If you require additional clarity on the use of AI in this course, please reach out to your instructor.

Additional Information:

USING PROCTORU:

This course uses ProctorU Live for online exams. To utilize this service, you are required to complete the following steps:

- Create a ProctorU account by clicking the ProctorU link in the course.
- Download and install the Guardian Web Browser, Google Chrome, and the ProctorU extension.
- Schedule each exam at least 3 days (72 hours) in advance. If you miss this deadline, you cannot take the exam.
- Pay for the proctoring service. The fees are exclusively your responsibility and in no event shall be the responsibility of Northwestern Polytechnic.

For more detailed instructions [click here](#), and for video instructions [click here](#).

Before each exam, you must complete a room scan with your web camera, during which you will show your surroundings to a live proctor.

The invigilator will ask to view (but not collect or store) your student identification to verify your identity and will remotely access your computer to unlock the exam. When monitoring your actions via video streaming, the invigilator may possibly record your actions if they suspect academic integrity behavioural issues. You will be verbally notified if/when recording begins.

The collection of and access to the personal information listed above is permitted under subsection 33(c) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, RSA 2000, c F-25, which states, "No personal information may be collected by or for a public body unless that information relates directly to and is necessary for an operating program or activity of the public body." In addition, subsection 39(4) states, "A public body may use personal information only to the extent necessary to enable the public body to carry out its purpose in a reasonable manner."

Records Retention: Any video records of you created by ProctorU will be kept by ProctorU for a maximum of 7 days in order to make a decision about any possible academic integrity infraction, after which time it shall be permanently deleted. All other personal information collected and stored by ProctorU within your profile account will be permanently deleted if the account has not been used after one year.

Consent to Store Personal Information Outside Canada

ProctorU is an American company. An agreement is in place between ProctorU and Northwestern Polytechnic by which ProctorU will take reasonable steps to protect your personal information from unauthorized access and disclosure. Information about how ProctorU protects your privacy can be found in their [Privacy Policy](#).

By using the ProctorU service via Northwestern Polytechnic, you consent to the storage of and access to your personal information outside of Canada.

This consent is in effect from the day you register with ProctorU and expires one year after completion of your exam.

Additional privacy and liability information regarding the use of ProctorU is available on the NWP website.