

Instructional Practices – Year-at-a-Glance

Course Description

Instructional Practices is a practicum-based Career & Technical Education course designed to prepare students for careers in the education and training cluster. Students apply child and adolescent development principles to real classroom settings, assist certified teachers, and plan engaging instruction. Emphasis is placed on professional behavior, classroom management, instructional strategies, and reflection. Project-based learning, teaching simulations, and field experiences deepen student understanding and readiness for future education coursework and employment.

Semester 1 Outline

Unit	Topics & Activities	TEKS Alignment
Unit 1: Foundations of Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overview of teaching careers and professionalism• Ethics and educator conduct (Code of Ethics)• Characteristics of effective teachers	§130.144(c)(1)(A–D) §130.144(c)(6)(A–C)
Unit 2: Child & Adolescent Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stages of physical, emotional, and cognitive development• Theorists: Piaget, Erikson, Vygotsky• Application of development to instructional design	§130.144(c)(2)(A–E)
Unit 3: Managing Learning Environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Classroom management strategies• Establishing rules, routines, and procedures• Positive behavior interventions and rapport building	§130.144(c)(3)(A–C)
Unit 4: Instructional Planning & Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understanding TEKS and lesson alignment• Lesson plan components: objectives, materials, assessments• Creating formative and summative assessments	§130.144(c)(4)(A–D)

Semester 2 Outline

Unit	Topics & Activities	TEKS Alignment
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Unit 5: Instructional Strategies & Technology	• Direct, indirect, and inquiry-based methods • Differentiation and accommodations • Integrating instructional technology	§130.144(c)(5)(A–E)
Unit 6: Communication & Collaboration	• Working with mentor teachers, students, and parents • Effective communication strategies • Using feedback for growth	§130.144(c)(7)(A–C)
Unit 7: Practicum & Observation Experience	• Fieldwork in a PreK–12 setting • Assisting with instruction and small-group activities • Weekly practicum journals and reflections	§130.144(c)(8)(A–C)
Unit 8: Career Pathways & Professional Growth	• Teaching certifications and credentials • Career planning, résumé writing, and mock interviews • Final teaching reflections and practicum portfolio	§130.144(c)(9)(A–C)