



Southmoreland School District Educational Psychology

Educational Psychology Course Overview:

Educational Psychology is a course designed to introduce high school students to the foundational theories and principles of how individuals learn and develop within educational settings. Aligned with the curriculum of the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, this course explores cognitive, emotional, and social development, learning theories, motivation, instructional strategies, classroom management, assessment practices, and the role of diversity in education.

Students will examine real-world educational scenarios, analyze research-based practices, and reflect on how psychological principles can improve teaching and learning outcomes. Through collaborative projects, case studies, and field observations (where applicable), students will build critical thinking, communication, and problem-solving skills that are essential for careers in education, psychology, and related human services fields. This course provides a strong foundation for those interested in pursuing education or psychology in post-secondary studies.

Module Titles:

- Module 1: Foundations of Educational Psychology**
- Module 2: Human Growth and Development**
- Module 3: Learning Theories and Instruction**
- Module 4: Motivation in Education**
- Module 5: Classroom Management and Environment**
- Module 6: Assessment and Evaluation**
- Module 7: Individual Differences and Diverse Learners**
- Module 8: Psychology of Teaching and Learning**

Module Overviews:

Module 1: Foundations of Educational Psychology

- Students explore the definition, history, and scope of educational psychology. Emphasis is placed on the scientific methods used in psychological research and their relevance to teaching and learning.



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Module 2: Human Growth and Development

- This unit addresses physical, cognitive, and socioemotional development across childhood and adolescence, focusing on theories from Piaget, Erikson, and Vygotsky.

Module 3: Learning Theories and Instruction

- Students study behaviorist, cognitive, and constructivist learning theories and how they apply to instruction and student engagement.

Module 4: Motivation in Education

- This unit provides students with a foundation in financial literacy for both personal and business contexts. Topics include budgeting, saving, business expenses, revenue, and financial decision-making. Students will examine basic financial statements and understand the role of finance in business planning.

Module 5: Classroom Management and Environment

- Students examine strategies for creating safe, inclusive, and productive learning environments, including managing student behavior and building classroom routines.

Module 6: Assessment and Evaluation

- Focuses on formal and informal assessments, formative vs. summative evaluation, and the ethical use of data to inform instruction.

Module 7: Individual Differences and Diverse Learners

- Explores diversity in learning styles, cultural backgrounds, exceptionalities, and differentiated instruction strategies.

Module 8: Psychology of Teaching and Learning

- Students synthesize content through practical applications, reflecting on the role of the teacher and connecting psychological theory to instructional practice.



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