

PH.D. IN EDUCATION

Program plan for Ernest Solar

1. General Culture (8)

- EDUC 800 (3) Ways of Knowing
- EDUC 802 (3) Leadership Seminar
- EDUC 805 (2) Doctoral Seminar in Education

2. Research Methods (12)

- EDRS 810 (3) Problems and Methods in Education Research
- EDRS 811 (3) Quantitative Methods in Educational Research
- EDRS 812 (3) Qualitative Methods in Educational Research
- EDRS 821 (3) Advanced Applications of Quantitative Methods
- Or
- EDRS 825 (3) Advanced Research Methods in Self-Study

check if approved for this category

3. Professional Specialization (21) Special Education

Major Area

- EDSE 841 (3) Intervention Research in Special Education
- EDSE 842 (3) Application of Research Methodology in Special Education
- EDSE 843 (3) Leadership in Special Education Administration
- EDSE 844 (3) Current Issues in Special Education
- EDSE 897 (1) Independent Study (Curriculum Based Assessment)
- EDIT 772 (2) Electronic Portfolio
- EDUC 880 (3) Introduction to International Education
- Or
- EDUC 883 (3) Seminar in Sociocultural Theory
- EDUC 994 (3) Advanced Internship in Education

4. Secondary Concentration (12): Special Education Leadership*

Minor Area(s)

- EDSE 626 (3) The Inclusive Classroom
- EDSE 701 (3) Legal Issues and Special Populations
- EDSE 703 (3) Creating a Collaborative Culture
- EDUC 874 (3) The Achievement Gap

5. Dissertation (12)

- EDUC 998 (3) Doctoral Dissertation Proposal
- EDUC 999 (9) Doctoral Dissertation Research

PROPOSED DATE FOR COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION OR COMPREHENSIVE PORTFOLIO ASSESSMENT FOR: September 2011

PROGRAM RATIONALE:

Over the course of my Ph.D. program, I want to explore the use of alternative therapies, especially a form of contemplative practice called Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction (MBSR), to help students with emotional and behavioral disorders (EBD) learn how to control and manage their thoughts, and therefore their actions. Through a contemplative mind, adolescents are able to look at the world through a fresh lens in order to develop a deeper awareness of the world around them. Through a deeper awareness, adolescents will be able to develop a sense of self, healthier relationships, and make more informed decisions. Unfortunately, there is not a lot of research on using contemplative practices with students with EBD. Therefore, I believe that the research I conduct needs to be based on effective research questions, interventions, and data analysis. If the research is conducted with effective research practices, the results will be an effective tool for a leader to implement new practices for students with special needs. I believe the Research Method courses will provide me with the knowledge and analytical skills to research the literature for valid and effective data related to alternative therapies and contemplative practices related to adolescents. In addition, the research courses will teach me the most effective ways to develop research questions, collect and analyze data. The Professional Specialization courses in Special Education will provide me with the history, current trends, interventions, and research background, which will provide me with a framework of how to develop strong research questions and interventions. The Secondary Concentration courses in Special Education Leadership will provide me with the knowledge and skills to be able to implement effective leadership skills to bring about change in the field of education. I know that the line of research I want to pursue is not an easy task, but I believe it is a necessary topic that needs to be examined. Through this examination, the data will be able to tell us if contemplative practices are or are not effective for students with EBD.

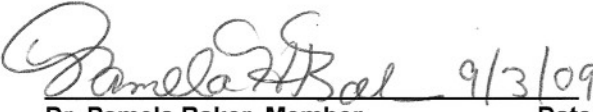


Student Signature 9/3/09
Date



Dr. Margaret King-Sears, Chair, 9/3/09
Date
Doctoral Advising Committee

Thomas E. Scruggs, Director Date
Ph.D. in Education Program



Dr. Pamela Baker, Member, 9/3/09
Date
Doctoral Advising Committee
(minor area representative)



Dr. Fredrick Brigham, Member, 9.3.09
Date
Doctoral Advising Committee