



# Florida's Virtual ESE Distance Learning Program

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August 1, 2007

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Exceptional Student Education Directors  
Florida Diagnostic Learning Resources System Directors  
Regional Professional Development Partnership Coordinators

FROM: Lori Massey, Director, Florida's State Personnel Development Grant

RE: Virtual ESE Online Distance Learning Program  
Fall 2007 Course Offerings

The fall 2007 schedule of online courses offered via the statewide Virtual Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Online Distance Learning Program has been released:

- Nature of Autism: Theory and Educational Practice
- Early Intervention Services
- Program Development for Young Children with Disabilities
- Typical and Atypical Early Childhood Development

These courses are sponsored by the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services to assist teachers seeking an endorsement in Autism, Severe and Profound Disabilities, and/or Pre-K Handicapped. Please include announcements of these course offerings in regional notices, listservs or newsletters for teachers. A copy of the Virtual ESE Distance Learning Program flyer is included below.

Since the Virtual ESE Program is the vehicle that connects special education courses from around the state, students register for the courses through the participating university nearest them. Each participating university and the contact persons are listed below:

Florida Atlantic University	Dr. Cynthia Wilson	(561) 297-3280	<a href="mailto:clwilson@fau.edu">clwilson@fau.edu</a>
Florida Gulf Coast University	Ms. Carolynne Geischel	(239) 590-7795	<a href="mailto:cgischel@fgcu.edu">cgischel@fgcu.edu</a>
Florida International University	Dr. Liz Cramer	(305) 348-2425	<a href="mailto:cramere@fiu.edu">cramere@fiu.edu</a>
Florida State University	Dr. Mary Frances Hanline	(850) 644-4880	<a href="mailto:mhanline@garnet.acns.fsu.edu">mhanline@garnet.acns.fsu.edu</a>
University of Central Florida	Dr. Bill Wienke	(407) 823-2402	<a href="mailto:wwienke@mail.ucf.edu">wwienke@mail.ucf.edu</a>
University of Florida	Dr. Penny Cox	(352) 392-0701	<a href="mailto:pcox@coe.ufl.edu">pcox@coe.ufl.edu</a>
University of North Florida	Dr. Len Roberson	(904) 620-2185	<a href="mailto:lroberso@unf.edu">lroberso@unf.edu</a>
University of South Florida	Dr. Daphne Thomas	(813) 974-1383	<a href="mailto:dthomas@tempest.coedu.usf.edu">dthomas@tempest.coedu.usf.edu</a>
University of West Florida	Dr. Robert Markowitz	(850) 474-2158	<a href="mailto:rmarkowitz@uwf.edu">rmarkowitz@uwf.edu</a>

Students must have email and Internet capabilities.

If you have any questions, please contact Lori Massey, Director, Florida's State Personnel Development Grant, by telephone at (727) 553-4183 or via email at [lmMassey@stpt.usf.edu](mailto:lmMassey@stpt.usf.edu).



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The Virtual ESE Distance Learning Program Announces

## *Online Exceptional Student Education Courses Fall 2007*

### ***Nature of Autism: Theory and Educational Practice***

This course offers an overview of theory and teaching applications for students with autism spectrum disorders, emphasizing a historical overview of ASD, major theories and trends, etiological and diagnostic issues, classroom structure, research based instructional strategies, and family involvement. Twenty hours of field based experience is required with this course.

**Instructor:** Dr. Cynthia Pearl, University of Central Florida

### ***Early Intervention Services***

This course focuses on providing knowledge and skills to facilitate family-centered early intervention services to infants and toddlers with disabilities or at risk of developing disabilities. Services that promote collaboration with families and intervention in natural environments are described.

**Instructor:** Dr. Sharon Darling, Florida Atlantic University

### ***Program Development for Young Children with Disabilities***

This course focuses on program development for handicapped and at-risk infants, toddlers and preschoolers; includes administration, supervision, curriculum development parent involvement, staff development, funding and evaluation.

**Instructor:** Dr. Craig Jones, University of West Florida

### ***Typical and Atypical Early Childhood Development***

This course covers normal child growth and development from conception to age five and what can go wrong at the different developmental stages; from genetic contributions through conception and pregnancy to birth and to five years of age. Crucial times for deficiencies will also be discussed.

**Instructor:** Dr. Anita Solarski, University of West Florida

*(Please Note: Online courses are equivalent to traditional courses; they are as rigorous and demanding as face-to-face courses. Please review the class syllabus prior to beginning a Virtual ESE course. Since these courses will be provided via distance education, students who enroll should be comfortable with using the Internet, listservs, and email, and should recognize that almost all course activities will be handled electronically. There will be no class meetings and students will not attend any group or class sessions. Participation in online chat sessions, which will be offered at various times via the Internet, may be required. Classroom observations may also be required.)*

**For more information, contact Lori Massey at (727) 553-4183  
or via email at [lmMassey@stpt.usf.edu](mailto:lmMassey@stpt.usf.edu)**