Idaho State University | Albion Center for Professional Development

AI Uses for Special Education
Course Syllabus

Course Description

This graduate-level professional development course explores the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in special education to enhance teaching effectiveness, student support, and inclusive learning environments. Educators will examine foundational AI concepts and their relevance to individualized learning plans, assistive technologies, and classroom differentiation. Through eight modules, participants will engage with real-world applications of AI tools for behavioral support, progress monitoring, accessibility, and professional development. Each module is structured around challenge questions to prompt critical thinking and practical application. Special emphasis is placed on the ethical dimensions of AI, including bias, data privacy, and equitable access. Participants will also explore current and emerging AI technologies that support students with diverse learning and developmental needs. By the end of the course, educators will be equipped with strategies to evaluate, implement, and advocate for responsible AI use in their special education practice. This course is ideal for special educators, instructional leaders, and professionals seeking to integrate cutting-edge technology into inclusive pedagogy.

This course enhances classroom teaching effectiveness and supports improved student outcomes by introducing new knowledge in the application of artificial intelligence (AI) to special education, including individualized instruction, assistive technologies, behavior support, accessibility, ethical use, and professional development.

Course Objectives
At the end of this course you should be able to:

1. Define AI and identify its key concepts and applications in special education settings to understand how AI can be used to support the diverse learning needs of students with disabilities.
2. Identify AI-driven tools that aid in differentiating instruction for students with diverse needs and gain skills to integrate these tools into your teaching practices.
3. Use AI technologies to support behavior management and promote social-emotional learning (SEL) for students with special needs.
4. Use AI for real-time assessment and progress monitoring to inform instructional decisions and improve student outcomes in special education.
5. Select and implement AI-powered accessibility tools to support students with sensory and physical impairments.
6. Evaluate ethical considerations of AI use in special education and develop strategies to ensure responsible and equitable use of AI technologies.
7. Utilize AI for personalized professional development and track growth using its feedback tools.

8. Identify emerging trends and future applications of AI in special education, and develop strategies to stay ahead of these trends in their practice.

Modules

- Module 1: Introduction to AI and Special Education, Quiz 1
- Module 2: AI Tools for Learning Differentiation, Quiz 2
- Module 3: AI for Behavioral Support and Social-Emotional Learning, Quiz 3
- Module 4: AI in Assessment and Progress Monitoring, Quiz 4
- Module 5: AI and Accessibility Tools, Quiz 5
- Module 6: Ethical Considerations of AI in Special Education, Quiz 6
- Module 7: AI and Teacher Professional Development, Quiz 7
- Module 8: Future Trends in AI for Special Education, Quiz 8

Grading

Each quiz must be passed at an 80% or higher (three attempts allowed).

Format

This is a self-paced, asynchronous (no required live meetings) course. Throughout the PD course, you will find it helpful to take notes along the way to assist with the quizzes. Within each module, you will find reflection assessments that are not graded but will help in your journey through the course. There is an interactive forum in the course to help you connect with peers and instructors, share ideas, and collaborate on best practices throughout your learning journey.