

Professional Goals and Area of Specialization

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Goals

K-12 Education

I have always had a love for learning and growing as a person. Throughout my education, my goal was always that I would become a teacher and as I learned more about the world around me, I knew I wanted to continue learning beyond graduating college.



Undergraduate Degree

During my teacher education courses, I started to really appreciate the philosophies behind teaching and learning. My goals as an educator morphed into wanting to know more about why some best practices worked and the psychological aspects of education.

Master's Degree

As I worked through my Educational Technology masters program at Michigan State University, I started to realize how many more opportunities are available inside and outside of the classroom. Learning from my professors and using a different form of creativity in my field sparked an interest in becoming an educational technology professor.



Teaching Career

During my first years of teaching, I was trying to figure out my rhythm in the classroom and really just develop experience with my students, colleagues, and content area. Within these past eight years, I have attended many professional development opportunities, worked in professional learning communities, and mentored a student-teacher. Over time I have realized that I am ready to push myself as a learner and an educator and bring back new ideas to my district that can help us use research-based practices in all areas of teaching.

Learning Style

Preferences

Variety

Discussions

Lectures
+ reading

Videos +
Podcasts

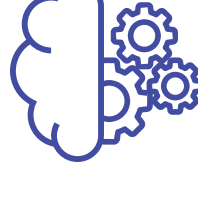
Individual
Work

Group
Work

Variety helps me stay engaged throughout my learning and also opens up new ways for me to present my understanding beyond just written documents.

Anxiety

One piece of learning that gives me the most anxiety is assessments. This has been an ongoing issue for me since I was in grade school. Thankfully, many of my courses have allowed a variety of methods in order to demonstrate understanding considering the UDL method. In order to overcome this fear, I will need to take one week at a time and not allow my fear to take over and paralyze me and my work in the program.



The second fear of mine is my confidence in reading research articles. This was brought up by my cohort members as well, and I think that as long as we work together and follow the plan of the program, we will become more comfortable and confident in our abilities.

Area of Specialization



Science Education and implementation of the Next Generation Science Standards in K-12 education.



Philosophy and psychology behind best practices that help drive instruction in the K-12 setting.



Educational technology theories and practices that can be used to enhance teaching, learning, and redefine student-centered instruction.

If possible, I would love to research a blend of these three major areas to fit my interests on a more ubiquitous scale.

Goals



Learn how to critically read and analyze research-based articles and apply or share them in an educational setting.

Learning Experiences:

- Conversations based on shared articles from a variety of contexts
- Discussions about writings analyzing research-based articles within my cohort
- Practice finding relevant articles for my area of specialization that agree with, and more importantly, oppose my thinking



Work with other professionals to publish a research-based article and feel confident in my research and writing abilities.

Learning Experiences:

- Critically analyzing and reviewing peer-reviewed articles on a regular basis through coursework and in my free time
- Group assignments or writings that allow different perspectives to be shared in a final draft
- Making connections with groups/ individuals outside of the EdD program



Regularly apply my coursework and dissertation work to my profession/ in a real-world setting.

Learning Experiences:

- Being provided opportunities to test out theories, practices, and research in my classroom or building
- Analyzing real-world experiences through coursework/ projects
- Sharing what I am learning with my colleagues through professional learning communities

Careers

Professor
of Teacher
Education

After completing the EdD program at the University of Florida, my overall goal is to become a professor for a teacher education program at a local University.

Job Description:

- Developing and analyzing research-based practices that are best for students in a K-12 setting
- Working with teacher interns as they start their first year in the classroom
- Creating and teaching college courses based on science and technology curriculum