

## **EDL/EDLD 820 Legal Issues & Ethics in Educational Organizations**

### **Course Description**

Credit 3 hours. Prerequisite: EDL 810. Study of federal and state constitutions, legislation, regulatory guidelines and court decisions related to the operation of educational organizations. Development of awareness and knowledge of legal parameters related to education. Students will be required to conduct legal research and apply and synthesize knowledge of case law and state and federal mandates in areas such as contractual requirements, church-state relationships, the education of special needs students, student and parent rights, and tort liability. Ethics and morality in decision-making will also be examined.

### **Conceptual Framework**

Southeastern Louisiana University  
College of Education and Human Development  
Conceptual Framework

The COEHD's Conceptual Framework provides direction for the development of effective professionals. It is a living document that continuously evolves as opportunities and challenges emerge. All aspects of this course are aligned with the Conceptual Framework, including the course objectives, field experiences and assessments. The four components of the Conceptual Framework are the institutional standards used for candidate assessment in undergraduate and graduate programs. They are Knowledge of Learner (KL), Strategies and Methods (SM), Content Knowledge (CK), and Professional Standards (PS). Diversity (DV) and Technology (TY) are included in the assessment process as themes that are integrated throughout all programs in the educational unit. The following is the link to the conceptual framework on the COEHD website:

[http://www.selu.edu/acad\\_research/colleges/edu\\_hd/about/conceptual\\_framework/index.html](http://www.selu.edu/acad_research/colleges/edu_hd/about/conceptual_framework/index.html)

(The University of Louisiana at Lafayette has a Conceptual Framework unique to its College of Education.)

### **Course Objectives**

Upon completion of the course, the student will:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the historical development of the American public education system and an appreciation of the legal implications in current educational debates—e.g., high stakes testing, teaching of creationism/intelligent design vs. evolution, religion in the schools, free speech rights of students and other student rights. (KL, CK)
- Demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the constitutional (primarily 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> amendments) and federal statutory law (e.g., NCLB, IDEA, Section 504, Title IX) relevant to public schools. (KL, CK, PS)
- Demonstrate the ability to research Louisiana specific school law by completion of a paper summarizing an issue of choice. (SM)

- Developed skills in “advising” school boards/superintendents by conducting research and making a presentation on an assigned legal issue as part of a group. (SM, TY)
- Demonstrated the ability to understand school law issues and apply them to real world situations by completing a take home midterm examination that requires you to analyze legal issues and apply them to school system scenarios. (KL, CK, DV)

**Diversity**

Students will be prepared to function in a diverse environment and/or community.

**Technology**

Students will be prepared to utilize technology in their professional environment or practice.

**Methodologies**

Teaching strategies may include, but is not limited to discussions, lecture, demonstrations, group work, field experiences, and on-line instruction. Course content will be drawn from theory and research, from student experiences, and from discussions in and out of class sessions.

**Field Experiences**

Field experiences may be required in this course in order to meet the course objectives.

**Course Assessment/Evaluation Method**

Students will be evaluated through a combination of methods including, but not limited to written examinations, practical examinations, projects, and class participation. Each instructor reserves the right to establish additional methods of assessment.

**Unit (COEHD) Assessment**

An artifacts to be designated by the instructor will be placed in the student’s Portfolio on Pass-Port, the unit’s required electronic portfolio system.