



**Fixing Education's Biggest Challenges: Curriculum/Achievement**  
**EDUO 9441 – One Graduate Level Credit**  
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### **Course Overview**

The world of education has become extremely challenging over the past few years. From teacher shortages to the mental health crisis, both educators and students are struggling. The reform needed to fix such problems is often impractical and can take years! We do not have the time to wait. By implementing practical ideas and strategies incrementally, educators can continuously improve each issue and ultimately make a big shift. Educators will walk away from this course ready to tackle one of biggest challenges, Curriculum/Achievement.

Welcome to **EDUO 9441 Fixing Education's Biggest Challenges: Curriculum/Achievement**. This course is part of a six-course series entitled **Fixing Education's Biggest Problems**. The other five courses in the series are:

- EDUO 9442 Fixing Education's Biggest Challenges: Student Behavior
- EDUO 9443 Fixing Education's Biggest Challenges: Teacher Retention
- EDUO 9444 Fixing Education's Biggest Challenges: Student Engagement
- EDUO 9445 Fixing Education's Biggest Challenges: Mental Health
- EDUO 9446 Fixing Education's Biggest Challenges: Equity

**Please Note:** No class is a prerequisite for another. They do not have to be taken sequentially, and you are not required to take all 6 courses. You are free to take as many or as few as you want.

### **Course Objectives**

In this course, participants will have the opportunity to:

- Discuss and reflect on the biggest challenges facing education today.
- Learn practical ideas and strategies that will help address one of biggest challenges: Curriculum/Achievement.
- Participate in activities that demonstrate the ability to create curriculum and learning environments that improve student outcomes and supports student engagement, behavior, and social-emotional skills for all students.

### **Course Relation to CCS or other Professional Standards**

This course aligns to the following professional teaching standards:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/pd/ps/index.asp>

- Engaging and Supporting all Students in Learning
- Creating and Maintaining Effective Environments for Student Learning
- Understanding and Organizing Subject Matter for Student Learning
- Planning Instruction and Designing learning Experiences for all Students

## How to Submit Coursework

You have nine months to Complete this course from the day that you registered. However, you are free to turn in all your work for a grade at any time along the way. Nonetheless, we are flexible. Please reach out to your instructor if you do not feel as though you can complete the class on time.

Place each assignment (1-8) in a separate word processing document with clear labels and submit it into the corresponding assignment's Dropbox. Be sure to e-mail your instructor after each submission. If your assignment is too large for the Dropbox or it is in a format that the Dropbox will not accept (i.e. Google docs), feel free to e-mail or share the document directly with your instructor at [rpickett.dominicanaonline@gmail.com](mailto:rpickett.dominicanaonline@gmail.com).

## Course Assignments

### 1. Staying Positive

*Objective:* Discuss and reflect on the positive aspects of education and what keeps the participant active in their career.

- a. Read the article titled “*And Now for Some Good News.*” This article can be found in the online resources section of this course at: <https://dominicanselfguided.com/course/view.php?id=696> After reading the above article, discuss what surprised you the most and what made the most sense based on your experience in education.
- b. Write a paragraph or two discussing the most positive aspects of the past school year. While doing so, explain what motivates you to stay in education.

### 2. Educational Challenges

*Objective:* Discuss and reflect on the biggest challenges facing education today.

Watch the video called “*Teacher Shortages*”, which can be found in the online resources section of this course at: <https://dominicanselfguided.com/course/view.php?id=696>

After watching the video, rank the following 6 educational challenges in relation to the teacher shortage crisis and explain the choices that you made.

- Teacher Retention
- Student Behavior
- Mental Health
- Equity
- Student Engagement
- Curriculum/Achievement

### 3. Educational Challenges 2.0

*Objective:* Discuss and reflect on one of the biggest challenges facing education today, Curriculum/Achievement.

Without doing any research, write one paragraph on the educational challenge, Curriculum and Achievement, and why you believe this area is currently such a challenge throughout the nation.

#### 4. Someday/Monday

*Objective:* Brainstorm practical ideas and strategies that will help address one of the biggest challenges: Curriculum/Achievement.

Read the article, “*The Someday/Monday Dilemma.*” The article can be found in the online Resources section of this course at: <https://dominicancaselfguided.com/course/view.php?id=696>  
After reading the article, come up with one small “Someday / Monday” idea to test that may improve curriculum/achievement at your school/classroom/district. Essentially, you are to create a plan to start small and test your ideas out. In your plan, describe the idea and why you choose it. There does not need to be a lot of details in your plan, nor do you need to create any lesson plans. The basic idea is ok for this assignment.

#### 5. Introduction to Curriculum/Achievement

*Objective:* Discuss and reflect on one of the biggest challenges facing education today, Curriculum/Achievement, and its effects on teacher recruitment.

- a. Read the article, “*Protecting Students’ Freedom to Learn.*” This article can be found in the online resources section of this class at <https://dominicancaselfguided.com/course/view.php?id=696>
- b. Discuss your thoughts and opinions on curriculum today and its potential effect on teacher recruitment.

#### 6. Curriculum/Achievement

*Objective:* Learn practical ideas and strategies that will help address one of the biggest challenges: Curriculum/Achievement.

- a. Read the following seven articles. These articles can be found in the online resources section of this course at <https://dominicancaselfguided.com/course/view.php?id=696>
  - “*To Address Learning Gap, Go Deeper*”
  - “*Moving from Engagement to Deeper Thinking*”
  - “*Having Big Conversations with Little Learners*”
  - “*Embracing Shallow Thinking*”
  - “*10 Awesome Tips...*”
  - “*Strengthen Student Focus in 3 Minutes a Day*”
  - “*What Makes a Teacher Memorable*”
- b. Write a one-page paper indicating what your district, school, and grade/subject team currently do to address learning gaps in their students.
- c. Brainstorm ideas on how to improve student engagement through deeper learning at your grade level. Where would you start? What would the challenges be? How could you

overcome them? Your brainstorm can be in any format you choose (i.e. outline, diagram, etc.)

## 7. Teachers: The New Professional Athletes

*Objective:* Demonstrate gained knowledge on creating curriculum and learning environments that improve student outcomes and supports student engagement, behavior, social-emotional skills for all students while improving the educational challenge of Curriculum/Achievement.

- a. Watch the Video, “*If We Treated Teachers Like Professional Athletes.*” This video can be found in the online resources section of this course at <https://dominicancaselfguided.com/course/view.php?id=696>
- b. Although the video about teachers being treated like professional athletes was a segment from a comedy skit, this should be the goal of education and how teachers should be treated. Given what you have learned in this course, explain what it will take to improve both curriculum and achievement as well as how this could lead to the above video becoming a reality someday.

## 8. Fixing Educational Curriculum and Achievement

*Objective:* Review the concepts of the course while communicating how the information can improve upon one of biggest challenges, Curriculum/Achievement.

- a. Pretend that you just wrote and published a new book entitled, “Fixing Educational Curriculum and Achievement.” Create the outer cover of the book. This includes the front and back of the cover. The goal of the book cover is to entice people to read the book, not for them to learn all the information presented in this course. We want this cover to look more like one that was created to make the book stand out in a bookstore.
- b. Pretend that you are attending your first book signing for the book above. This signing includes time to discuss the book with an audience that can ask questions. Write an opening statement for the crowd, as well as a script of some questions from the audience and your responses. Essentially, you are to review the concepts of this course.

### Course Assessment Rubric

| <b>Exemplary:</b> A to A-   | <b>Acceptable:</b> B+ to B-   | <b>Unacceptable</b> Must be resubmitted                                   |
|---|---|---|
| Reflective, thoughtful ideas relevant to the assignment are clearly stated    | Presents some relevant ideas and connections to the assignment        | Ideas are not clear or relevant   |
| Very well organized   | Generally well organized  | Shows little or no organization   |
| Responses relate numerous facts and specific details of the program materials | Some facts and specific details of the program materials are included | Few or no facts or specific details of the program materials are included |

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| Free of spelling and/or grammatical errors | Writing contains a few spelling and/or grammatical errors | Numerous spelling and/or grammatical errors make the writing difficult to read |
|--|---|--|

- You will need to complete the course within nine months of registering. If you need more time, be sure to contact your instructor prior to your due date.
- Course questions? Contact the developer by email. [rpickett@dominicancaonline.com](mailto:rpickett@dominicancaonline.com)
- For questions involving your registration, please contact us at [support@dominicanCAonline.com](mailto:support@dominicanCAonline.com) or call (800) 626-5080.
- To change your address, link to your Dominican account at [https://www.dominicancaonlinestore.com/store/index.php?main\\_page=login](https://www.dominicancaonlinestore.com/store/index.php?main_page=login)

## Resources/Bibliography

Comedy Central, 2020, "If teachers were treated like pro athletes – Key and Peele" YouTube, <https://youtu.be/aYOg8EON29Y?si=I2tTQRr6mgLe1oA2>

Friedman, Johnathan and LaFrance, Sam, "Protecting Student's Freedom to Learn" Educational Leadership, September, 2023

Goodwin, Bryan, "And Now for Some Good News" Educational Leadership, September, 2023

Habib, Roni, "10 Awesome Tips..." California Educator, September, 2023

Heal, Jim and Goodwin, Bryan, "Moving From Engagement to DEEPER THINKING" Educational Leadership, April, 2023

Krahenbuhl, Kevin and Carter, John, "Embracing "Shallow" Thinking" Educational Leadership, April, 2023

Kristina, Kyles-Smith, "To Address Learning Gaps, Go Deeper" Educational Leadership, September, 2023

Mazinas, Lisa, "Strength Student's Focus in 3 Minutes a Day" Education Week, September, 2023

Orr, Jennifer, "Having Big Conversations with Little Learners" Educational Leadership, April, 2023

Reich, Justin, "The Someday/Monday Dilemma" Educational Leadership, September, 2023

Scoinick, Jonathan, "What Makes a Teacher Memorable? It's All About Awe" Education Week, August, 2023

Today Show, 2023 "Schools across US forced to get creative amid teacher shortage" YouTube, [https://youtu.be/nGo0e6kq2qM?si=BG\\_e8rDLgH2sbkor](https://youtu.be/nGo0e6kq2qM?si=BG_e8rDLgH2sbkor)