

# Integrating Coursework and Early Clinical Experiences in a Teacher Education Program: Lessons Learned from a One-Year Pilot

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# Overview of Program

- Block schedule of two days per week of coursework
- The structure included several iterations of co-teaching
- Integration of coursework and clinical experience
  - Early clinical experience involves two full days each week in schools and a seminar course
  - 3 hour course on instructional strategies and behavior analysis
  - 6 hour course on personalizing curriculum and alternative curriculum domains

Cognition of Teaching

**ASSESSMENT**

Reflecting  
Decision-making  
Collaborating

Promoting Self-determination

Reflecting  
Decision-making  
Collaborating

Promoting Self-determination

**INSTRUCTION**

**Student**

**CURRICULUM  
DEVELOPMENT**

Reflecting

Decision-making  
Collaborating

Promoting Self-determination

Ethical Practice  
Ethical Practice  
Ethical Practice

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# Perceptions of Integrated Curriculum

- Identification of themes from focus group transcripts
  - Scheduling
  - Content coverage
  - Grading
  - Connection between content and practicum
  - Planning
  - Influence of students' past experiences



*I think it's been easier to apply things to our practicum because of the integrated class because if I was in three separate classes it would be hard for me to bring that knowledge to each class. I know people that are in the other sections that are separated and they are so stress out figuring out which project is for which class but they don't understand the content... We really are able to flow smoothly through all of the material and application of it."*

# Perceptions of Integrated Curriculum

*And I think in especially using the same student for all three of my projects, in that I really see how the different like projects come together and you can correlate something from one project to another and they just flow together.*

# Perceptions of Co-teaching

*...this class makes me want to strive to have good collaboration and I see how important it is and it's positive thing that works*

*You don't have to ask the questions three times, you just ask once and get three angles. Or if you don't understand it someone restates it in a different way*

*In some instances in class I can understand and relate to one teacher better than another.*

# Lessons Learned

- A common vision of teaching needs to be threaded throughout the program
- The framework was critical in guiding integration in our pilot.
- We are now using the framework in our current teaching to purposefully connect our individual courses to previous and future coursework.

# Lessons Learned from Co-teaching

Our understanding of teaching and of content was greatly enhanced by the co-teaching experience

Co-teaching demands a high level of trust and communication

The opportunity to step back and watch the process of teaching and learning illuminates the complexities of the process

Engaging in dialogue about teaching renews commitment and passion for it



# Discussion

- How are curriculum mapping and co-teaching currently supported? What are the barriers?
- How could the university, as well as individual colleges and departments, support curriculum mapping and co-teaching?