



ASHLAND UNIVERSITY  
DWIGHT SCHAR COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

TO: Jennifer Groman

FROM: Peter Ghazarian

DATE: February 23, 2022

RE: PEER EVALUATION

At your invitation, I have observed your asynchronous, online course EDIS 796: Internship in Talent Development Education for the 12-week Fall 2021 semester. You worked with IT to get me access to your Blackboard course. This observation was intended to fulfill the Ashland University requirement for peer evaluation of teaching.

I will organize my feedback around the eight general Quality Matters standards: Course Overview and Introduction, Learning Objectives, Assessment and Measurement, Instructional Materials, Learning Activities and Learner Interaction, Course Technology, Learner Support, and Accessibility and Usability.

In terms of providing an overview and introduction to the course, all of the essential elements are present. The syllabus is provided together with a video in which you provide additional advice and information to your students about the nature and structure of the course. There is a calendar for the course that has important deadlines. These materials also do an excellent job of providing clear expectations to students about the learning objectives set out for the course and how they link to the assessments and assignments that make up the course. My only suggestion here would be to offer a separate page for general course information and then the actual content for the course. Separating the course syllabus and syllabus video items in a separate area of the course (perhaps just above "Instructor" in the lefthand menu) would help make this information stand out. The large amount of content in the "Content – Start Here!" folder could be a source of some initial confusion for your students. You might also consider incorporating a landing page for students with instructions on what steps they should take the first time that they log into the course.



In line with the focus of this internship, there is a clear emphasis on practical, applied knowledge in the design of the course. The instructional materials, learning activities and interactions include instructor videos on the content and direction of the course at regular intervals, a plan for internship, a lesson plan, a university supervisor observation, an internship reflection, and a log of contact hours. Personalized feedback is offered to students on their internship reflection assignment that responds to the interests of the students, offers guidance, and supports further inquiry. It was not clear to me whether other types of feedback were offered to students at other points.

The course makes good use of multiple forms of media and a variety of instructional technologies. You present information using a range of visual imagery, videos, and documents to better ensure learners are able to access and understand the information that you are presenting. You have made especially good use of Screencast-o-matic to link videos with high production quality. One minor change that could improve the user experience of using the Blackboard course would be to find a way to embed the videos directly onto the Blackboard page so that students would not have to follow a link away from the course to watch one of the videos.

Issues of learner support and accessibility are addressed both on the syllabus and in links provided on the Blackboard page for the course. You provide information about resources available to your students regarding accommodations and services offered by the Writing Center and Archer Library. The “Course Tools” and “Learning Tools” links on the lefthand menu appear to still be viewable and accessible to students. You might consider removing these links as it does not appear that those tools are used in the course and this would help simplify the layout of that menu, especially if you did decide to separate out more general overview information for the course from the weekly content.

Overall, I believe that you demonstrate a commitment to student learning through the careful planning and facilitation of this course. I appreciate having had the opportunity to take a closer look at the design of your course!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Ghazarian".

Dr. Peter G. Ghazarian, Ed.D.  
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