

Mid-Semester Check-in

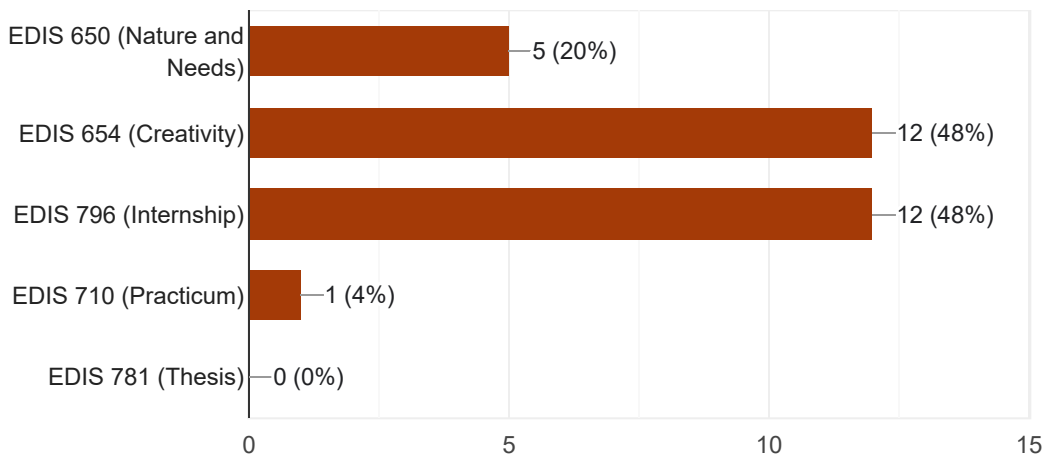
25 responses

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For which course(s) are you enrolled?

 Copy

25 responses



What aspects of the course are helping you learn best?

25 responses

The fact that this course is really a focused, practical application of all of the theory we have practiced so far is very helpful! The structure reminds me to be aware of my time and make sure I set aside time to plan for gifted differentiation.

I not only enjoy but am learning so much from others' padlet posts. I find it delightful how others apply what we read and research to themselves and their classrooms. It gives me a different perspective other than my own.

Dr. Groman's videos are very informative. Without them, I think I would be lost.

Time to think about the things I've learned over the summer and how to implement them.

Time to read and interact with content

I am really enjoying this course! I love how engaged you are as a professor. This has been the first time a course has felt "fun" in my entire master's program. You are making the coursework engaging and therefor meaningful.

I appreciate the weekly videos.

The projects.. it's giving me ides for the classroom.

Book study in the creativity class - even when told to skim, I get hooked and read it through. Also finally being able to pull my gifted kids for some time.

The reading & discussion thread in Padlet, coupled with the Focusing questions are highly useful in making sense of the key points in text.

The videos and readings that align with the content. The collaboration on Padlet. The literature we are reviewing. The case study.

Exploring creativity at my own pace and the grace period are very helpful. I appreciate that I am able to skim the readings and dive deeper into the ones that apply to me more or that pique my interest.

The documentation of the hours has helped to keep me focused and accountable.

The Piirto textbooks are helping me to be understand the information so far.

I enjoy the weekly videos from Dr. Groman and watching the week 5 presentations on Padlet.



The text, Understanding Creativity, has been so enlightening and engaging. It's a highlighted mess and something that has provided so many aha moments for myself and so many loved ones! The Thoughtlog reignited my buried desire to journal for myself, so good! As generally noted, the teacher is the decisive element of the class. I'm not sure if many other professors could pull this off. Her dedication and interest in the arts, meditation, spirituality, and humanism shines through on each video. She's a great shephard!

The weekly videos are helpful when I get ready to do the homework for the week. It helps me be organized.

The instructor's patience with me.

Very clear in the syllabus on expectations. The suggested timeline for work completion is helpful.

Weekly videos, exploring my own creativity

I am learning best from applying lessons and strategies directly to my own classroom context. The log of hours is going well.

I really appreciate the thoroughness of the syllabus in both courses. It helps me plan ahead and the weekly videos with an overview each week are very helpful as well! I also appreciate the choices in 654 to read some and not all of the material. It allows me to choose what I think is most relevant to me.

I really like the weekly videos and the detailed syllabus. They help me stay organized and know what to expect. I was surprised that I am enjoying the thoughtlog. I feel like I'm learning a lot about myself and my own thought processes.

The descriptive videos for each week's worth of assignments.

The log/contact hours are providing practical experience.



What aspects of the course are hindering you?

21 responses

I don't feel hindered, but I do feel bad that I am turning in much of my work just two days before my observation. I apologize! I work best under pressure, and I find it hard to know exactly which lesson I will be teaching on a specific day weeks in advance. This is not a problem or anything wrong with the course; I just tend to be a procrastinator, and I apologize!

I find it difficult not knowing anyone. I like having someone to talk through assignments making sure I am understanding the task and I thrive when I can verbally brainstorm with someone. I have emailed a few classmates with questions but none have responded. I do know and understand I can email my professor but would like to be able to chat with a classmate.

N/A

None!

Nothing

Learning about the identification process was challenging. I lacked any knowledge on the topic, but it was good to dig into it and learn more about it.

personal life and time

I tried a new platform (canva) but found it not very user-friendly in how it formatted. I will stick to Screencastify !!

Nothing that is hindering me. Sometimes it is hard to find time for things when it gets busy but that is with any class.

This is more of a personal flaw in me, but I am not the best at spreading out my work on long-term projects over many weeks leading up to the deadline. Having dedicated check-ins on project progress - even just on a padlet discussion - would encourage me to get started on my projects sooner!

November 1st is next week, HOLY COW!!!!

None at this time.

I feel like I am forgetting to do something each week.

It takes time, space, and peace to get the most out of this course. With two girls at a new private school and its obligations, a husband, having to feed them sometimes, violin lessons



across town once a week, a 40+ hour work week, worries, a new puppy, two cats, and not having an extra 8 hours in a day-that's what's hindering me. The class is perfect, my time management is not. I have to wake up at 5:30 am in order to meditate, practice asana, and write in my thoughtlog. Carving out time inside the house is practically impossible. I have to wake up early or leave to really connect with myself and reignite my creative interests. It was a struggle for the first few weeks just to get through the weekly videos. I have to barricade myself in a locked room or watch when no one is in the house.

I think I'd like more content in the weekly videos. I think having content videos as well as independent reading would help me understand the content better.

It's not the course that is hindering me. It is my caseload at school as an intervention specialist. I have two periods a day where I have access to gifted individuals, so I am doing what I can. I also started a book club after school where one of my gifted individuals and I are working together to create and organize the club. This is helping me reach my hours.

Sometimes I struggle to think of what to put in my thought log.

None.

I don't like that there are only 4 people in my Padlet. I enjoyed commenting on and reading the comments in the previous courses, but usually the only people to post on time are me and one other girl. The only other thing for me is just time management, because it's harder to keep up with reading and assignments (at least while giving them the effort and time they deserve) during the school year.

Finding time to complete the reading, and waiting on responses from coworkers for materials I need to collect for the course.

n/a



What specific advice would you give to help me (Dr. Groman) improve your learning in this course?

22 responses

N/A

I don't have any advice :) I miss weekly videos as in previous classes, but I also understand that there is not much point to it in the internship.

Personally I would like one virtual class session to meet some people. That way I can make a connection. I remember you mentioning when I began classes why you do not do them but it would be nice to somehow connect with someone.

I know this is online, but I miss the discussion and explanations that lectures allowed. Sometimes hearing the professor talk about them and be able to answer questions is always helpful but then also getting to hear other people's experiences or thoughts is so helpful. Discussion boards and padlets are great in theory but very difficult to hold a "discussion".

Im enjoying the course so far

None. I really feel like I am getting a lot out of this course :)

I think everything on your end is good

I like everything you are doing, thanks!!

None

I believe the course is very carefully planned out & I feel even with the online barrier that you are doing all you can to engage, interact and promote a community of learning !

Sometimes I get lost in all of the readings and go down a rabbit hole. Maybe providing all of the documents but leading us to 2-3 at a time for some assignments would be more doable.

Please, keep doing what you are doing because it is wonderful!

I can't think of anything!

I think having the focus questions added in the content folders might be helpful.

The class has been uniquely perfect so far! I'm sure I'll never take another like it again.

See above answer. Also, I think having examples or more guidance on the case study would be



helpful. I feel like I'm trying to complete that blindly.

N/A

None, I think the current format of both classes is very easy to follow and provides plenty of learning opportunities.

I would like to see more in all the courses about writing WEP's and creating curriculum for gifted students.

Incorporate more assignments that get us interacting with each other. Hearing my peers explain things helps me gain a different type of understanding of concepts and topics we cover.

I'm not sure.



Critique your own interaction with the course. What are you doing that is helping you learn?

25 responses

I am applying theory and practical strategies from previous courses to my work in the classroom more consistently and confidently than before. Although I have a lot of room for growth, I feel more competent in differentiating for gifted learners.

I have enjoyed visiting other padlets that are not my own to get to see others ideas and perspectives. I enjoyed watching the monster video and feeling so very connected with other peoples monsters as a teacher and parent. Commenting and taking the time to read and interact with others' work also lets them know that their work is worthwhile and appreciated.

I find the material interesting so I think it is helping me to make time for most of the work.

I'm going over my curriculum unit plan as well as other lessons and things we learned this summer to ensure that I'm doing things to help my G/T students to prepare for the upcoming observation.

Taking time to notice creative endeavors.

I do feel like I am taking each assignment and running with each one. I am proud of myself for going a step further after each assignment and trying to get the most out of this class and experience. I am seeing myself as a creative person for the first time and learning a lot about myself!

I've been completing my time log each week and got the research aspect of the internship plan done.

Setting aside time to actually practice healthy habits; journaling, meditating, being creative!

Reading course material as well as researching on my own, attending the gifted conference, networking with other GIS and gifted coordinators

I am establishing a set time of each day to focus, read materials and submit work. I was lucky enough to meet our G/T consultants from our local educational service center in our district-wide PD on Friday last week & their presentation linked very well to this course information / my case study.

I am reading and applying the content to my own position within Gifted Education. I have been very good at preparing my videos so that they meet the rubric requirements while not being "too busy" .. the slides.



I am focusing a lot on my thoughtlog and reflecting on my own creativity and the creativity that I am seeing in students at my school - within not only my classroom but other classes and spaces at the school! I take notes on readings to refer back to during discussion posts and reflection assignments.

I have realized that every moment I am in the classroom and every interaction I encounter with those around me, I am learning. I am growing and thriving into the best version of myself, which is a journey, not a destination.

I am discovering more about my own creativity which helps me to better relate to the content.

I have been printing many of the articles that have been provided so that I can take notes on the pages. I am a pen and paper type of person.

Waking up early and leaving my busy house. I've also taken a suggestion and committed myself to taking myself on creativity dates. I'm finally going to give myself permission to go to art museums, the conservatory and Metroparks alone or with an acquaintance.

I make a "to-do list" each week after viewing the weekly video.

I started very rough with the beginning of the school year and the course. I am working hard on the weekends to increase interaction with the course and familiarize myself with the things I need to do.

Using books from previous courses, specifically "Advancing Differentiation".

Trying to work on one of the larger projects (creativity, min-biography, meditation day) one at a time and finish one before starting the other.

I like the suggested schedule of assignments. I am using those pages in the syllabus as a checklist to monitor my own progress.

Checking in with the syllabus weekly, watching the videos and reading the material. I think these courses are well-designed but it is ultimately up to me how much I get out of them and taking advantage of the materials provided is key for me.

I am a pretty structured person so I used the syllabus to set aside time each week with a babysitter for my son so that I could use that time exclusively for classwork. I also set an alarm on my phone as a reminder to do my thoughtlog each day.

I'm reading meaningfully (when i'm completing the reading at all that is). I'm making sure to use the office hours to check in, and I'm trying to engage in conversations about my studies at work with other educators.

Thinking through the lesson plan and differentiating for students.



Critique your own interaction with the course. What are you doing (or not doing!) that is hindering you?

25 responses

I procrastinate too much! I feel like I am doing good work, and I hope the proximity of my multiple assignment submissions to my observation is not a problem for you!

I feel me not reaching out enough with questions or concerns is stressing me. Now that I am reflecting on this I shall send an email tomorrow with some questions!

The thought log! I want so badly to make this work and use it but I am struggling something terrible with this. It feels like 1 more thing to add to my never-ending to do list. And unfortunately, with 4 kids and a full time job, this is the thing that gets cut. I know it's only 10 minutes but 10 minutes is like gold over here right now!!!! I'm hoping that now that I'm FINALLY getting in the swing of things at school and soccer is over that I will be able to more easily complete my to do list without cutting things from it. :(

N/A

It is difficult for me to keep up with the log.

I feel like I need to dedicate more time to my thought log each day. I do feel like I am setting time aside, but then some days I get to it every other day. I really need to focus on setting a special time aside each day for it. I feel like this will make it a more meaningful experience.

So far I've been swamped with everything else, and I know nothing is really due until the observation. I need to get ahead in my lesson planning, so I can make this class more of a priority

Being consistent with actually getting my thoughts down onto paper! I think them, but there is another aspect to seeing the words on paper.

Creativity is difficult for me and I have to push myself to find the time to work on it - for the internship, I find time to work in the rooms and need to be better aware of while I'm in for my special ed students to observe and help the gifted students if I have time.

I need to get going on organizing how I will interview my case study individual and involve her teacher or influential adult here in her school setting(not just mom).

I think more discussion with classmates about our findings would be nice. I think I would do well giving a presentation about some of the readings and how the ideas connect back to our students. Opportunities to create would be meaningful.



While I wish I was interacting more with the materials throughout the week rather than all on one day, I do find myself applying the content in my daily work and personal life! I am not pacing my biography project which may hinder the final results.

I have been busier than I have ever been as a first-year teacher", however, it is "pressing" my core practice of self-discipline back to a realization; I need to practice DAILY reflection and awareness in my role as GIS to continue in a focused and intentional direction with my students. I reflect almost constantly, but there is room for improvement in how that self-discipline practice looks.

My schedule is hindering me by having school functions nearly every night during the week. I wish I had more time throughout the week to dedicate to the course content.

I have not been able to get much work done in the evenings during the week as I have two elementary age students home with me. I have started trying to get more reading done earlier in the week.

I am not doing enough yoga and creative projects on my own. I have a mandala dotting kit and paint that I purchased over a year ago and still have not used! (I have a pie pumpkin for that purpose, though.) I have wanted to create a vision board, finish my acrylic painting, and send handmade cards to loved ones for quite some time. I need to create more time by delegating more chores and obligations to my 11 and 8 year old girls and husband.

I have struggled keeping up with the work while working full-time and being a mom.

I am not able to access anything until the weekend.

I am not giving myself the proper amount of time to work on the assignments.

Not setting aside the proper time to work on the assignments and make the work more manageable throughout the week.

I have not started organizing my resource notebook. Time is getting away from me.

Time is the only hindrance for me right now; I just need more of it! :)

I think I'm doing really well with the weekly assignments but struggle to know if I'm in the right place with my creativity project and my resource notebook.

the reading... It's a lot sometimes and i get discouraged.

Not working on my resource notebook for awhile.



Anything else you want to say?

15 responses

Thank you for your time! I look forward to seeing you for the observation :)

I am absolutely enjoying myself with this class. My favorite parts have been the monster and what matters clay projects. I would not be opposed to more! I also appreciated so much the meditation day trip. Without the assignment I would have not taken the time to experience the magnificent Other World in Columbus.

Thank you for making this course the best I have taken so far at Ashland University :)

Thank you for a great course so far!

Enjoying the courses!

I look forward to this G/T intervention specialist endorsement journey with you and I am so grateful that you've agreed to join me in my dissertation prep / quest -- I ought to set up a meeting with you & Dr. Russell quite soon !!

I love this class!

See you soon!! mb

Thank you for all that you do for us!

I am enjoying this course so far. Thank you!

This class has been so good for my mind, body, spirit, and soul. Thank you!

This is not my usual performance in class. I am sorry for the rough start.

I appreciate your passion for gifted learning and it has been a pleasure taking these courses!

I really wish I were able to spend more time during school working on this course work when people are around who I need to ask questions.

n/a

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