

**EDU 5640-040 or 6640-040**  
**MAINTAINING THE POWER OF 1-ON-1 BASIC INTERVENTION IN SMALL**  
**GROUPS: NEXT STEPS TRIADS PRACTICUM**

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**Logistics:**

- on location in schools
- register fall semester/tutor all year/grade posts spring semester
- clinical sessions - 18 hours
- observations - 6 hours
- seminar – 5 hours
- intervention: Next Steps Triads - approx. 50 hours
- 3 credit hours = \$400
- obtain advisor permission for this course to count toward degree
- presentation of university transcript to USOE earns 54 re-licensure points

**Course Description and Expectations**

This letter-grade continuing education course is designed to help educators execute effective, research-based assessment and intervention for struggling readers of all ages in a group format that preserves much of the power of 1-on-1 tutoring. Intervention components are designed for readers who have reached a mid-G1 level, but whose reading abilities are below mid-grade three level. The course follows a “practicum model,” in which participants build a conceptual framework for reading development and effective intervention through a year-long, mentored intervention experience.

The course is open to any educator, including but not limited to: classroom teachers, reading specialists, special educators, administrators, paraprofessionals, and English-Language-Learner (ELL) personnel.

Through intervention, observations, reading and attendance at clinical sessions and seminars, participants will be expected to extend their knowledge of the following topics: partner reading, partner word study, partner fluency work, reading development, phonological awareness, word identification, synthetic blending, decoding by analogy, basic English syllable structure, automaticity, fluency, assisted reading at instructional level, building/activating background knowledge, comprehension strategies, textual scaffolding, motivation, and using assessment as a guide for pacing instruction.

Most importantly, participants will be expected to use their knowledge of these topics as they provide ongoing assessment and intervention for three struggling readers in a triad format.

**Textbooks & Materials**

Participants must make and assemble all materials for conducting tutoring lessons. A master binder of black-line masters is available from the Next Steps coordinator in each school.

**\*\*Recommended\*\***

Morris, D. (2005). *The Howard Street Tutoring Manual: Teaching at-risk readers in the primary grades*. New York: Guilford Press.

Tyner, B. (2004). *Small group reading instruction: A differentiated teaching model for beginning and struggling readers*. Newark, DE: IRA.

## **Course Schedule**

### **Clinical Sessions & Seminar: Topics and Readings**

#### **Session 1/Baseline Assessment & Forming Triads**

Overview of Next Steps Triads: empirical research base, theoretical framework, issues in beginning reading, overview of intervention model, review of assessments for identifying and leveling struggling readers, using assessment findings to form triads.

Assessment: overview, modeling, and assisted practice administering the University of Utah Reading Level Assessment (RLA), using accuracy and rate in determining instructional/intervention levels.

Reading: Tyner, B. (2004). *Small group reading instruction: A differentiated teaching model for beginning and struggling readers*. Chapter 6: Fledging Reader.

#### **Session 2/Assisted Reading in Triads**

Assisted Reading: building and activating background knowledge prior to reading, frontloading orthographically challenging words, echo reading, solo reading, partner reading, collecting accuracy and rate data as a guide to moving up or moving laterally in text level.

Comprehension Work: narrative & expository text structures, using text structure to drive comprehension work.

Reading: Tyner, B. (2004). *Small group reading instruction: A differentiated teaching model for beginning and struggling readers*. Chapter 7: Independent Reader.

#### **Session 3/Comprehension Work & Word Study in Triads**

Comprehension: using questioning during assisted reading to assess comprehension, literal and inferential questions, trouble-shooting comprehension difficulties, providing a model for complete answers, extending thinking through questioning and modeling.

Word Study: relationship between word study scope and sequence and development of the ability to read words, high frequency words & word banks, synthetic blending, blends and digraphs, mixed short vowels, closed syllable structure, speed checks to determine automaticity, partner work.

Assessment: theoretical foundation for flash instrument for word recognition automaticity & decoding, modeling of and peer practice with flash instrument administration.

Clinic: each participant has the opportunity to provide intervention to a triad in front of mentor and peers. Intervention session is followed by discussion of relevant instructional issues (e.g., pacing, book level, sight word development) and opportunities for questions, remodeling, clarification.

Reading: Tyner, B. (2004). *Small group reading instruction: A differentiated teaching model for beginning and struggling readers*. Chapter 8: Independent Reader.

Morris, D. (2005). *The Howard Street Tutoring Manual: Teaching at-risk readers in the primary grades*. Chapter 2: The Initial Reading Assessment.

#### **Session 4/Fluency Work & “Individual Extras” in Triads**

Fluency: roadblocks for fluency, removing roadblocks to fluency, repeated readings, prosody echo, partner fluency.

Word Study: importance of sight vocabulary, strategies for persistent difficulty with high frequency words, transition from mixed short vowels to more difficult vowel patterns, “vowel-consonant-e” syllable structure, open syllable structure, “r-controlled syllable structure, using speed checks to determine automaticity.

Assisted reading: word study to text level correspondence.

Assessment: modeling, scoring and interpretation of flash instrument, peer practice administering flash instrument.

Clinic: each participant has the opportunity to provide intervention to three students in front of supervisor and peers. Intervention session is followed by discussion of relevant instructional issues (e.g., pacing, book level, sight word development) and opportunities for questions, remodeling, clarification.

Reading: Morris, D. (2005). *The Howard Street Tutoring Manual: Teaching at-risk readers in the primary grades*. Chapter 2: The Initial Reading Assessment.

#### **Session 5/Shifting Triad Composition When Indicated**

Assisted reading: word study to book level correspondence, pacing, collecting accuracy and rate data as a guide to moving up or moving laterally in text level, using rate and accuracy data to pace triads that are struggling or excelling in a specific text level, echo and partner reading as support, when to shift triad membership.

Fluency work: rereading texts as a way to build fluency, prosody echo reading as a way to build expression, using knowledge of orthography and reading development to decide which prompt to use when students struggle with unfamiliar words.

Assessment: practicum administration of flash instrument, scoring and interpretation of flash data.

Clinic: each participant has the opportunity to tutor three students in front of supervisor and peers. Intervention sessions are followed by discussion of relevant instructional issues (e.g., pacing, book level, sight word development) and opportunities for questions, remodeling, clarification.

### **Session 6/Triad Practicum & Assessment: Final Thoughts**

Assessment: observation of flash instrument administration, interpretation of flash data and correlation with assisted reading level.

Clinic: each participant has the opportunity to tutor three students in front of supervisor and peers. Intervention sessions are followed by discussion of relevant instructional issues (e.g., pacing, book level, sight word development) and opportunities for questions, remodeling, clarification.

### **Course Credit Criteria**

To receive credit for the university course and/or a Next Steps Triad certificate, participants must satisfactorily meet the criteria outlined below:

- completion of at least 5 of 6 possible half-day clinical trainings, conducted by a Licensed Next Steps Triads Trainer,
- complete at least 4 of 6 possible observations conducted by a Licensed Next Steps Triads Trainer or a certified Next Steps Triads Tutor working in a support capacity under a Licensed Next Steps Triads Trainer,
- earn satisfactory ratings for at least 2 of those observations, with 1 of those satisfactory ratings earned within the final 2 observations,
- completion of at least 4 of 6 possible peer observations,
- completion of at least 45 intervention sessions with a Next Steps Triad,
- view 5 hour-long seminar DVDs on reading research/theory, and,
- earn a grade of .7 or better on intervention execution and written case study.

Intervention Execution Grading Rubric: Intervention execution during the practicum will earn pass +, pass -, or fail as UURC staff conduct formal and informal observations as needed.

The criteria are as follows:

Pass + = Satisfactory - strong intervention execution for most of the practicum. Satisfactory to strong ability to analyze and respond to student performance. Satisfactory - strong preparation and management of intervention materials. Satisfactory - strong

ability to integrate trainer feedback into intervention execution. Satisfactory - strong contribution to training and debriefing sessions.

Pass - = Less than satisfactory intervention execution for most of practicum. Less than satisfactory ability to analyze and respond to student performance. Less than satisfactory preparation and management of intervention materials. Less than satisfactory ability to integrate trainer feedback into intervention execution. Less than satisfactory contribution to training and debriefing sessions.

It is important to note that failure to meet a majority of the criteria listed above under Pass + constitutes grounds for a score of Pass -."

Tutoring Grading Conversions: Pass + = 4.0/A

Pass - = 2.0/C

#### Case Study Guidelines: Next Steps Triads

Participants who register for university credit must complete a written assignment, in addition to other practicum requirements

Choose one of the triads you tutored during the Next Steps Triads practicum as the subject for a written case study. The case study should include:

1. Summary and analysis of **each** student's foundation for reading success at baseline.

This is more than simply "reporting the data." In addition to describing each student's baseline instructional level in passage reading, you must discuss his/her reading level in relation to chronological grade level in terms of oral reading accuracy, oral reading rate, and comprehension. Specifically, at baseline, where are these students in relation to where they should be?

2. Summary and analysis of the intervention.

Describe the intervention you provided for these students. Briefly describe each component (assisted reading, word study, fluency work, and "individual extras." Did any component seem to offer students more difficulty or ease than others? Why? What, if any, adjustments did you make in the intervention?

3. Summary and analysis of **each** student's reading abilities at posttest.

After administering the posttest and analyzing the data, describe each student's reading abilities at the close of the intervention. Discuss his/her instructional level in passage reading and word recognition in relation to chronological grade level. If indicated, make specific recommendations for future instruction/intervention.

4. Summary and analysis of your own teaching practices.

As an educator, what have you learned about reading development and instruction/intervention from your triad practicum experience? How has this learning informed your practice? Provide specific examples.

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This case study must be typed, double-spaced, and *must* include the following information:

- your full name
- student identification or social security number
- semester and year you registered for the course (e.g., Fall, 2007)
- course name, course number, section number (e.g., Early Steps SPED 6633-030)
- your employing school and district (e.g., Sandy Elementary, Jordan District)

This information may be placed on page 1; a separate cover page is not necessary.

The case study should be no longer than 7-10 pages in length. It must meet university standards for writing style and mechanics. As such, students are encouraged to have their papers proofread for appropriate grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

Case Study Grading Rubric: The case study will earn pass +, pass, pass -, or fail.

The criteria for grading are as follows:

Pass + = Exceptionally strong summary and analysis of baseline results, intervention, and posttest results. Exceptional analysis of practicum's impact on own teaching. Superior academic writing style. No mechanical errors.

Pass = Satisfactory summary and analysis of baseline results, intervention, and posttest results. Satisfactory analysis of practicum's impact on own teaching. Satisfactory academic writing style. Very few, if any, mechanical errors.

Pass - = Less than satisfactory summary and analysis of baseline results, intervention, and posttest results. Less than satisfactory analysis of practicum's impact on own teaching. Flawed academic writing style. Numerous mechanical errors.

It is important to note that failure to meet any criterion constitutes grounds for an assignment to earn a lower score. For example, a case report that is satisfactory in meeting the first three criteria but evidences numerous mechanical errors may earn "pass -."

Case Study Grading Conversions: Pass + = 4.0-3.7(A to A-) Pass = 3.3-2.0(B+ to C)  
Pass - = 1.7-.7(C- to D-)

Your case study is due by 5pm, June 15th. We encourage you to submit your case study electronically to [kathleen.brown@utah.edu](mailto:kathleen.brown@utah.edu). If electronic submission is not possible, you may bring a hard copy to the UURC (attention: Dr. Kathleen Brown), 5242 South College Drive, Suite 100, Murray, UT 84123. If you want your paper returned, please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope when you submit the paper. Papers that do not include a self-addressed, stamped envelope will be discarded.

If you miss the deadline for paper submission, you will receive an "I" signifying "incomplete." After 1 year, the "I" will convert to an "E," – a final grade of "no credit."

**Be aware that your grade may not post with the registrar until the semester following your paper submission.** We cannot make “special arrangements” to post individual grades early—regardless of the reason.

Please keep a copy of your case study on file or hard drive until you receive your final grade.