

Student Contact Hours for Study Abroad/Away Faculty-Led Programs

Program Title: Intercultural Special Education: Culture, Disability, and Policy in the Americas

Term: Summer 2027

Course(s): SPED 470 Special Topics in Special Education; SPED 301 Introduction to Special Education

Total # Credits: 3

IMPORTANT:

- A sample Contact Hours Sheet is available [online](#).
- A minimum of 37.5 hours is required **per credit**. The total number of hours should not significantly exceed this minimum.
- Contact hours may include class time, guest lectures, academic visits, field trips/excursions, group learning activities, general or program specific orientation meetings, research, service-learning activities, community projects, volunteer time, homework, research, academic assignments, other academic activities, and cultural activities or visits conducted **prior to, during, and/or after** the 'in location' program dates.
- Contact hours may NOT include travel time and meals unless a specific instructional or learning activity (group discussion, lecture, group debrief, team-building activity) is being conducted during that time.
- **Each specific activity should be listed for each day of the program with the corresponding number of contact hours.**
- A maximum of 6 to 8 hours of program activities per day is recommended.
- Include some free time for individual cultural exploration, reflection, and down time.

INSTRUCTIONS: List the individual activities and corresponding # of contact hours for *each* activity (see permitted activities above) for *each* day of the proposed program (including activities and assignments prior to, during, and after the 'in location' days). **Please review the sample Contact Hours Sheet [online](#) to ensure you follow the correct format.**

Date	Location	Program Activity	# Hours (for each activity)
3/19/27	Towson University	Pre-departure orientation (conducted by the TU Study Abroad & Away Office – attended by all students and the faculty leaders)	3
Pre-Departure	Asynchronous	Assigned readings	6
		Presentation research	6
		Syllabus/course expectation review	2
Pre-Departure	Online or in person at TU	Class: Foundations of policy in special education in the USA, parent rights, responsibilities part 1 (reading, discussion, instruction) [Dr. Gerry]	3
Pre-Departure	Online or in person at TU	Class: Foundations of policy in special education in the USA/parent rights, responsibilities part 2 (pre-departure reading, discussion, instruction) [Dr. Gerry]	3
Pre-Departure	Asynchronous	Reflection journal - anticipated challenges and personal learning goals	3
5/31/2027	BWI to Merida	On-site orientation - safety, cultural norms, and professional expectations	2
		Guided walking tour of Historic Centro	2
		Group welcome dinner	-
		Journaling	0.5
6/1/2026		Class: Cultural diversity, indigenous disability perspectives, stigma, spirituality, and community responsibility [Dr. Gerry]	2
		Visit to the regional Ministry of Education or Education Services office	3
		Group meeting [Dr. Gerry]	0.5
		Journaling	0.5

6/2/2027	Merida, MX	Guest lecture #1: Mexican K–12 structure, Special Education, Populations Comparative overview and discussion of teacher training or special education preparation program [Dr. Gerry] Comparative systems mapping activity (U.S. vs. Mexico) [Dr. Gerry] Group meeting [Dr. Gerry] Journaling	2 2 2 0.5 0.5
6/3/2027	Merida, MX	Visit to an urban public school with special education services Classroom observations and meetings with special educators, psychologists, or USAER teams Group meeting (debrief and reflection on observations) [Dr. Gerry] Journaling	2 2 2 0.5
6/4/2027	Merida, MX	Visit to community-based or specialized school Guest lecture #2: Structured discussion on recruitment, identification, assessment language barriers, and cultural interpretations of disability Field-note activity and reflection [Dr. Gerry] Journaling and work on independent research assignment	3 2 2 1
6/5/2027	Merida, MX	Workshop at cultural or educational center Guest lecture #3: Indigenous culture, bilingualism in Mexico Conversation with local experts on community or rehabilitative services Guest lecture #4: Bilingual or disability related assessment simulation and discussion Group meeting [Dr. Gerry] Journaling	2 1 1 2 0.5 0.5
6/6/2027	Merida, MX	Visit to Gran Museo del Mundo Maya de Merida Free afternoon Journaling	3 - 0.5
6/7/2027	Merida, MX	Excursion to Uxmal archaeological site (Uxmal) - focus on accessibility and educational framing Accessibility mapping activity and guided discussion [Dr. Gerry] Group meeting [Dr. Gerry] Journaling	4 2 0.5 0.5
6/8/2027	Merida, MX	Visit to an NGO serving migrant or returning families Guest lecture #5: Operations of the NGO Discussion with a family Class: Transnational education histories and trauma-informed perspectives [Dr. Gerry] Supervised group work: Transnational child profile development [Dr. Gerry]	3 2 1 1 1
6/9/2027	Merida, MX	Visit to a local university Guest lecture #6: Indigenous cultural considerations, education, and special education preparation Roundtable discussion with teacher candidates and special educators	3 2 2
6/10/2027	Merida, MX	Independent research/final project work Individual meetings with Dr. Gerry regarding project/progress Free rest of day	4 0.5 -
6/11/2027	Merida, MX	Synthesis seminar [Dr. Gerry] Student presentations and policy analysis Guided roundtable discussion: Implications for teachers in U.S. school settings [Dr. Gerry] Group meeting Journaling	2 3 2 0.5 0.5

6/12/2027	Merida, MX-BWI	Class: Program wrap-up and reflective discussion [Dr. Gerry]	2
		Final written and oral reflection on professional practice [Dr. Gerry]	2
		Farewell group lunch	
6/13/2027	Online	Final exam	3
		Post-trip reflection discussion and evaluation of learning outcomes	3
		<u>TOTAL # CONTACT HOURS</u>	113