

Social-Emotional and Character Development Coursework and Credentialing Program

Rutgers University is pleased to announce the implementation of a series of courses in social-emotional and character development that can be taken individually or combined as part of a credentialing program. This unique program is intended to give all educational staff and mental health professionals working with schools or in after-school programs the opportunity to enhance their professional development skills in the field of social-emotional and character development and to earn a credential in Social-Emotional and Character Development. Continue below for information about present course offerings and their fit into the Level 1 Credential.

Background

The call for school reform and improvement presents today's educators with a great challenge. How do we strengthen basic skills, increase higher order thinking skills, warn about the dangers of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, violence and other potentially life-challenging situations while promoting appreciation and respect for diversity? How can we do this effectively, using the best information from theory, research, and practice, both in school and after school? Simply put, how do we prepare our children to be knowledgeable, responsible, caring and contributing members of a very pluralistic and global society? And how do we do this in the face of budget crunches, and federal and state mandates? Social-Emotional and Character Development (SECD) is essential to addressing these issues.

SECD Level 1 Credential

The Level 1 Credential is in Instruction in Social-Emotional and Character Development and Related Education and Prevention/School Mental Health Programs in Classrooms and Small Groups, for both in-school and after school contexts.

This level is designed for the person (e.g., educators, school support staff, mental health professionals, after-school personnel) who will provide direct instruction in SECD competencies in a classroom, small group or after school setting. It consists of 3 courses and a final presentation to the credentialing body, The Council on SECD Credentialing, a multidisciplinary group of experts in the field. Completion of Level 1 will represent competence in understanding theory, research, pedagogy, and practice. Through Course #3, which is a Practice and Intervention Practicum, participants will demonstrate their ability to implement an SECD intervention in their work setting in ways that integrate the content of prior courses in the Credentialing sequence. There is a final reflection product that must be submitted to the Council on SECD Credentialing as part of the process of gaining official approval for the Certificate.

Why do you need coursework and/or a credential in social and emotional and character development? Professional development in SECD:

- o will improve your knowledge and skills in helping students develop the habits of good character.
- o may help you become a school or district-wide social emotional and character development coordinator.
- o may count toward meeting professional continuing education requirements.
- o may be used for your salary advancement.
- o will inform others that you have the necessary training to be a major resource at your school, district and community.
- o is an important addition to your curriculum vitae.
- o will increase your marketability in the education field.

What online capabilities will I need?

The online forum for this level will be “e-college.rutgers.edu” which is a tool that facilitates educational environments for non-technical users. The e-college.rutgers.edu site for this program will include course content, syllabus, links to other online resources, and a discussion board to upload your assignments and to communicate with your classmates. You will be provided with information to ensure that your computer has a compatible browser to accommodate e-college.rutgers.edu. (Free downloads are available.)

Overview/Summary of Level 1 Courses

Course 1

Course #1 focuses on SECD Theory and Research. Participants get an overview of the importance of having a theory behind their SECD work, an update on the latest research findings, and how SECD applies to classroom management and improvement of students’ academic performance. Those taking this course will be well grounded in current knowledge of the theory and research underlying a broad range of social-emotional and character development interventions and interventions in related course areas.

Course 2

Course #2 focuses on SECD Pedagogy and Practice. Participants begin with a developmental understanding of SECD across the K-12 spectrum and how one’s own SECD affects one’s work with students, followed by a focus on how SECD is integrated in practical ways for classroom management, running students groups in school and after school, and in academic lessons. The emphasis is on clarifying the effective SECD approaches that underlie all specific programs and models.

Course 3:

Course #3 focuses on providing a Practice and Intervention Practicum. Participants engage in a year-long application of SECD intervention(s) within their ongoing work setting and receive ongoing supervision and feedback. This course is designed to help participants build and demonstrate competence in delivering SECD intervention in classroom, group, or after-school contexts that apply the principles learned in Courses 1 and 2.

Course #1: Instruction in Social-Emotional and Character Development and Related Education and Prevention/School Mental Health Programs in Classrooms and Small Groups, for both in-school and after school contexts: Theory and Research

Related Course Areas: character education, social-emotional learning, school mental health programming, after-school programming, school-based prevention programming, group guidance, in-classroom counseling, counseling groups, substance abuse prevention groups, psychoeducational groups, school-based prevention groups, social skills, life skills, evidence-based prevention, violence prevention, bully prevention, school safety, school climate improvement

Technical Tools for Course 1 Interaction:

- Dropbox is the private place to submit your work. This is a specific place where you send assignments to the instructor. This is also where you “pick up” your critiqued work.
- Threaded Discussion is a public discussion forum where questions can be posted and responded to. We will be posting topics for discussion in which you will be expected to participate.
- Journal is a private place to post your personal thoughts and reactions to readings and/or activities. You will be required to submit your journal entries to us upon request.
- Chat Rooms are public places where we will be asking you to participate in real time group discussions.
- Email correspondence shall only take place through the e-college mail system. Any email from us will show up as an announcement on your homepage. You may respond to the instructors or the whole class by clicking on the email tab on your course toolbar.

Course #1, Theory and Research: Requirements

- Required Text: None. All readings will be available on-line or through website links.
- Assignments: Various activities, papers and participation in the interactive components of the courses.
- Grading: We grade on a mastery learning system. Feedback will be given to allow participants to complete course requirements successfully by the conclusion of the course. If this has not taken place, appropriate communication and plans will be made with the students and the instructor(s) and the Council on SECD Credentialing.

Course #1 Timing, Tuition, and CE Credits

Course #1 will begin on October 19 and conclude on December 28, 2009.

Cost is \$225, with a discounted cost of \$175 for NJ residents. Veterans of military service will receive a 15% discount for all course tuition fees.

Those successfully completing the course will receive one CEU.

How do I enroll in a single level or in the full credentialing in Social-Emotional and Character Development?

To enroll in Course #1, all you need to do is:

- confirm with us that you have computer capabilities to access our eCollege.Rutgers site;
- if you are requesting a NJ and/or veteran's discount, provide confirmation via fax or email as part of the registration process.

Register by going to:

<https://rutgers.catalog.cerkit.rutgers.edu/course/display/9756>

To be eligible for the Credential, prior to taking the Practice and Intervention Practicum Course, you would additionally need to send us documentation verifying your present employment and position and that you have permission to carry out the practicum in your work setting. We have found that the vast majority of settings are agreeable to having a supervised intervention procedure take place.

The Office of Continuing Education staff will determine your eligibility for admission to the program and contact you via email. Should you have any questions call us at 732-932-4700 x4215, or email us at reg@dceo.rutgers.edu

Information about the Overall Level 1 Credential:

Instruction in Social-Emotional and Character Development and Related Education and Prevention/School Mental Health Programs in Classrooms and Small Groups, for Both In-school and After-school Contexts

Level 1 Goals

Through reading and activities, participants taking Level 1 will acquire knowledge of: Self-Awareness, Emotional Regulation, Social Awareness, Relationship Building and Decision Making. Participants will also develop lessons and/or action plans for implementation in their individual settings.

Who is this level for?

Level 1 is the first of four levels, which introduces and develops knowledge and skills in social and emotional and character development for those who will be the primary deliverer (i.e., educators, counselors, social workers, after-school program staff, etc) to all students pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade.

What does Level 1 look like?

Level 1 emphasizes a participatory approach incorporating SECD philosophy, activities and strategies into the classroom, counseling and after-school groups as well as for self. It is organized around three courses and five topics within each course, preferably to be completed sequentially. Each course has been constructed to take a minimum of ten hours to complete, yielding one professional development credit or continuing education unit (CEU). Upon the completion of the three courses within Level 1, participants will receive three CEU's. The cost for each Course is \$225, with a discounted cost of \$175 for NJ residents. The cost of the full Level 1 Credential is \$725 (\$675 plus \$50 for the credentialing submission and review); \$575 for NJ residents (\$525 plus \$50 for the credentialing submission and review). Veterans of military service will receive a 15% discount for all course tuition fees.

Objectives of the Level 1 Credential

At the end of Level 1, you will be able to:

- Acquire a foundation of knowledge about the relationship between academic achievement and the development of social and emotional competencies.
- Develop an understanding of the skills of social and emotional and character development as foundational to creating conditions for social, ethical and academic learning and developing capacity in young people to become caring, responsible, nonviolent and contributing members of the learning community.

- Integrate and demonstrate social-emotional and character development principles, skills and strategies in all aspect of teaching (i.e., content area instruction, classroom management, and assessment), group counseling and in after-school programs.
- Engage fellow educators and group leaders to be reflective in their practice and understand the relationship among self-learning, classroom practice and student learning and be willing to assess, adapt, change and continually re-evaluate in an effort to tailor instruction to diverse and changing groups of learners.
- Demonstrate the ability to operate a social-emotional and character development-oriented classroom or group (before, during or after school).

The entire Credentialing Program is composed of four levels, each addressing a different level of participation and delivery perspective of social-emotional and character development (SECD) competencies:

Level 1: Instruction in Social-Emotional and Character Development and Related Education and Prevention/School Mental Health Programs in Classrooms and Small Groups, for both in-school and after school contexts (these include bullying/violence/victimization prevention, suicide prevention, substance abuse and steroid prevention, group guidance, social skills groups in and after school, service learning, conflict resolution)

Level 2: Master Teacher/Trainer of SECD and Related Programs

Involves preparation to train building-level colleagues in Instruction of SECD as per Level 1. It is appropriate for members of any school-based professional group, as well as after-school program providers.

Level 3: School Level Coordination of SECD and Related Programs

Involves preparation to “put the pieces of the puzzle together” and coordinate existing SECD efforts at the building level. This is different from instructional level competence and requires additional organizational-level consultation, and team-building competencies. Focus is also placed on school climate, culture, values, leadership, and student voice/engagement. It is appropriate for members of any school-based professional group.

Level 4: District Level Coordination of SECD and Related Programs

Similar to Level 3; however, this involves coordinating efforts at the district level, i.e., across buildings at the elementary, middle, and high school levels, as well as developmentally. It will include working with building-based leaders, leaders of diverse professional groups, board members, and parent and community stakeholders.