

Virtual Campus

**SCHOOL OF EDUCATION**

University Mission**:** Wayland Baptist University exists to educate students in an academically challenging, learning-focused and distinctively Christian environment for professional success and service to God and humankind.

Course Number and Title**: EDUC5388 Administrators Solving Problems of Practice**

**Session: Summer VC01 2025, June 2-July 26**

Professor: Dr. Trisha Giacomazzi

Phone: (806) 680-2044-Cell

Email: [giacomazzit@wbu.edu](mailto:giacomazzit@wbu.edu)

Prerequisites: None

Catalog Description**:** Relates theory of eight decision models to practice through a series of case studies designed to link current decision theory with solutions to contemporary problems. Field Experience: 6 hours.

Textbook**:** 

**Theodore J. Kowalski**

ISBN-13:  9780137559169

Publisher:  Pearson  
Copyright:  2021   
**E-Text is Available under tab on course menu.**

# Course Outcome Competencies:

# This course is designed to equip prospective and practicing administrators with the essential skills necessary for effective problem-solving and decision-making in educational settings. Through the analysis of open-ended case studies, you will explore real-world scenarios that challenge you to apply theoretical knowledge, engage in critical thinking, and navigate the complexities of contemporary issues within a dynamic society.

# The overall goals are to have you learn how to (a) use information to identify and solve problems, (b) develop and evaluate alternative solutions, and (c) continuously refine your professional knowledge through critical analysis prior to, during, and after decision making.

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. **Problem Identification and Resolution:**
   * Utilize relevant information to accurately identify and assess problems in educational environments.
   * Develop well-informed and strategic solutions to address challenges.
2. **Evaluation of Alternative Solutions:**
   * Analyze multiple perspectives and propose viable alternatives using evidence-based reasoning.
   * Evaluate the short-term and long-term implications of different decision-making options.
3. **Critical Thinking and Decision-Making:**
   * Apply reflective thinking to frame problems effectively.
   * Make informed decisions that consider organizational goals, ethical considerations, and stakeholder perspectives.
4. **Reflective Practice:**
   * Continuously assess and refine professional knowledge through reflective analysis.
   * Engage in self-evaluation and apply lessons learned to future decision-making scenarios.

**Course Schedule of Assignments:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Module | **Topics** | **Reading Pages** | **Assignments Due on Sundays before Midnight** |
| 1  June 2-6 | **Problem Solving and Decision Making**  **Chapter 1**: Who needs lesson plans? | Page VI to Page 5 | Schedule of Field Experiences  Chapter Questions  Discussion Board #1  Assignments due before midnight on **Sunday, June 8** |
| 2  June 9-13 | **Chapter 2**: Who Should Create the School’s Vision  **Chapter 3**: A Bully’s Threat | Page 6-21 | Field Experience Essay #1  Chapter Questions  Discussion Board #2  Assignments due before midnight on **Sunday, June 15** |
| 3  June 16-20 | **Chapter 7**: Old School Culture & a New Principal  **Chapter 8**: School Improvement through Better Grading Practices, | Page 42-55 | Field Experience Essay #2  Chapter Questions  Discussion Board #3  Assignments due before midnight on **Sunday, June 22** |
| 4  June 23-27 | **Chapter 10**: A Matter of Honor & **Chapter 11**: Individualizing Staff Development, | Page 64-79 | Field Experience Essay #3  Chapter Questions  Discussion Board #4  Assignments due before midnight on **Sunday, June 29** |
| 5  June 30-July 4 | **Chapter 12**: Break the Rules and Pay the Price  **Chapter 14**: Let’s Get Strategic | Page 80-87  Page 94-99 | Field Experience Essay #4  Chapter Questions  Discussion Board #5  Assignments due before midnight on **Sunday, July 6** |
| 6  July 7-11 | **Chapter 15**: Even on Saturdays, and **Chapter 16**: Appropriate Punishment vs Political Expediency | Page 100-111 | Field Experience Essay #5  Chapter Questions  Discussion Board #6  Assignments due before midnight on **Sunday, July 13** |
| 7  July 14-18 | **Chapter 19**: Who Needs Career-Technical Education  **Chapter 20**: Illegal Drugs, In-School Suspension, and the Novice Principal | Page 126-139 | Field Experience Essay #6  Field Experience Documentation Form  Chapter Questions  Discussion Board #7  Assignments due before midnight on **Sunday, July 20** |
| 8  July 21-15 | Final Exam Interview Essay with a Local School Administrator |  | Discussion Board #8  Assignments due before midnight on **Friday, July 25** |

Computation of final grade**:**

* Field Experience Schedule: 1 at 25 points = 25
* Field Experience Essays: 6 at 50 points each = 300
* Discussion Board: 8 at 25 points each = 200
* Chapter Questions: 7 at 50 points each - 350
* Final Exam Essay: 150 points

**Total Points Possible 1025**

# Attendance/Assignment requirements:

Any student who misses 25% or more of the regularly scheduled due dates may receive a grade of “F” in the course. You are training to be a professional. A 10% daily deduction will be assessed to any assignment turned in past the due date. After 1 week (7 days) the late assignment will no longer be accepted and the zero will stand.

**University Grading System:**

A 900-1000 pts Cr for Credit

B 800-899 pts NCR No Credit

C 700-799 pts I Incomplete\*

D 600-699 pts W for withdrawal

F below 600 pts WP Withdrawal Passing

WF Withdrawal Failing X No grade given IP In Progress

A grade of “CR” indicates that credit in semester hours was granted but no grade or grade points were recorded.

**\***A grade of incomplete is changed if the work required is completed prior to the date indicated in the official University calendar of the next long term, unless the instructor designates an earlier date for completion. If the work is not completed by the appropriate date, the **I** is converted to the grade of **F**. An incomplete notation cannot remain on the student’s permanent record and must be replaced by the qualitative grade (A-F) by the date specified in the official University calendar of the next regular term.

**Academic Honesty: Be sure to read your first required assignment carefully so that you don’t mistakenly use ANY artificial intelligence application. It carries severe consequences.**

Wayland students are expected to conduct themselves according to the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as possession of examinations or examination materials, forgery, or plagiarism. Disciplinary action for academic misconduct is the responsibility of the faculty member assigned to the course. The faculty member is charged with assessing the gravity of any case of academic dishonesty and with giving sanctions to any student involved. The faculty member involved will file a record of the offense and the punishment imposed with the dean of the division, campus dean, and the provost/academic vice president. Any student who has been penalized for academic dishonesty has the right to appeal the judgment or the penalty assessed.

# Plagiarism:

Plagiarism — The attempt to represent the work of another, as it may relate to written or oral works, computer-based work, mode of creative expression (i.e. music, media or the visual arts), as the product of one's own thought, whether the other's work is published or unpublished, or simply the work of a fellow student.

When a student submits oral or written work for credit that includes the words, ideas, or data of others, *the source of that information must be acknowledged through complete, accurate, and specific references*, and, if verbatim statements are included, through use of quotation marks as well. By placing one’s name on work submitted for credit, the student certifies the originality of all work not otherwise identified by appropriate acknowledgements. *A student will avoid being charged with plagiarism if there is an acknowledgement of indebtedness.*

Source: <http://www.spjc.cc.fl.us/webcentral/admit/honesty.htm#plag>

# Disability Statement:

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), it is the policy of Wayland Baptist University that no otherwise qualified person with a disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the University. The Coordinator of Counseling Services serves as the coordinator of students with a disability and should be contacted concerning accommodation requests at (806) 291-3765. Documentation of a disability must accompany any request for accommodations. Students should inform the instructor of existing disabilities the first class meeting.