

SECOND SESSION

CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

FOUR HOURS

**Western Oregon University**  
**Final Written Comprehensive Examinations**  
**Spring 2016**

**Curriculum and Instruction Content Core: Early Childhood Emphasis**

**All questions should be written in appropriate academic style and voice. Please include specific, concrete details from your coursework, readings, research, and appropriate theories/theorists to support your answers. As time allows, please carefully reread and proofread your answers. Comprehensive exam questions encompass the key proficiency areas of the Curriculum & Instruction program; include references to coursework, research, and reading across your program of study as appropriate.**

***--Briefly describe your areas of licensure and the teaching position you currently hold.***

**I. Curriculum**

Describe and defend the importance of educators understanding the philosophical, psychological, and historical foundations of curriculum development. What impact should research on curriculum have on professional decision-making within schools? Consider how curriculum reforms have both potential benefits and drawbacks for teachers and students within schools. Include concrete examples from professional readings and research.

**II. Assessment**

Describe two or three current “hot topics” within the field of assessment. Use research and your professional readings to discuss what we know about these issues within assessment and their potential impact upon student learning. Discuss several ways how these research-based assessment practices impact the teaching and learning cycle. How might you make decisions about using such methods in your own practice?

### **III. Literacy integration**

Literacy learning is considered to be a foundational aspect of curriculum, instruction, and assessment across grade levels and disciplines. Discuss educational research's findings about teachers' use of literacy to support student engagement and authentic learning. Describe and evaluate several literacy platforms that can support rigorous learning outcomes and student engagement. Consider qualities such as materials/texts, strategies methods, and digital/visual literacy within your response findings about teachers' use of literacy to support student engagement and authentic learning. Describe and evaluate several literacy platforms that can support rigorous learning outcomes and student engagement. Consider qualities such as materials/texts, strategies, methods, and digital/visual literacy within your response.

### **IV. Content Knowledge**

As educators we must be able to develop or adapt curriculum to meet the needs of our students. Curriculum development is a formidable task, as teachers must take into consideration several elements when planning meaningful and purposeful learning. Thinking about early childhood educational research, theory and pedagogy, define developmentally appropriate practices in relation to early childhood. Describe how you will balance developmentally appropriate practices within your curriculum in an early childhood setting. What is/should be considered? Cite research and relevant theory that supports your discussion.

### **V. Professional Content Knowledge/Pedagogy**

Drawing upon your MSED coursework, particularly within your content core classes, describe how your understandings of professional practice and content pedagogy have expanded as a result of your graduate studies. What new insights into research based practice, strategies, content pedagogy, and innovative teaching methods are now a part of your professional content knowledge? Cite specific readings and course experiences that support your answer. What might these practices look like in the field? How will you continue to grow your professional content knowledge and refine your professional practice?