

On-line Courses in Social-Emotional and Character Development (SECD) and the SECD Credentialing Program for Education-Related Professionals Working In-School and After School Continue at Rutgers University

Rutgers University, in partnership with the National SECD Credentialing Council, is pleased to announce the implementation of a series of courses in social-emotional and character development (SECD) that can be taken individually or combined as part of a credentialing program. SECD competencies, such as problem solving, emotion regulation, teamwork and cooperation, respectful relationships, and leadership, have been identified as key components of successful classrooms and schools and classrooms, including improvements in standardized test score performance (www.CASEL.org). *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.*

Why Is This Important?

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 and more and more, schools will want to hire and promote school professionals and after-school program providers who can demonstrate their competence in SECD.

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 Timing, Tuition, and CE Credits

Course #1 and Course #2 will each begin on April 12, 2010 and conclude on June 7, 2010. Cost for each 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 To Enroll

To enroll in Course #1 or #2, all you need to do is:

- confirm with us that you have computer capabilities to access the 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 for Course #1 by going to:

<https://catalog.cerkit.rutgers.edu/course/display/10316>

Register for Course #2 by going to:

<https://catalog.cerkit.rutgers.edu/course/display/10317>

You can find out additional information about the online courses and the full credentialing program by going to the DSACS web site and clicking on the Online Course building on our virtual campus or through the navigation bar at the left of the page:

<http://www.teachsecd.com/launch/launchTeachSECD.html>

Please feel free to share this information with colleagues. If you are not sure what to register for, please contact Maurice Elias at RutgersMJE@AOL.COM.

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