

# Syllabus for Hot Topics Course

**Course Title:** Determining the Function of the Behavior

**Course Description:** This course will assist teachers in identifying the function of challenging behaviors (including lack of motivation, disruptive classroom behaviors, not turning in work, aggressive behaviors and many others that are commonly observed in the k-12 classroom). We will address the four functions of behavior and how to determine what we as educators can do to assist in facilitating appropriate student behavior and a positive classroom climate.

**Credits:** 1 credit

**Faculty/Instructor:** Kelly Vigants EdS

**Instructional Method:** Online July 16-27, 2018

## Course Objectives:

Student will be able to:

- Identify the 4 functions of behavior (sensory, escape/avoidance, attention and tangibles) and how students may present these behaviors within the school environment
- Utilize an assessment tool to determine the function of a behavior
- Name three methods of appropriate data collection
- Use data to prepare a plan to address the target behavior (BIP)
- Evaluate the appropriateness of the treatment and look for changes in the target behavior
- Communicate to the student, family and other staff, how to implement effective behavior strategies in other environments

## Course Content/Topics/Outline:

- Introduction to behaviors
  - Definition
  - Functions of behavior (SEAT)
  - Classroom behaviors
- Behavior modification basics
  - Strategies to address behaviors
  - Data collection and assessment options
  - Evaluating data
  - Implementing a Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP)
  - Reviewing data
  - Follow through
- Setting up a classroom or school for success
- Informing others
  - Students
  - Parents
  - Staff
- What will you do with this information?
  - Final Paper

## Evaluation Methods:

- Graded discussion board posts
- Final project on how to target behaviors, define the function of that behavior, design a strategy, implement and evaluate the success of the strategy. This paper will be ideally involve a current situation or student issue that the class participant is dealing with. This can be written as a traditional paper or as a BIP.