

Problems and Solutions Facing Education

The Problems and Solutions Facing Education Course is designed for undergraduate college-level study, but its flexibility allows customization to meet the specific needs of any learning group.

Educators and stakeholders have long acknowledged the vital role of education in addressing systemic racism. Despite continued efforts, racial disparities persist in numerous school districts and post-secondary institutions. This course is committed to tackling the systemic challenges encountered by students of color and those from disadvantaged and underserved backgrounds. It recognizes these disparities and aims to equip learners with the tools and knowledge to address them effectively.

Additionally, students will learn about college and career readiness from the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) perspective, which identifies three domains of education: academic learning, social and emotional learning, and college and career readiness. The course enables students to become problem-solvers and participate in discussions on education's challenges and solutions. They will learn about evidence-based solutions from local and national educational leaders demonstrating best practices.

This course provides a comprehensive examination of the various factors that impact education. It covers multiple subjects, including student attrition rates, enrollment disparities, homelessness, socioeconomic status, school funding, college acceptance, and affordability. The course also delves into the importance of teacher quality, diversity among school and college personnel, early childhood education, and the effects of COVID-19 and systemic racism on education. The course's main objective is to equip students with a deeper understanding of creating a supportive environment to address these challenges and find resilient solutions.

The focus of this course extends beyond memorizing information—it aims to cultivate creative and critical thinking abilities to solve problems. Upon completing the course, students will not only have the chance to significantly impact the current education system but also gain a sense of empowerment and capability to effect change.

“Dear Professor Washington,

I am writing to you because I took your 205-010: “Problems and Challenges Facing Education” during the summer; during my final solution project, I focused on building a charter school called “Diamonds in the Rough Academy for Girls of Color” while homing in on the systemic injustices faced by girls of color that hinder them from achieving educational success. Through that project, I developed a research interest in gender, race, delinquency, and education to study further issues that hinder girls of color in the educational system and continue some of the topics I discussed in my final solution project. During my time in your class, I feel that your teachings in institutional and systematic issues facing students of color has led me to pursue research in this area of interest further to find a solution that could close the gap among students of color.”