



Course Overview: EDUC 6976T

Closing the Achievement Gap:

What Highly Effective Teachers Do

Grades K–12

Graduate Credit: 1 semester hour

Teach For America has advocated for educational equity for the last 20 years. Based on evidence from classrooms across the United States, members of the organization have discovered much about effective teaching practices. Teach For America has distilled these findings into the six principles presented in *Teaching As Leadership*, the book upon which this course is based. Teachers will develop a vision for success and learn the key elements for addressing the challenges they face: set big goals; invest students and their families; plan purposefully; execute effectively; continuously increase effectiveness; and work relentlessly. The result is better educational outcomes for our nation’s children, particularly those who live in low-income communities.

In this course, educators critically reflect and analyze the book’s content with the goal of selecting specific practices to apply in their classrooms.

Recommended for teachers of grades K–12.

Course Topics	Course Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Characteristics of effective teachers• Setting high-quality, achievable goals for students• Effective planning• Collaborating with families	<p>By the end of this course, educators will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analyze principles of highly effective teachers• Analyze the achievement gap and strategies to close the gap• Apply strategies to promote student achievement

Method of Assessment

This online, self-paced course is based on the book you selected. The course provides the opportunity to study several educational concepts and apply them to practical teaching situations. You will read the book in its entirety. Assessment is conducted by completing all sections of an Assignment Organizer, which is a 5- to 7-page reflective paper demonstrating that educators have met the outcomes of the course.

Course Materials

The text for this course is available as an eBook (electronic book) offered through Vital Source. You should receive an access code via email within 24–48 hours of registering. If you have not received this email or have any questions about your course materials, please send an email to Inquiry@Canter.net or call 1-800-669-9011 between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. PT.

The course textbook:

Farr, S. (2010). *Teaching as leadership: The highly effective teacher's guide to closing the achievement gap*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.

System Requirements

- Operating system for PC: Windows Vista, or Windows 7 or 8
 - Operating system for Mac: OS X 10.7 (Lion) or higher
 - Processor: 2 GHz, 32/64 bit or higher
 - Memory: Minimum 2 GB of RAM; 4 GB or higher recommended
 - Browsers:
 - Microsoft Internet Explorer 8 or higher
 - Google Chrome 27
 - Mozilla Firefox 21
 - Mac: Apple Safari 5.1 or higher
 - Internet connection: Broadband (DSL, cable modem, or similar) required
 - Software: Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint, Adobe Flash Player 11.1 or higher (free), Adobe Acrobat Reader version 10.1 or higher (free)
 - Monitor resolution: 1280 x 800 pixels or higher
- Note:** Read4Credit™ Courses do not require Microsoft PowerPoint. Some Read4Credit™ courses may require Adobe Flash Player.

Note: If you are using a Macintosh, please be sure and download the latest version of Firefox from Mozilla: <http://www.mozilla.com/firefox/> It is free, and the download should only take a few minutes.

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ABOUT CANTER

Canter, a subsidiary of Laureate Education, Inc., is committed to serving the educational community with high-quality, graduate-level courses that blend research-based theory with practical strategies. Canter began with one groundbreaking guide on managing behavior in the classroom and, more than 35 years later, has helped more than 300,000 educators address the most critical issues in education while advancing their careers. For more information about Canter graduate-level courses, visit www.Canter.net or call 1-800-669-9011.

ABOUT OUR PARTNERSHIP

Canter offers its courses in partnership with Walden University, allowing you to benefit from Canter's quality curriculum in a self-paced format, while earning graduate credit from a leading accredited university.* The course curriculum is developed and designed by Canter in collaboration with national education experts, while graduate credit is granted through Walden University, which assesses student work. Credit may be applicable for certification renewal and/or salary advancement. Course credit may be transferable with prior approval from the university providing your advanced degree or planned program.

Walden University

The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership at Walden University is accredited by National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and dedicated to enhancing educator effectiveness. As a recognized standard of excellence in professional education for the preparation of teachers, administrators, and other pre-K–12 school professionals, NCATE accreditation ensures the college has met rigorous national standards set by the profession and members of the public.

The college, named for the former Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education, was identified by *U.S. News & World Report* as having the largest online graduate program in education by enrollment (May 2010). Walden students were awarded the fourth most TEACH Grants to students nationwide in 2010–2011, according to the U.S. Department of Education. The choice of more than 53,000 students and alumni, including more than 80 state teachers of the year, the college is also a proud partner of the National Education Association (NEA) Academy and a year-round sponsor of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

*Walden University is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association (www.ncahlc.org). Canter and Walden University are both subsidiaries of Laureate Education.