# California State University,

# **Northridge**

Michael D. Eisner College of Education Department of Educational Psychology and Counseling

# Course Syllabus SPED 610: PROGRAM PLANNING FOR STUDENTS WITH EXCEPTIONAL NEEDS SPRING 2025

Instructor: Heather Stuve Contact phone: 805-813-9945

Class: Thursdays 7:00pm to 9:45pm

**Room location:** Bookstein Hall 1230

**Online Zoom:** Meeting ID: 830 2253 1713

**Passcode: SPED610** 

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#### Michael D. Eisner College of Education Conceptual Framework:

The faculty of the Michael D. Eisner College of Education, regionally focused and nationally recognized, is committed to excellence, innovation, and social justice. Excellence includes the acquisition of professional dispositions, skills, and research-based knowledge, and is demonstrated by the development of ethical and caring professionals—faculty, staff, candidates—and those they serve. Innovation occurs through the leadership and commitment of faculty, and through collaborative partnerships among communities of diverse learners who engage in creative and reflective thinking. We are dedicated to promoting social justice and becoming agents of change in schools and our communities. We continually strive to achieve the following competencies and values that form the foundation of the Conceptual Framework.

- We value academic excellence in the acquisition of research-based professional knowledge and skills.
- We strive to positively impact schools and communities. Therefore, we foster a culture of evidence to determine the impact of our programs, to monitor candidate growth, and to inform ongoing program and unit improvement.
- We value ethical practice and what it means to become ethical and caring professionals.
- We value collaborative partnerships within the Michael D. Eisner College of Education as well as across disciplines with other CSUN faculty, P-12 educators and related professionals, and other members of regional and national educational and service communities.
- We value people from diverse backgrounds and experiences and are dedicated to addressing the varied strengths, interests, and needs of communities of diverse learners.
- We value creative, critical, and reflective thinking and practice

# **Course Description**

This course focuses on informal assessment techniques and data collection leading to program planning and evaluation for students with exceptional needs. Models of curriculum and instructional strategies based on best practices will be presented. Students will utilize research and contemporary theoretical orientations to evaluate and modify instruction leading to the development of program plans for successful student achievement. State curricular frameworks and content standards as well as federal mandates for high stakes assessment will be covered. Emphasis is given to assessment methodology, selection of educational priorities, and principles of developing and evaluating individualized plans and integrated interventions.

# **Program Student Learning Objectives**

<u>Program Goal 2. Respect for Human Diversity and Equitable Practices for Diverse Student Populations:</u> Provide a foundation and expectation to understand, respect, and celebrate human diversity and promote effective services, social justice, and social advocacy for all students, families, and schools. (NASP Domain 8: Equitable Practices for Diverse Student Populations; CCTC SPPE 8)

SLO 3: Respect for Human Diversity and Equitable Practices: School Psychology candidates will obtain at least a B on their exams and/or project(s) in specific classes, and/or satisfactory performance on instructor and/or supervisor evaluations based on their ability to demonstrate Knowledge of human diversity, including individual differences, abilities, disabilities, religion, culture, and cultural identity, race, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, socioeconomic status, and other diverse characteristics within individuals and families, the effects they have on development and learning, and promote effective general and special education services, social justice, and social advocacy for all students, families, and schools to address potential influences related to diversity. (NASP Domain 8; CCTC SPPE 8)

<u>Program Goal 6: Academic, Behavioral, Mental Health and Life Success:</u> Provide knowledge and skills to school psychology candidates on evidenced based academic, behavioral, and social-emotional interventions based on theory, risk and resiliency/developmental assets research, a systems ecological approach, and data based decision making to address individual and systemic factors to improve outcomes for overall school and life success.

**SLO 10:** Academic Interventions using Risk and Resiliency Theory/Research and Systems-Ecological Approach: School Psychology candidates will obtain at least a B on their exams and/or project(s) in specific classes, and/or satisfactory performance on instructor and/or supervisor evaluations based on **knowledge**, **skills**, **and competence** on the use of academic interventions based on evidence based practice, effective teaching and instruction, diversity in learning and language proficiency, effective data based assessment, monitoring, and evaluation, and a systems ecological approach to address individual and systemic factors to improve academic outcomes. (NASP Domain 3: Academic Interventions and Instructional Supports; CCTC SPPE 3)

<u>Program Goal 7: Creating and Maintaining Safe, Supportive, Equitable, and Effective School Wide Learning Environments:</u> Provide knowledge and skills on understanding systems, using a systems ecological approach, and create and maintain safe, supportive, equitable, and effective school wide learning environments through a comprehensive service delivery model.

**SLO 13: School Wide Practices to Promote Learning:** School psychologists candidates will obtain at least a B on their exams and/or project(s) in specific classes, and/or satisfactory performance on

instructor and/or supervisor evaluations based on their ability to demonstrate *knowledge* of systems' structures, system ecological approach, organization, and theory; general and special education programming; and evidence-based school-wide practices that promote learning, positive behavior, and mental health and collaborate with others, to develop and implement practices and strategies to create and maintain safe, effective, positive school climate, and supportive learning environments for students and school staff. (NASP Domain 5: School-Wide Practices to Promote Learning; CCTC SPPE 5)

# **Course Objectives Related to NASP and CCTC**

#### **Domain 3: Academic Interventions and Instructional Supports**

School psychologists understand the biological, cultural, and social influences on academic skills; human learning, cognitive, and developmental processes; and evidence-based curricula and instructional strategies. School psychologists, in collaboration with others, use assessment and data collection methods to implement and evaluate services that support academic skill development in children.

#### **Domain 5: School-Wide Practices to Promote Learning**

School psychologists understand systems structures, organization, and theory; general and special education programming; implementation science; and evidence-based, school-wide practices that promote learning, positive behavior, and mental health. School psychologists, in collaboration with others, develop

#### **Domain 8: Equitable Practices for Diverse Student Populations**

School psychologists have knowledge of individual differences, abilities, disabilities, and other diverse characteristics and of the impact they have on development and learning. They also understand principles and research related to diversity in children, families, schools, and communities, including factors related to child development, religion, culture and cultural identity, race, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, socioeconomic status, and other variables. School psychologists implement evidence-based strategies to enhance services in both general and special education and address potential influences related to diversity. School psychologists demonstrate skills to provide professional services that promote effective functioning for individuals, families, and schools with diverse characteristics, cultures, and backgrounds through an ecological lens across multiple contexts. School psychologists recognize that equitable practices for diverse student populations, respect for diversity in development and learning, and advocacy for social justice are foundational to effective service delivery. While equality ensures that all children have the same access to general and special educational opportunities, equity ensures that each student receives what they need to benefit from these opportunities.

#### SPECIFIC COURSE OBJECTIVES

#### Students will be able to:

- Have knowledge of schools s organizations, general and special education, technology resources, and evidence based school practices that promote academic outcomes. (CCTC SPPE 5.0)
- Have knowledge of direct interventions that focus on academic interventions for children and families. (CCTC SPPE 3.0)
- O Utilize a collaborative problem-solving data-based decision model to recommend academic and environmental interventions for students who are at-risk and consider biological, cultural, and social influences, including complex trauma and stress, and language acquisition and language retention when developing interventions (CCTC SPPE 3.2).
- o Administer and interpret Curriculum Based Measurements (CBM) and Curriculum Based Assessments (CBA) to help guide program planning and program evaluation.

- O Understand the development, improvement, and evaluation of school wide programs that support effective student learning by using various intervention methods. (CCTC SPPE 5.2)
- o Define and explain the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS).
- Select, interpret and apply assessment results as they relate to instructional practices (CCTC SPPE 9.2)
- o Discuss stages of reading, math, oral language and written language development and interventions based upon current empirically based models for prevention and intervention.
- Recommend Accommodations & Modifications to Core Curriculum based on student culture, language proficiency, social, biological, and learning factors and present levels of performance for successful academic achievement.
- Work with and provide support to multidisciplinary teams to design and implement evidenced based practices and direct interventions that focus on appropriate academic progress for all children. (CCTC SPPE 3.1; CCTC SPPE 9.1)
- O Define student goals and outcomes for successful program planning, program evaluation, and successful achievement and be able to implement evidenced based strategies and evaluate services that support cognitive and academic skills development for all children. (CCTC SPPE 8.3)
- o Understand State adopted academic standards to include in goals based on these standards for successful program planning, program evaluation, and achievement.
- o Incorporate functional curriculum and assistive technology into programs for students with moderate to severe disabilities.
- Learn and use technology for communication and intervention including using various techniques and technology resources for data collection and interpretation to identify appropriate academic interventions (CCTC SPPE 9.4)
- Act as a change agent and advocate for fairness and equity in all aspects of professional practice, including addressing school wide interventions to promote positive academic outcomes, effective learning, social development, and mental health to all students. (CCTC SPPE 8.4; SPPE 5.1)

# **Instructional Philosophy**

The School Psychology program at CSUN is designed based on learning-centered, outcome-based educational principles but also focuses on mastery of specific discipline specific skills, such as assessment, counseling, consultation, and intervention. The school psychology faculty encourage cooperative groups where they mediate each other's learning based on content, experience, and role playing of skills, while gathering data of the process and ultimately student (client) outcomes.

# **Learning Methods for this Class Include**

- Class lectures, presentations and discussions
- Assigned readings in required text and other assigned materials
- Small group discussions/skill practice in class
- Independent research of subject materials in library/on internet/media.
- Completion of assigned papers

# **Signature Assignment**

Each course in the program has a signature assignment that is consistent across sections and designed to ensure that all students demonstrate competency in core knowledge and skills. These are graded

using a standardized scoring rubric and is used to measure student learning outcomes in the program and to provide faculty with information about the effectiveness of the curriculum.

The signature assignments for this course is: Academic Assessment Case Study:

Students will select and administer a curriculum-based measurement in reading, math, or written language to a volunteer child or adolescent; selected curriculum-based measurement domain should be implemented a minimum of 5 times; conduct analysis of the assessment results to determine if student is functioning in the frustration or instructional level, establish academic baseline for intervention recommendations and academic goal development. A reflection on reasoning for measurement tool selection and facilitation experience will be included.

More information will be given in class. 20 points

# **Additional Assignments**

Students will demonstrate skills to develoop and implement practices and strategies to create and maintain effective and supportive learning environments for all children (CCTC SPPE 5.1) via:

# **Simulation Participation and Reflection:**

Students will be placed in a small group. Each student in that group will apply key concepts from class related to collaboration, communication, and inclusive practices to an interactive simulation session with an avatar, practicing skills for interacting effectively with a resistant teacher in a Zoom simulation session during a student study team meeting with the goal of implementing evidence based multi-teired prevention strategies (CCTC 6.1). After the participation, a two-to-three-page reflection will be written applying key concepts in class, with an emphasis on analyzing the communication skills used, as well as the application of key concepts from class, and how these can be utilized in K-12 educational scenarios. 15 points

**Student Interview Form Assignment:** Students will create an interview form to determine how the student being assessed perceives the demands of the academic environment. Form will include items such as the degree the student understands classroom assignments and activities as well as their perceptions regarding their academic experience and performance. 10 points

**Teacher Interview Form Assignment:** Students will create a teacher survey form to facilitate teacher interviews. The form will include the nature of current student academic interventions and general information about how the teacher manages instruction and the classroom environment as well as individual student performance. 15 points

#### **Current Issues in Special Education Presentation Assignment:**

Special education faces various challenges and issues that can impact the effectiveness of providing appropriate and equitable education to students with disabilities. The purpose of this assignment is to explore and present on contemporary issues in the field of special education. Students will research, analyze, and discuss key challenges and developments affecting the education of students with disabilities and conduct in-depth research on the chosen issue. Students will be expected to explore scholarly articles, reports, and reputable sources to gather information and analyze the impact of the issue on students with disabilities, educators, and the educational system. 20 points

# Individual Education Plan Development Assignments (CCTC SPPE 5.2; SPPE 8.3; SPPE 8.4 – Practiced):

Utilizing the academic assessment conducted, students function as a change agent to inform school wide interventions and promote fairness and equity through positive academic outcomes, effective

learning, social development, and mental health by create academic and non-academic baselines and draft present levels of performance, annual goals in areas of need, recommended accommodations/modifications, and classroom supports for IEP development and collaborate with other school personnel and parents to support students learning. More information will be covered in class. 10 points each

# Attendance, Discussion and Workshops: Ongoing as assigned

Candidates will be graded on contributions during in-class discussions and workshops.

#### **Examinations/Culminating Activity:**

A final exam will be given.

# **Required Books**

Schillinger, Mary, & Wetzel, Becky. (2013) <u>Common Core and the Special Education Student.</u> LRP Publications, Palm Beach Gardens, FL.

https://www.amazon.com/Common-Core-Special-Education-Student/dp/B0186082SM

**Simulator Voucher:** Students will need to buy a voucher at the bookstore for \$20 for the simulation exercise and turn it in to their instructor prior to their simulation. To buy them online:

• Emarket Link for SIMPACT Vouchers: <a href="https://commerce.cashnet.com/csunsimpact">https://commerce.cashnet.com/csunsimpact</a>

Once you've ordered it online, you select "pick up in person." but you don't need to physically pick anything up.

You will submit your digital receipt on Canvas as your "Voucher".

# **Course Requirements**

#### **Attendance and Participation:**

Active class participation is required. This is defined as attending <u>every</u> session, participating in discussions and small group activities. Any activity completed in class <u>cannot</u> be made up. It is the responsibility of each student to obtain materials and lecture notes from another student if they are absent for any reason. **Unexcused absences of two or more classes will result in a reduction of one full grade on the final course grade.** It is important to check the course Canvas content weekly to bring the required materials to class and complete the online assignments posted.

#### Grade Scale:

$\mathbf{A}$	=	94.0 to 100%	A's - Outstanding. A's are reserved for those
<b>A</b> -	=	90.0 to 93.9%	students whose performance is <i>truly</i> outstanding. Performance reflects an outstanding
B+ B B-	= = =	88.0 to 89.9% 84.0 to 87.9% 80.0 to 83.9%	level of competency attainment – including critical analyses, information syntheses, and application of theory and research to practice. Projects and presentations are comprehensive, thoughtful, well organized, clearly written and effectively presented.
C+	=	78.0 to 79.9%	B's- Very Good. Performance surpasses a basic level of competency attainment, understanding, and skill,
C	=	74.0 to 77.9%	and indicates an ability to integrate and apply information.
C-	=	70.0 to 73.9%	C's - Satisfactory. Performance reflects basic level of competency attainment, understanding, and skill.
$\mathbf{D}$ +	=	68.0 to 69.9%	D's - Unsatisfactory. Performance meets
D	=	64.0 to 67.9%	expectations for basic level of attainment for some
D-	=	60.0 to 63.9%	competencies and understanding of some content.  F - Failing. Performance does not meet expectations for basic level of competency attainment and
F	=	less than 60%	understanding.

University Policy on GPA Requirements for Graduate Programs (from the University Catalogue) Students pursuing a Graduate Degree must maintain a minimum 3.0 (B) average in the formal program and the cumulative grade point average.

School psychology students need to pass with a B or better. Higher standards that take precedence over the University policy.

# **Policies and Resources**

#### Attendance

Students manifest their responsibility in the regularity and punctuality of their attendance. Since this course includes significant seminar and experiential components, attendance at each class meeting is mandatory and is calculated as part of the grade. *In cases of absence, any scheduled assignments are due to the professor at the beginning of class unless other arrangements have been made prior to that time.* If you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to check online and with fellow classmates regarding announcements made while you were absent; this includes supplemental instructions related to assignments. You are responsible for and may be tested on any and all lecture materials presented in class that are not covered in your readings.

#### Due Dates and Times

Due dates are non-negotiable unless an extension is provided to the entire class and/or if one has been approved in writing for serious medical necessity.

## Requests for Incompletes

Incompletes will only be considered in accordance with university policy, which requires that 75% of course be completed prior to unforeseen grave circumstances at the end of the semester, such as the loss of an immediate family member, hospitalization, or severe illness. Students

must request a grade of Incomplete in writing using the university's Incomplete Request Form (www.csun.edu/anr/forms/request incomplete.pdf).

# Religious Holidays

If you celebrate a religious holiday that falls on a scheduled class meeting, please notify the instructor during the *first two weeks of class* so that proper and equitable accommodations can be made. Students are responsible for selecting presentation days that do not conflict with one of their religious holidays.

# **Professionalism**

As a course in a professional training program, students are expected to consistently demonstrate professional behavior. This includes but is not limited to:

- Being on time to class and with assignments.
- Respectful interactions with all students and faculty.
- Proactive engagement in the learning process.
- Being organized and prepared.
- Managing paperwork effectively.
- Managing technology effectively
- Managing personal information (own and others') appropriately.

Students who have difficulty in one or more of these areas may have their participation grade lowered and in severe cases may be referred to the department student affairs committee for further review.

#### Students with Disabilities

If you have special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and need course materials in alternative formats, notify your course instructor within the *first two weeks of class*. Students interested in accommodations should contact the university's office for students with disabilities; only this office can recommend and arrange for accommodations (Disability Resources and Educational Services, 818/677-2684). No accommodations may be made without their approval. Any and all reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate your special needs.

# Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism

Cheating and plagiarism are serious offenses in a professional program and may result in expulsion from the program/university on a *first offense*. See the University Catalog for further information.

# **Recording of Lectures**

Due to the sensitive nature of content discussed in the program, no classes may be recorded without explicit written permission from the instructor. Students granted recording as an accommodation from Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) must develop a separate written plan in coordination with the instructor and DRES for how student and client confidentiality will be handled with permitted in-class recordings. Instructors are required to inform the entire class if recording is permitted for an accommodation.

# **Resources:**

**CSUN's Computer Support** 

http://www.csun.edu/helpdesk/

#### **Request for Incomplete Grade**

www.csun.edu/anr/forms/request incomplete.pdf

# **Disabilities Resources and Educational Services**

http://www.csun.edu/dres/studentservices/index.php

# **Writing Center**

http://www.csun.edu/lrc/

#### **CSUN Student Conduct Policies**

http://www.csun.edu/studentaffairs/policies/conduct.htm

# Research and Library Assistance

http://library.csun.edu/ResearchAssistance/AskUs

<u>CSUN with A HEART</u> for valuable information that will connect you to various resources regarding the basic needs of students in the CSUN campus community. If you are facing challenges related to food insecurity, housing precarity/homelessness, mental health, access to technology, eldercare/childcare, or healthcare, you can find guidance, help, and resources from CSUN with A HEART (https://www.csun.edu/heart).

# **Tentative Course Outline**

WEEK	CLASS CONTENT	ASSIGNMENT
January 23	Introduction and Overview Child Find Response to Intervention Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (CCTC SPPE 6.1; SPPE 5.1)	
January 30	Standards for the Teaching Profession Common Core State Standards Universal Design for Learning(CCTC SPPE 6.1)	DUE: SST Meeting Example Read Schillinger Chapter 1 and 2

February 6	Predetermination  Disproportionality in Special Education  Assessing the Academic Environment	DUE: CTSP Discussion Post Read Schillinger Chapter 3
February 13	Universal Screening Tools (CCTC SPPE 6.1)  Curriculum-based Measurements and Assessments Overview	
February 20 ONLINE	Simpact Simulation Activity (ONLINE)	DUE: Student Interview Form Assignment
February 27	Executive Function Parent and Student Rights Special Factors: EL Learners and Behaviors	Simpact Reflection Due
March 6	Establishing Baselines and Present Levels	Current Issues Presentations
March 13	Creating Common Core-Based IEPs Writing Academic Common Core-Linked IEP Goals	Current Issues Presentations  Read Schillinger Chapter 5 and 6

March 20	Spring Break-No Class	_
March 27	Writing Non-Academic Common Core-Linked IEP Goals	Current Issues Presentations
April 3	Service Models and Program Placements	Current Issues Presentations  Read Schillinger Chapter 7
April 10	Technology Integration  IEP Team Collaboration	Read Schillinger Chapter 4
April 17	Service Options Potential Harmful Effects  IEP Accommodations and Modifications	CBM Assignment Due Read Schillinger Chapter 8

April 24	Ensuring Educational Benefit  Extended School Year Considerations  Statewide Assessments	IEP Development#1 Assignment Due Read Schillinger Chapter 9
May 1 Guest Lecturer Debbie Caesario	Individual Transition Plans  Diploma and Certificate of Completion  Graduation Tracks	IEP Development #2 Assignment Due
May 8	Post-secondary programs and supports Supporting the Extensive Support Needs Student Population Functional Curriculum Domains	
May 15	• Final Exam	

# Appendix A

# **Rubric for Signature Assignment (s)**

	4	3	2	1
Appropriate selection	Student	Student	Student did not	Student did not
and administration of	selected a skill	selected a skill	select a skill and	select a skill and
a curriculum-based	and age level	and age level	age level	age level
assessment	appropriate	appropriate	appropriate CBA	appropriate
	CBA and	CBA and	and facilitated it	CBA and
	facilitated it 3	facilitated it 1	3 to 5 times	facilitated it 1 to
	to 5 times	to 3 times		3 times
Understanding and	Student	Student	Student	Student did not
utilization of	demonstrated	demonstrated	demonstrated	demonstrate
assessment data	strong	average	below average	understanding

	1 , 1'	1 ( 1'	1 ( 1'	1 (11 (1
	understanding	understanding	understanding	and utilization
	and utilization	and utilization	and utilization	of CBA data
	of CBA data	of CBA data	of CBA data	
Analysis of the	Student	Student	Student	Student did not
assessment results	completed a	completed an	completed a	complete a
and determine	strong,	adequate	below average	strong, thorough
baseline for	thorough	analysis of	analysis of	analysis of
intervention	analysis of	assessment	assessment	assessment
	assessment	results and	results and	results or
	results and	developed an	developed an	develop an
	developed an	appropriate	appropriate	appropriate
	appropriate	baseline	baseline	baseline
	baseline			
Development of an	Student	Student	Student	Student did not
academic intervention	developed a	developed an	developed a	develop an
to be implemented	strong,	adequate	below average	appropriate
	appropriate	intervention for	intervention for	intervention for
	academic	implementation	implementation	implementation
	intervention for	_	_	_
	implementation			
Monitor academic	Student	Student	Student	Student did not
intervention and use	demonstrated	demonstrated	demonstrated	demonstrate
assessment tool for	strong and	average skills	below average	strong and
evaluation	effective skills	in the	skills in the	effective skills
	in the	monitoring and	monitoring and	in the
	monitoring and	evaluation of	evaluation of	monitoring and
	evaluation of	assessment and	assessment and	evaluation of
	assessment and	intervention	intervention	assessment and
	intervention			intervention

# Appendix B

# Attendance and Participation Rubric

	4	3	2	1
Attendance/Promptness	Student is	Student is	Student is late to	Student has
	always prompt	late to class	class more than	been late to
	and regularly	once every	once every two	class at least
	attends classes	two weeks	weeks and	four times and
			regularly attends	has poor
			classes	attendance
Level of Engagement in	Student	Student	Student rarely	Student never
class	proactively	proactively	contributes to	contributes to
	contributes to	contributes	class by offering	class by offering
	class by	to class by	ideas and asking	ideas and asking
	offering ideas	offering	questions.	questions

	and asking	ideas and		
	_			
	questions more	asking		
	than once per	questions		
	class.	once per		
		class		
Listening Skills	Student listens	Student	Student	Student does not
	when others	listens when	inconsistently	listen when
	talk, both in	others talk,	listens when	others talk,
	groups and in	appears	others talk,	appears
	class. Student	attentive and	inconsistently	distracted and
	incorporates or	interested	appears attentive	inattentive
	builds off of		and interested	
	the ideas of			
	others.			
Behavior	Student almost	Student	Student	Student almost
	never displays	rarely	occasionally	always displays
	disruptive	displays	displays	disruptive
	behavior during	disruptive	disruptive	behavior during
	class.	behavior	behavior during	class.
		during class.	class.	

# **SPED 610 Index for CCTC Standards**

SPPE	<b>Introduced</b>	<b>Practiced</b>	Assessed
3.0	p. 3		
3.1	p. 4		
3.2	p. 3		
3.4	p. 4		
5.0	p. 3		
5.1	p. 4	<mark>p. 5</mark>	
5.2	p. 4	<mark>p. 5</mark>	
6.1	p. 9		
8.3	p. 3	<mark>p. 5</mark>	
8.4	p. 4	<mark>p. 5</mark>	
9.1	p. 4		
9.2	p. 4		
9.4	<mark>р. 4</mark>		

<sup>\*</sup>Pages on which CTC Standards are introduced in yellow, pages where they are practiced are in magenta.