**Syllabus for Post-Secondary Options Counseling for Students with Disabilities**

**Course Title**: Post-Secondary Options Counseling for Students with Disabilities

**Course Duration**: 10–12 Weeks

**Target Audience**: School counselors, special education teachers, career advisors, and professionals working with students with disabilities

**Course Objectives**

By the end of the course, participants will:

1. Understand the unique challenges and opportunities for students with disabilities in post-secondary planning.

2. Identify and assess post-secondary options including colleges, vocational programs, and employment tailored to diverse abilities.

3. Navigate disability-specific resources, laws, and accommodations (e.g., ADA, Section 504).

4. Develop strategies to foster self-advocacy and independence in students.

5. Collaborate with families, schools, and community organizations to create comprehensive transition plans.

**Course Outline**

**Week 1: Foundations of Post-Secondary Planning for Students with Disabilities**

• Overview of the course and expectations

• Challenges and opportunities for students with disabilities

• The importance of person-centered planning

**Week 2: Legal Frameworks and Rights**

• Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504

• Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and transition services

• Understanding rights and responsibilities at the post-secondary level

**Week 3: Career Exploration and Assessment**

• Tools and assessments tailored to students with disabilities (e.g., O\*NET, interest inventories)

• Aligning career options with student interests, strengths, and abilities

• Exploring work-based learning opportunities

**Week 4: Post-Secondary Education Options**

• Overview of colleges, trade schools, and certifications

• Accessing accommodations in higher education (e.g., disability services offices, IEP to 504 transitions)

• Online and hybrid learning options

**Week 5: Transition to Employment**

• Vocational rehabilitation services and programs

• Supported employment and internships

• Developing soft skills and workplace readiness

**Week 6: Financial Planning and Support**

• Financial aid and scholarships for students with disabilities

• Budgeting for post-secondary education or employment

• Navigating SSI, SSDI, and benefits programs

**Week 7: Fostering Self-Advocacy and Independence**

• Teaching self-advocacy skills for post-secondary settings

• Strategies to build student confidence and independence

• Empowering families to support student autonomy

**Week 8: Engaging Families and Building Partnerships**

• Collaborating with parents, educators, and service providers

• Building connections with community organizations

• Transition meetings and IEP/504 planning

**Week 9: Assistive Technology and Accessibility**

• Overview of assistive technologies for education and work

• Evaluating and selecting tools based on student needs

• Ensuring accessibility in digital and physical environments

**Week 10: Case Studies and Application**

• Real-world scenarios in post-secondary counseling

• Designing comprehensive and individualized transition plans

• Final project presentations

**Assessments**

• Weekly reflections and discussion forums

• Mid-term assignment: Case study analysis and response

• Final project: Develop a post-secondary transition plan for a student with disabilities

**Materials and Resources**

• Textbook: *Transition Planning for Secondary Students with Disabilities* by Robert E. Baer and others

• Online career assessment tools

• Supplemental readings: Articles, laws, and case studies provided by the instructor