Spring 2026 AAC-305
Professional Development
Alabama Connections Academy
Course Syllabus

Mission Statement

From silence to strength: empowering voices through AAC.

Instructor

Instructor: Alex Easterling
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Office Hours: Virtual by Appointment
Location: Hybrid/Classroom Location: 21465 AL-99, Athens, AL 35614

Course Information

Course Name: Voice Through LAMP: Empowering Student Communication through AAC
Strategies
Course Code: AAC-305
Credit Hours: 3 Credits

Welcome

Hello and welcome to the Voice Through LAMP training! As a valued educator, therapist, or advocate in our community, you will be introduced to a new way of thinking about how to help our students meet and exceed their unique communication needs. You will gain an understanding of the Language Acquisition through Motor Planning (LAMP) methodology, and you will learn how to use this exciting new tool to assist students with communicating in a manner that is truly authentic, functional, and personal to them.

This course is designed to provide you with tools, strategies, and insight on how to support all students in finding their voice as well as hearing and responding to the voices of others in your classroom. You will engage in practice, reflection, and application to learn how to create learning opportunities for students that are sensitive to their individual communication pathways.

We'll investigate: The foundational principles of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC), the motor learning tenets that underpin LAMP Planning resources that elevate student voice, motivation, and engagement.

Course Description

This course equips educators with the knowledge and tools to support students with complex communication needs using Language Acquisition through Motor Planning (LAMP). Through hands-on modeling, real-life integration, and compassionate instruction, participants learn to create inclusive environments where every student can find and express their voice.

Prerequisite

None

Required Text and Materials

- Software: Access to an iPad with the *LAMP Words for Life* App (or Chat Editor emulation software on PC).
- Textbook (Recommended): *The AAC Natural Language Acquisition Guide* (Selected readings).
- Handouts: Provided by the instructor (based on resources from The Center for AAC & Autism).

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:
- Implement LAMP-based AAC strategies across instructional settings.
- Facilitate aided language input through motor planning and consistent modeling.
- Evaluate barriers to student motivation and engagement.
- Develop strategies to improve student motivation and engagement.
- Support students in developing individualized, functional communication skills.

Module Objectives

Module 1: Foundations of AAC and LAMP Module Learning Objectives:
- Define AAC and its relevance to students with communication challenges. (CO1–CO5)
- Identify characteristics of students who benefit from LAMP strategies. (CO3, CO5)
- Explain core principles of motor mapping and aided language stimulation. (CO2)
- Demonstrate generalization of AAC use across settings. (CO1, CO4)
- Reflect on personal goals and barriers. (CO3)

Assessments & Learning Activities

- Watch Why AAC Matters Video
- Practice with LAMP Words for Life (guided PowerPoint)
- Reflect on My Voice Journey (interactive storyline)
- Pre-Module Quiz (diagnostic, not graded)
- Case Study Analysis (application of LAMP principles)
- Small-Group Discussion Forum (collaborative learning) (Padlet)
- Interactive Demonstration Reflection (practical integration)
- Reflection Journal (personalized application) Instructional Materials

Instructional Materials

- PDF Quick Guide: Syllabus
- LAMP instructional video (captioned for accessibility)
- PowerPoint presentation: Foundations of AAC and LAMP
- Discussion: Padlet
- Journal Reflection Template (Word Document)

Grading and Evaluation

Component	Description	Weight
Participation/Discussions	Weekly engagement in discussion boards or in-class activities.	15%
Device Fluency Checks	Short practical exams demonstrating the ability to find words quickly.	15%
Video Modeling Project	Demonstration of Aided Language Input techniques.	20%
Case Study Analysis	Written plan for a hypothetical student (sensory + language goals). Workshop	30%
Final Implementation Plan	A comprehensive IEP-style plan integrating LAMP into a student's daily life.	20%

Late Work Policy

Late work won't be accepted; contact your professor to mitigate circumstances.

Minimum Skills Required

In your online coursework, you'll need to:
- Use email with attachments
- Browse the web
- Create documents in Google Drive/Microsoft Office
- Join discussion boards and submit assignments online
- Upload/download files with reliable internet access
- Share and store data on networks
- Search academically with keywords/filters
- Cite sources correctly

Class Participation & Discussion Boards

Students are expected to complete assigned readings and actively engage in classroom discussions. A dedicated discussion board will be provided for exploring topics related to Instructional Design. Please consult the grading rubric to ensure you understand the expectations for each assignment.

Participation in discussion boards is an effective way to strengthen your course grade; however, lack of engagement can negatively impact your performance. All boards operate in *post-first mode*, meaning you must submit your initial post before gaining access to your peers' contributions. Refer to the course calendar for deadlines regarding initial posts and follow-up responses.

Class Activities & Projects

Throughout the course, you will complete a variety of activities designed to reinforce and apply the skills you are learning. Detailed instructions for each assignment are available in your Canvas Course Site. Be sure to review the course calendar for all due dates.

Course Policies

- Academic Integrity: All work must be your own. Plagiarism or cheating will not be tolerated.
- Participation: Active participation in discussions and activities is expected.
- Accessibility: Course materials are designed to be accessible. Contact the instructor if you need accommodations.

- Communication: Questions and messages will be responded to within 48 hours. Feedback on assignments will be provided within one week.

Methods of Communication

- Email Communication: Use the Contact Menu whenever possible. For emergencies, contact **_easterlingsart@gmail.com_**
- Phone Communication: 256-203-6566. When leaving a voicemail, clearly state your name, phone number, and message. Speak slowly and distinctly.

Response Times

- Allow up to **48 hours** for replies to emails or phone messages.
- Messages received on **Fridays or holidays** will be addressed on the next business day.
- If additional time is required, faculty will notify students.
- Feedback on graded assignments and activities will typically be provided within **one week**.

Expectations for Online Communication

Students are expected to follow professional standards of online interaction. Please adhere to:

- Netiquette Guidelines: Educational Technology and Mobile Learning (2014)
- Easterlingsart Standards: (2025). *Code of Student Conduct*.

Minimum Technology Requirements

- Basic requirements for hybrid classes at Easterlingsart are:
- Broadband internet Web
- Camera and Microphone
- Padlet System Requirements
- Vehicle to travel

Accessibility and Accommodations

If you require accommodations for a disability (e.g., extended time, alternative formats), please get in touch with the Office of Disability Services and notify the instructor within the first week of class.

Important Technical Support Contact Information

If you have questions about using WIX, please visit the WIX 24/7 Chat Button. If you cannot view the WIX - Start Here Module, then please e-mail easterlingsart@gmail.com for information. Please include your full name, email address, a phone number, and short message.

Privacy Policy

- We collect your name, email or phone number, course participation details, assignments, and any accessibility needs you share with us.
- We use this information to communicate with you, grade your work, give feedback, support discussions, and arrange any needed accommodations.
- We keep your information confidential and do not share it outside the course unless the law requires it. Your grades and feedback are private.
- Platforms like Canvas, Padlet, WIX, and the LAMP App handle your data based on their own privacy policies, which are separate from our course policies.
- The instructor will reply to your questions within 48 hours, not counting weekends or holidays. Please keep all online interactions professional.
- If you need accommodations, the Office of Disability Services will handle your request confidentially.
- Finishing this course does not make you a "LAMP Certified Professional."

If you have questions, please contact Instructor Alex Easterling at easterlingsart@gmail.com or 256-203-6566.

Disclaimer: This syllabus is for educational purposes. While it covers the LAMP approach, completion of this course does not automatically confer "LAMP Certified Professional" status, which is a specific trademarked certification process managed by The Center for AAC & Autism.*