



Restorative Practices

10 continuing education hours

Option for 1 graduate-level continuing education credit with final project

Course Designers



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Course Description

Chronic behavior problems are often a challenge in classrooms but traditional reactions and punishments have failed to move the needle. Restorative practices are a set of practices that honor student background and identity and set a different tone of respect and dignity by restoring agency. A system that treats behavior differently and opens a dialogue between educators and students can truly make a difference. This course will examine restorative practices—what they are, how to implement them, and what to expect—and how they can transform your learning environment into a more productive space where all students feel a sense of belonging. As we explore the concept of restorative practices, we will explicitly focus on circle practice and how circles can be utilized both proactively as well as in non-disciplinary circumstances.

Course Material


All materials used throughout the course can be found within each module. The following supplemental texts are recommended but not required for the course.

- [*Restorative Practices Handbook for Teachers, Disciplinarians and Administrators*](#) by Bob Costello, Joshua Wachtel, Ted Wachtel
- [*Restorative Circles in Schools: Building Community and Enhancing Learning*](#) by Bob Costello, Joshua Wachtel, Ted Wachtel

Course Objectives & Learning Outcomes

- Understand what restorative practices are and are not
- Learn how to design and implement circles
- Examine restorative circles through the lens of UDL to help all learners grow and succeed

Course Modules

MODULE	Topics
	<p>Module 1: What Are Restorative Practices?</p> <p>Restorative practices are a set of practices that honor student background and identity and set a different tone of respect and dignity by restoring agency. This module will provide a general overview of what restorative practices are and how they foster equitable learning environments.</p> <p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understand the indigenous roots of restorative practices• Examine how restorative practices and restorative justice are different <p>Essential Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How can restorative practices build equity, agency, and a greater sense of understanding? <p>Module Lessons</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Equity and indigenous roots2. Restorative Justice vs. Restorative Practices <p>Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Watch the video• Read/Watch/Listen to the lesson and resources• Participate in discussion (optional) or take time to self-reflect• Complete the self-assessment

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Module 2: What Is Circle Practice?

This module will dive more deeply into circle practice and how it can transform your learning environment into a more productive space where all students feel a sense of belonging. You will learn about how circles can be utilized both proactively as well as in non-disciplinary circumstances in order to build a sense of community.

Objectives

- Understand the range of approaches in the restorative practices continuum
- Learn about circle practice
- Understand how building community is an essential component of circle practice

Essential Question

- How can circle practice be used to foster a sense of community in your learning environment?

Module Lessons

1. The restorative practices continuum
2. What are circles?
3. How circles can build community

Activities

- Watch the video
- Read/Watch/Listen to the lesson and resources
- Participate in discussion (optional) or take time to self-reflect
- Complete the self-assessment

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Module 3: How to design a circle

This module will focus on the mechanics of how to design a circle.

Objectives

- Learn each of the steps in planning a circle
- Design circles for a variety of purposes

Essential Question

- What should be taken into consideration when designing and using circles?

Module Lessons

1. Understanding the circle design process
2. Providing agency through circles

	Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Watch the video ● Read/Watch/Listen to the lesson and resources ● Participate in discussion (optional) or take time to self-reflect ● Complete the self-assessment
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Graduate Credits

You have the option to receive 1 continuing education graduate credit with the course. Register for the course + graduate credits or add on the graduate credit section at any time. Upon successful completion of the course and graduate final project, you will receive 1 accredited continuing education graduate credit from your choice of one of our university partners ([University of Massachusetts Global](#) or [Teachers College of San Joaquin](#)) and a completion certificate for 5 additional continuing education hours (in addition to the 10 hours you received for the course).

Final Project

A final project is required for students taking this course for graduate credit and should take approximately 5 hours to complete. Your final project will be an opportunity to bring together everything you have learned. We will encourage you to **create** an amazing product to share with your **network**! Take a **risk** and share your learning in a new way - lots of options and choices available! We will provide feedback on a single-point, holistic rubric. Learn more about [universally designed rubrics here](#).

Not There Yet	Met Expectations	Exceeded Expectations
	Annotated Bibliography You cited at least 3 resources from the course to support what you have learned in the process of this course and the creation of your final project. Your comments show how these resources impacted you and how you will use them to move your work forward. (1 point)	
	Practical Understandings and Implementations Your “product” is something tangible that you are/will/can use in your role. You have created a circle for your students or colleagues, and included goals of your circle and followed the steps of the circle design process. Please explain your choices for each step. (2 points)	
	Reflection You have reflected on your time in this course, the final product you created, and what’s next for you and your work with restorative practices and circle practice. (2 points)	
5 Points Meeting the standard, or going above and beyond, will earn you the full point value for the assignment.		