

**CHRISTOPHER P. O'BRIEN**  
Associate Professor (2012)  
Initial Faculty Appointment (2006)  
Program: Special Education

Department of Special Education and Child Development  
University of North Carolina at Charlotte  
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**EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS**

Degrees

Postdoctoral Fellow (Graduate Certificate)	2011	University of Kentucky	Distance Education in Special Education
Ph.D. Certification	2006	University of Central Florida	Exceptional Student Education
	2002	Valencia College	Education Foundations
		University of Central Florida	(Urban Teacher Residency Program)
Master of Arts	2000	University of Central Florida	Speech-Language Pathology
Bachelor of Arts	1998	University of Central Florida	Communicative Disorders

Licenses and Advanced Training

State of Florida Educator Certification  
Exceptional Student Education K-12  
Speech-Language Impaired K-12  
English as a Second Language Endorsement

Harvard Graduate School of Education  
Universal Design for Learning Institute (Advanced Training)

University of Kansas Center on Research on Learning  
Strategic Instruction Model (SIM I), Classroom Instructor  
Strategic Instruction Model, Certified Teacher Trainer

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

2006-Present	University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Department of Special Education and Child Development Associate Professor (2012-present) Assistant Professor (2006-2012)
2003-2006	University of Central Florida, Department of Child, Family, Community Sciences Graduate Research Assistant
2000-2006	Howard Middle School, Orlando, Florida Teacher of Students with Specific Learning Disability/Inclusion Specialist; Speech-Language Pathologist After-school Program Coordinator; Mentoring Coordinator
2000	Veterans Administration Medical Center, Biloxi, Mississippi Speech-Language Diagnostician and Therapist

## **TEACHING**

<b>Summer 2011</b>	SPED 5100	Introduction to Special Education (online)
<b>Fall 2011</b>	SPED 5279	Content Area Instruction for Students with Special Needs (online)
	SPED 4279	Content Area Instruction for Students with Special Needs (hybrid)
	SPED 8475	College Teaching in Special Education
<b>Spring 2012</b>	EDUC 4291	Modifying Instruction for Learners with Diverse Needs
	SPED 2100	Introduction to Students with Special Needs (2 sections)
	SPED 8475	College Teaching in Special Education

## **RESEARCH**

### **PUBLICATIONS (Selected publications)**

- O'Brien, C., Freeman, S.M., Jordan, L., Beattie, J., & Hartshorne, R. (2012). Investigation of blended versus fully web-based instruction for pre-teacher candidates in a large section special education survey course. In R. Hartshorne, T. Heafner, and T. Petty (Eds.). *Teacher Education Programs and Online Learning Tools: Innovations in Teacher Preparation*. Hershey, PA: IGI Global.
- O'Brien, C., Aguinaga, N. & Knight, V. (2012). Universal design for learning: Accessing the general curriculum with effective teaching and digital technologies. In G. Campbell-Whatley & J. Lyons (Eds.), *Leadership Practices for Special and General Educators*. New York, NY: Pearson Publishing.
- O'Brien, C. & Beattie, J.R. (2011). *Teaching students with special needs: A guide for future educators*. Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt.
- O'Brien, C., Hartshorne, R., Beattie, J., & Jordan, L. (2011). A comparison of large lecture, online, and hybrid introductions to special education. *Rural Special Education Quarterly*, 30(4), 19-31.
- Ousley, D.M., O'Brien, C., & Campbell-Whatley, G. (2011). Preparing for secondary inclusion: What educators can learn from parents of students with disabilities. *Electronic Journal of Inclusive Education*. Retrieve from <http://www.cehs.wright.edu/resources/publications/ejie/Summerfall2011/>.
- O'Brien, C. & Wood, C.L. (2011). Video modeling of cooperative discussion group behaviors with students with learning disabilities in a secondary content-area classroom. *Journal of Special Education Technology*, 26(4), 25-40.
- O'Brien, C., Aguinaga, N.J., Hines, R., & Hartshorne, R. (2011). Using contemporary technology tools to improve the effectiveness of teacher educators in special education. *Rural Special Education Quarterly*. 30(3), 33-40.
- King, L., Aguinaga, N., O'Brien, C., Young, W., & Zgonc, K. (2010). Disability in higher education: A position paper. *American Annals of the Deaf*, 15(3), 386-391.

- Dieker, L.A., Lane, H., Allsopp, D.H., O'Brien, C., Wright, T.L., Kyger, M., Lovin, L., & Fenty, N.S. (2009). Evaluating video models of evidence-based instructional practices to enhance teacher learning. *Teacher Education and Special Education, 32*, 180-196.
- O'Brien, C. & Dieker, L.A. (2008). Effects of video modeling on implementation of literature circles by students with learning disabilities and their peers in inclusive content classrooms. *Journal of Curriculum and Instruction, 2*(2), 52-73.
- Whitten, E., Dieker, L.A., O'Brien, C., & Summy, S. (2008). Preparing special education teachers for tomorrow. In C.A. Lassonde, R. Michael, & J. Rivera-Wilson (Eds.), *Current issues in teacher education: Comprehensive perspectives* (pp. 204-222). Springfield: Charles C. Thomas.
- O'Brien, C. (2007). Using collaborative reading groups to accommodate diverse learning and behavior needs in the general education classroom. *Beyond Behavior, 16*(3), 7-15.
- O'Brien, C. (2005). Modifying learning strategies for classroom success. *TEACHING Exceptional Children Plus, 1*(3) Article 3. Retrieve from <http://escholarship.bc.edu/education/tecplus/vol1/iss3/art3>.

## PRESENTATIONS

- Merz-Atalik, K. & O'Brien, C. (2012, June). *International comparisons of teacher education for special education: Roles and responsibilities in the era of inclusion*. Invited paper presented at the Eighteenth Annual German-American Symposium, UNC Charlotte, Charlotte, North Carolina.
- Aguinaga, N., & O'Brien, C. (2012, April). *Diverse classrooms in the digital era: Universal design for learning*. O'Brien, C. (Strand Leader). Paper presented for presentation at the International meeting of the Council for Exceptional Children, Denver, Colorado.
- O'Brien, C., Jordan, L., & Freeman, S. (2011, November). *Preparing teachers for secondary RTI using the content literacy continuum*. Interactive paper presented at the meeting of the Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children, Austin, Texas.
- O'Brien, C., Freeman, S., Jordan, L. & Miller, M. (2011, April). *Effects of training in the inference strategy on end-of-grade reading performance*. Research poster session at the meeting of the Council for Exceptional Children, Washington, D.C.
- O'Brien, C., Jordan, L., & Lowder, C. (2010, November). *Preventing high school dropout with a learning strategies intervention program*. Paper presented at the meeting of the Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children, Charlotte, NC.

## GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

- Heafner, T., Jaus, V., & O'Brien, C. (2012, January). *College of Education Freshman Engagement Project*. Grant Submitted to the Office of the Provost, UNC Charlotte. Funded \$25,000.
- O'Brien, C. (2008, January). *Strategic Reading Support for Academically Struggling Adolescents in After-school Programming*. Grant submitted to the Bank of America Research Fund. Funded \$10,000

O'Brien, C. & Wood, C.L. (2006, September). *Investigation of Digital Video-Modeling to Promote Effective Practices for Students with Disabilities*. Grant Submitted to the UNCC Faculty Research Grants Committee. Funded \$11,980.

### **SERVICE**

College Representative, Faculty Advisory Library Committee, UNC Charlotte, 2012-2014  
Member, EDUC 2100/SPED 2100 Course Revision Committee, 2012  
Member, NCATE Standard 3 Committee for *Field Experiences and Clinical Practice*, 2011-2012  
Member, *Quality Enhancement Project* Committee for SACS Accreditation, 2011-2012  
Member, University Faculty Council, Department of Special Education and Child Development Representative (Alternate), 2011-2012  
Member, Ph.D. in Special Education Advisory Committee, 2009-2011  
Political Action Liaison, Council for Exceptional Children, Teacher Education Division, North Carolina Representative for contemporary issues confronting teacher education and special education, 2008  
Guest Reviewer, *Journal of Special Education; Rural Special Education Quarterly*, 2008-2011  
Field Reviewer, *Teacher Education and Special Education*, 2007-2012  
External Consultant/Advisory Board Member, Redesign of the *Content Literacy Continuum* for Supporting Students With Reading Problems In Middle and High School, Cabarrus County Schools, Concord, NC, 2011  
External Consultant/Advisory Board Member, Development of *English I Intervention* "Dropout Prevention" Program. Cabarrus County Schools, Concord, NC, 2009

### **RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS**

Nominated for College of Education Teaching Award, 2011, 2012  
Nominated for Teaching Fellows Annual Undergraduate Teaching Award, 2010, 2011  
Outstanding Dissertation Award for 2006, Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children  
Appointed National Student Representative, Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children, 2005

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Council for Exceptional Children  
Division of Learning Disabilities  
Teacher Education Division