

Become a more effective advocate.

The online Graduate Certificate in Autism

The [online graduate certificate in autism](#) is designed for individuals—such as current special educators, PK–12 teachers, motivated family members or advocates—who wish to better understand the characteristics, assessment methods and evidence-based practices needed to effectively work with children and youth with autism. This certificate program provides a solid foundation of key knowledge and the opportunity to put what you learn into practice in a hands-on field experience.

Program Structure

- 5 courses
- 15 credit hours
- 8 weeks per course
- Complete in as few as 8 to 10 months

Admissions Requirements

- Completed [online application form](#)
- Professional resume or CV
- Completed bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university
- Official transcripts from all colleges or universities attended
- [Letter of introduction](#) stating your area of interest and licensure status
- Two letters of recommendation from professional or academic references
- Application fee: \$35
- IELTS or TOEFL scores (for non-native English-speaking applicants)

Program Benefits

- Learn from renowned faculty in a department that has set the standard in the practice of special education for over 50 years
- Complete your coursework anytime, anywhere, through our [innovative online format](#)
- Practice successful intervention strategies through [robust interactive scenarios](#)
- No GRE required for admission
- Includes observational field experience

The Curriculum

SPED 760: Introduction to Autism

SPED 785: Application of Assessment Information for
Exceptional Children and Youth

SPED 790: Methods for Learners With
Higher-Functioning Autism

SPED 860: Education of Children and Youth With
Disabilities: Autism

SPED 772: Observation and Participation With Children
and Youth With Autism

What You'll Learn

All certificate students will complete core coursework that gives them a full understanding of autism as well as methods to work with and teach autistic students. Students will learn to select, implement and evaluate evidence-based interventions and support strategies, empowering them to work more effectively with children and youth with autism, including those with extensive cognitive or verbal support needs. Additionally, students will have an opportunity to demonstrate how to teach and promote social skills, social communication development and proactive social interactions, and they will develop expertise in specific assessment tools. Finally, students will explore and demonstrate their ability to connect assessment results to instruction and to report assessment results in a way that is both technically accurate and transparent to laypeople and other school-based professionals.

Career Outcomes

Graduates of the online autism graduate certificate program will be prepared to pursue many different careers serving students with autism. For example, they may serve as special education teachers, or they may work as autism or behavior specialists at the local or state level. Outside of education, they may choose to utilize this knowledge working with Applied Behavior Analysis clinics, or they may pursue such roles as occupational therapists, speech language pathologists, music therapists or art therapists.