

Autism Specialist Certificate

New cohort begins at the Milton Campus in Summer 2019

The Autism Specialist cohort will meet on Thursdays from 5:30 - 9:00 pm. Classes will be delivered either fully online or in a hybrid format.

This certificate program is designed for those special educators interested in a deeper understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and meets the standards and competency requirements for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Autism Endorsement.

The first two courses center around disability policies, practices, and the skills required to deliver effective instruction to students identified with autism. The second two courses focus on student assessment and the roles of educators, family members, friends, and related service providers who support individuals with ASD throughout the lifespan.

Summer 2019: July 8 - August 24

SPE 6810 Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorder

SPE 6820 Effective Educational and Behavioral Strategies Designed to Instruct Students with ASD

Fall 2019: August 26 - December 14

SPE 6830 Autism Spectrum Disorder: Diagnosis and Assessment Term I: August 26 - October 19

SPE 6840 Meeting the Needs of Students with Autism:
A Collaborative Approach Term II: October 21 - December 14

SPE 6845 Practicum and Seminar in Autism Spectrum Disorders Full Term: August 26 - December 14

Classes are delivered in a hybrid format unless otherwise noted. Tuition for this 15-credit program is \$8,355. (\$557 per credit). A tuition discount is available when two or more candidates from the same school or district enroll. An Alumni Rate is available for those who qualify.

Any of the above named courses, with the exception of SPE 6845, may be taken for PDPs without officially joining the certificate program.

Course Descriptions

SPE 6810 Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorder

This course presents an overview of the historical and theoretical foundations of Autism Spectrum Disorder including research regarding the cause, current diagnostic criteria, prevalence, and impact on learning and behavior. Participants will be provided with specific knowledge on the characteristics of individuals identified on the Autism Spectrum including those identified with Autism, Asperger Syndrome, Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified (PDDNOS), Rett's Syndrome, and Childhood Disintegrative Disorder.

SPE 6820 Effective Educational and Behavioral Strategies Designed to Instruct Students with ASD

Using differentiated instructional strategies, assistive technology, and assessment candidates will develop units of study using strategies designed to engage and instruct students with ASD. Participants will be provided with an overview of strategies to increase students' communication and academic abilities in school and at home. Evidence-based interventions and best practice for instructional programming for students with autism spectrum disorders will be emphasized.

SPE 6830 Autism Spectrum Disorder: Diagnosis and Assessment

This course is designed to provide participants with the skills to assess students on the autism spectrum in the classroom or in the home. Emphasis is placed on assessing a student's level of involvement, determining baseline data, and monitoring progress. Interpretation of psychometric tests and behavior modification methods and strategies will be discussed. Participants will be provided with opportunities to develop a functional behavioral assessment and implement a behavior plan for a student identified with autism spectrum disorder.

SPE 6840 Meeting the Needs of Students with Autism: A Collaborative Approach

This course explores the roles of educational and medical professionals and related service providers involved in the diagnosis, education, and treatment of students on the autism spectrum. The legal and ethical issues facing the professionals in the human service fields will be discussed. Staff building and collaboration with IEP Team members, parent/caregivers, and medical professionals will also be addressed.

SPE 6845 Practicum and Seminar in Autism Spectrum Disorders

This course requires a 150 hour practicum of supervised observation and participation with students with autism spectrum disorders in a classroom (75 hours) and other settings (75 hours). Monthly seminar meetings will allow candidates to discuss issues, concerns, and trends in the field of ASD. Seminar sessions will be supplemented by regular meetings with program supervisors and supervising practitioners who will observe, mentor, and collaborate with candidates in field based settings. This course is designed to be a cumulating experience for students to apply their knowledge and skills into real world, research-infused practice.