



Autism Spectrum Disorders Certificate Program

4 Courses

5 Weeks

Tuesday Nights:

5:00pm – 9:00pm

1. Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorders

An overview of the Autism Spectrum Disorders. The course includes a basic examination of the psychological, social, and educational characteristics of individuals who have been identified as having Autism, Pervasive Developmental Disorder, Rhett's disorder, Asperger's syndrome and Childhood Disintegrative Disorder. By the end of this course, students will demonstrate knowledge and skills in the following:

- Definition and characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Possible causes and prevalence
- Medical and educational assessments
- Special education options
- State offered services
- Intervention opportunities
- Understanding the value of collaboration

2. Positive Behavior Interventions and Strategies

This course covers the application of specific assessment procedures including Functional Behavior Analysis and data analysis used to create behavioral interventions, teaching procedures and strategies. Application of such methods in inclusive classroom settings and at home is also considered. By the end of this course, students will demonstrate knowledge and skills in the following:

- Planning positive supports
- Developing specific behavior intervention plans
- The use of reinforcements
- Shaping, chaining and error correcting
- Generalization methods
- Classroom application of behavior interventions
- Team approach to evaluation and intervention

3. Facilitating Communication and Social Skills

This course discusses the prerequisites for communication, such as object permanence and cause and effect, the components of speech and language, and the communication profiles exhibited by individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders. In addition, this class will examine the communication challenges that teenagers and adults with ASD face. Enhancing communication for both the nonverbal and verbal student will be addressed. By the end of this course, students will demonstrate knowledge and skills in the following:

- Analysis of communication strengths and weaknesses
- Low tech to high tech augmentative communication options
- Specific teaching and support strategies
- Social skills intervention techniques
- Development of self-advocacy skills
- Relationship skills building
- Alliance formation to support independence

4. Methodology of Teaching Children with ASD

This course will deliver knowledge on the current developments in inclusion, and will provide guidance and instruction in areas such as: teacher dispositions, preparation and effective research based instructional practices. This course is designed to provide teachers with skills they need to make inclusion of students with autism a successful experience. By the end of this course, students will demonstrate knowledge and skills in the following:

- Learning characteristics and challenges of children with ASD
- Understanding of state/federal SPED laws and requirements
- Latest etiology and educational research
- Curriculum development
- Instructional strategies
- Progress monitoring procedures
- Team building to support the educational advancement of children with ASD