

Graduate Certificate in Autism Studies

The Graduate Certificate in Autism Studies

The mission of the certificate program is:

- To improve current preparation of teachers and related educational practitioners in the greater St. Louis area with dedicated coursework that increases program participants' understanding and skills necessary to providing comprehensive and holistic programming (in areas of academic, social, functional, and life skills) that addresses the unique characteristics of individuals with Autism.
- To provide contemporary, best practices-based preparation of professionals who specialize in the treatment of individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and/or who work collaboratively with school personnel to recognize and follow the ASD profile that best educates the students
- To gain greater understanding of challenges faced by families of individuals with ASD
- To prepare personnel to educate and support individuals with ASD, which includes autism, Asperger Syndrome, and other pervasive developmental disorders
- To address the complex needs of students with ASD, including those who require intensive and highly individualized programs, to those who require less intensive modifications to succeed in their educational, functional, and life goals
- To increase the current body of scholarly and applied knowledge pertaining to the science and practice in areas of cognitive disability studies.

Required Courses

A. Special Education Concentration I: 9 hours ¹

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| SPEC ED 6325 | Advanced Studies in Classroom & Behavior Management | 3 |
| SPEC ED 6415 | The Law And Special Education | 3 |
| SPEC ED 6437 | Applied Behavior Analysis: Functional Assessment and Interventions | 3 |
| ED PSY 6545 | Consultation In Schools And Related Settings | 3 |

B. Autism and Developmental Disabilities Concentration II: 9 hours

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| SPEC ED 6430 | Characteristics and Education of Individuals with Low-Incidence | 3 |
| SPEC ED 6610 | Foundations of Autism Spectrum Disorder: Research to Practice | 3 |
| SPEC ED 6620 | Assessment and Interventions for Children and Youth with Autism | 3 |

¹ The first three courses in the autism certificate are the same as those in the M.Ed. Special Education Concentration I.

Total Hours: Minimum 18 credit hours

Sign-offs from other departments affected by this proposal

None

Rationale

The new course: SpecEd 6437 is similar to SpecEd 6325, but introduces and focuses on theories and methods related to Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), an evidence-based set of interventions that is supported by decades of research that proves its promise for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD); the course is more applicable to those studying about and working with individuals with ASD.