Program Overview

ASU’s Graduate Certificate in Autism Spectrum Disorders is ideal for educators, interventionists, psychologists, pathologists, behavior analysts, or family members who want to enhance their preparation for working with children and adults affected with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

The online program can benefit those interested in the fields of counseling, social work, speech pathology, various fields of therapy, teaching and program management in any area which provides services to individuals on the autism spectrum.

There is growing public demand today for professionals who understand the issues and needs of individuals affected with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Autism now affects as many as one in every 110 children nationwide.

This 15-credit hour certificate program consists of 5 classes. The graduate certificate can be completed within a two-year period while concurrently pursuing an online graduate degree or as a stand-alone certificate. A Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction: Autism Spectrum Disorders is also available.

Students interested in sitting for the national Board Certified for Behavior Analyst exam should apply to the Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction: Applied Behavior Analysis or the Graduate Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis, depending on interest and need.

Non-Arizona residents, please refer to the ASU Online State Authorization Information page for additional information.

Contact Information

Office of Student Services – Graduate Programs

For admissions information, please contact gradenrollment@asuonline.asu.edu. Current students, please contact your assigned academic advisor:

- Student Last Name A-K: Jodi Banzhaf, Academic Success Specialist, at Jodi.Banzhaf@asu.edu
- Student Last Name L-R: Rich Givens, Academic Success Specialist, at Rich.Givens@asu.edu
- Student Last Name S-Z: Dayna Bartoli, Academic Success Specialist at Dayna.Bartoli@asu.edu

Quick Facts

Campus Location: Online
Number of Credits: 15 Credit Hours
Start Terms: Fall Session A and B, Spring Session A and B (see Academic Calendar for Session dates: https://students.asu.edu/academic-calendar)
Class Fee: $100 per course (in addition to online tuition/fees)
Time to Completion: 2 to 3 semesters (Fall, Spring)
Application Deadlines: http://education.asu.edu/application-deadlines
Application Requirements & How to Apply

Graduate Admissions Application Requirements

- Earned a bachelor’s degree or higher from a regionally accredited institution in the U.S. or the equivalent of a U.S. bachelor's degree from an international institution that is officially recognized by that country
- Must have maintained a “B” (3.00 on a 4.00 scale) grade point average (GPA) in the last 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours of undergraduate coursework
- Proof of English proficiency – International students only
  - If you are from a country whose native language is not English (regardless of where you may now reside), you must provide proof of English proficiency. For more information including additional requirements for international students, please visit the ASU Graduate Admissions website.
  - Applicants to Non-Certification Masters, Graduate Certificates, and Doctoral Programs:
    - Must meet the English Proficiency score established by ASU Graduate Education

Items Needed to Apply to the Program

- Items that will be uploaded into the online application:
  - Personal Statement: Responses to short-answer questions provide the admissions committee with information regarding your personal or professional goals and how they align with the Graduate Certificate in Autism Spectrum Disorders. The admissions committee pays particular attention to the quality of writing and ideas expressed in these responses as well as evaluating the relevance of goals to the aims of the program. Please respond to three of the four questions below. Responses should be limited to 150-200 words per question. The statement should be prepared in an MS Word (.doc), Rich Text (.rtf), Portable Document Format (.pdf), or Text (.txt) file format.
    - Describe one or more personal or professional goals that motivate you to apply for this program. How will completion of the Graduate Certificate in Autism Spectrum Disorders help you fulfill this/these goals?
    - Describe a quality that you believe is critical to working with an individual with special needs and at least one situation where you have demonstrated this quality.
    - Describe an individual with special needs and how you supported him or her.
    - Briefly discuss why you are interested in pursuing a graduate certificate at this time. What steps have you taken (or will you take) to ensure that you will be successful in the program?
  - Resume that includes relevant personal, professional, educational, and community activities (one – two pages). The resume should be prepared in an MS Word (.doc), Rich Text (.rtf), Portable Document Format (.pdf), or Text (.txt) file format.

- Items that need to be mailed to Graduate Admissions Services:
  - Official transcripts from every college and university from which you have earned a Bachelor’s degree or higher
  - Proof of English proficiency – International students only

Complete and submit the Graduate Admission online application

- Review the application deadlines prior to applying: http://education.asu.edu/application-deadlines
- Start the online application at this website: www.asu.edu/gradapp
- Select the certificate: An Overview of Autism Spectrum Disorders (Grad Certificate)
- Select the appropriate term for Planned Semester and Year of Enrollment
- For Location, select ASU Online
- Upload required items listed above
- Submit the application and pay the appropriate application fee
- Send the remaining items to Graduate Admissions
Graduate Certificate in Autism Spectrum Disorders

Requirements and Program of Study

Required Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPE 520</td>
<td>Reading &amp; Communication Strategies for Individuals w/ Autism</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPE 521</td>
<td>Foundations of Autism Spectrum Disorders</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPE 531</td>
<td>Methods of Applied Behavior Analysis for Exceptional Populations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPE 566</td>
<td>Applied Behavior Analysis in Inclusive Setting</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPE 580</td>
<td>Practicum</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Not all courses are offered every term. Summer enrollment will be necessary to meet program requirements.

Curriculum and tuition for all programs subject to change based on Arizona Board of Regents and Arizona Department of Education updates.

To review course descriptions please visit the ASU Catalog: [http://asu.edu/catalog](http://asu.edu/catalog).

Additional Resources

- Application Deadlines: [http://education.asu.edu/application-deadlines](http://education.asu.edu/application-deadlines)
- How to Apply: [https://education.asu.edu/graduate-programs-how-apply](https://education.asu.edu/graduate-programs-how-apply)
- Faculty: [http://education.asu.edu/faculty](http://education.asu.edu/faculty)
- ASU Graduate Education Policies: [https://graduate.asu.edu/policies-procedures](https://graduate.asu.edu/policies-procedures)
- Tuition and Fees: [https://students.asu.edu/tuitionandfees](https://students.asu.edu/tuitionandfees)

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to take the classes in any particular order?
The course sequence is based on the session in which you start the program. Your academic advisor will provide you with the appropriate course sequence upon admission to the program. Individual courses are not offered every session, so it is important to stay on track with the course sequence. **If you take courses out of sequence, your time to completion may be affected as not all courses are offered every session.**

How many classes can I take at a time?
Depending on when a student begins the Overview of Autism Spectrum Disorders Graduate Certificate they will take between two and three courses each semester.

When can I begin this program?
Each academic semester at ASU (Fall, Spring, Summer) has three sessions: Session A, Session B, and Session C. Session A and Session B are each 7.5 weeks, and Session C is 15 weeks. Students may begin the Overview of Autism Spectrum Disorders Graduate Certificate during the following semesters: Fall Session A, Fall Session B, Spring Session A, Spring Session B. This graduate certificate program does not admit students for the Summer semester.

Will I be eligible for financial aid?
For any information about financial aid related to this program, please visit the Financial Aid website. For disclosure information about the U.S. Department of Education Gainful Employment Program, students should see [https://catalog.asu.edu/files/disclosures/EDSPEGRCA/Gedt.html](https://catalog.asu.edu/files/disclosures/EDSPEGRCA/Gedt.html).
Can I get certified in the state of Arizona as a Special Ed Teacher?
This program does not lead to Special Ed Teaching Certification in the state of Arizona as it does not require the coursework, field experience and student teaching components requirements needed to become certified to teach.

Non-Arizona students interested in applying for an endorsement or other qualification to an existing teacher certification should contact their state’s Board/Department of Education for information about using coursework from Arizona State University.

What types of jobs does this program lead to?
This program reaches an array of people from education, business training, community outreach, to health fields. Information from this program can benefit those interested in the fields of counseling, social work, speech pathology, various fields of therapy, teaching and program management in any area that provides services to individuals on the autism spectrum. Additionally the program serves early interventionists, school psychologists, speech pathologists, behavior analysts, and graduates who want to increase their knowledge relative to individuals with Autism.

What does the practicum look like?
In the required practicum, students apply theoretical and practical information presented through coursework in the Autism Spectrum Disorders specialization in a real world setting. The practicum provides the ASU student with experiences and support for learning or applying new behavior as they continue to grow and evolve as qualified professionals. Students complete a minimum of 45 direct contact hours of approved activities under the supervision of an onsite supervisor and the guidance of an ASU instructor.

Students arrange their own placements so they can best meet their personal and professional goals. ASU students are expected to complete practicum requirements in a geographic area appropriate for their needs. Students in the ASD specialization work with their onsite supervisor to design, deliver and evaluate practices while working with an individual or individuals with ASD. As part of the associated coursework, students submit a list of anticipated activities and other assignments to the ASU instructor for review and feedback.

Who supervises the student during the SPE 580 practicum?
An onsite supervisor assists the ASU student in determining appropriate activities and the sequence for those activities, while an ASU instructor provides guidance and feedback on the activities through electronic means.

The ASU student identifies a site that is appropriate for his or her personal and professional goals. Sites vary according to the need of the ASU student. The ASU student and the onsite supervisor determine the distribution of the 45 required hours.

Do I need access to a classroom during the courses?
Several courses in the program require direct contact with a learner, preferably an individual who is on the spectrum. This does not have to be a classroom setting; however, it can be.