



# Graduate Certificate in Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)

## *About the Program*

The Graduate Certificate in Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) is a four course program of study provided by the Graduate School and the Department of Education of the University of New Hampshire that prepares its graduates to promote evidence-based, high quality, inclusive educational programs for students with ASD. The program is grounded in the philosophy that autism is a natural part of the human experience. It emphasizes that individuals with ASD have the same rights as individuals without disabilities to exert control and choice over their lives, to live independently, and to fully participate in and contribute to their communities through inclusion in the educational, economic, political, social, and cultural mainstream of society. Some program courses are taught by faculty with joint appointments in various academic departments and the Institute on Disability.



## *Who Should Apply*

Enrollment in the program is appropriate for: (a) self-advocates and family members; (b) general and special education teachers and administrators; (c) related service providers such as speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, and recreation therapists; (d) paraprofessionals; and, (e) guidance counselors, behavior consultants, and other mental health professionals.

Applicants to the Graduate Certificate Program must have completed a bachelor's degree. Practicing professionals or students enrolled in graduate programs in any discipline are encouraged to apply. Applicants are urged to contact the program coordinators to explore whether there is a good match between the program and the applicant's learning goals, and to develop the appropriate program of study and enrollment sequence.

Applications are accepted on a rolling admissions basis.

## *Financial Aid*

Information regarding financial aid opportunities for the Graduate Certificate in Autism Spectrum Disorders or any other program of study with the University of New Hampshire can be obtained by contacting the Financial Aid office.

UNH Financial Aid Office  
11 Garrison Avenue  
Stoke Hall  
Durham, NH 03824

Telephone: (603) 862-3600  
Fax: (603) 862-1947  
[www.financialaid.unh.edu](http://www.financialaid.unh.edu)

# Requirements

Required courses:

- EDUC 757/857A: Contemporary Issues in ASD  
4 credits, Fall semester.  
The prerequisite for this course is attendance at the IOD's Autism Summer Institute that is typically held for three days during the second week of August. Half of the 4 credit course requirement is met by attendance at the Institute. Students then attend the fall course for seven weeks and complete a project based on the theme of the Autism Summer Institute.
- COMM 920A: Seminar in ASD  
3 credits, Fall semester.

Elective courses – two from among the following choices based on individual advising (other electives may be added in the future):

- EDUC 757/857C: Contemporary Issues in ASD  
4 credits, Fall semester.  
(students may attend another Autism Summer Institute and take the related class in the fall)
- EDUC 755/855: Social Relationships and Students with Disabilities  
2 credits, Spring semester.
- EDUC 952: Assessment, Curriculum, Instruction, and Supports for Students with Disabilities  
4 credits, Fall semester.
- EDUC 956: Positive Behavior Supports  
4 credits, Spring semester.
- OT courses in assistive technology
- COMM 914: Augmentative and Alternative Communication  
3 credits. Spring semester.

## For More Information & Application Process

Applications will be accepted anytime and admissions decisions made promptly.

To apply online, visit <http://www.gradschool.unh.edu/pbacc.html>.

For more information about the program and the application process, contact:

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UNH Education Department  
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UNH Department of Education Website: [www.unh.edu/education](http://www.unh.edu/education)

UNH Graduate School Website: [www.gradschool.unh.edu](http://www.gradschool.unh.edu)

*\*This document is available in  
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**INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY / UCED**  
A University Center for Excellence in Disability  
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