

What do the programs focus on?

Both programs are designed for professionals to develop a clear understanding of the characteristics of students on the Autism Spectrum, as well as to learn effective, research-based teaching strategies, social, communicative, and behavioral interventions, and valuable supports for use within the educational environment.

Career Opportunities

- Work in a school district as a teacher for students with autism, or autism specialist
- Work for a behavioral agency as an in home tutor
- Work as an autism consultant for school districts

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is this program all online?

Yes, the MSED and certificate programs are 100% online.

2. Does it matter that I do not live in NJ?

No, because these courses are 100% online you do not have to live in NJ in order to enroll in either program.

3. What is the per credit cost?

The cost of attending either program is based on graduate tuition and fees. See the graduate program catalog for current information.

4. How long does it take to complete the program?

Completion time will vary dependent on how many courses you take per semester. There are courses offered in the fall, spring, and summer so you can work at your own pace.

5. Who teaches the courses?

Courses are taught by faculty members and practitioners in the field including Board Certified Behavior Analysts and Autism Specialists.

6. Do I have to have a teaching certificate to apply for the MSED program?

The teaching certificate requirement is waived on a case by case basis dependent on the applicants previous experience and program goals.

Autism Programs

Master of Science in Education
– Special Education – Autism
Track

Autism Certificate

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Course Descriptions

EDS 502: - Autism: Characteristics, Etiology, and Current Issues

Content includes an overview of various characteristics and learning traits of students on the autism spectrum. Candidates will examine definitions, eligibility criteria, incidence rates, etiology, and historical perspectives on autism. Perspectives on the roles and responsibilities of students, families, education professionals, community personnel, and employers in relation to individuals with autism are also explored

EDS 542 — Communication and Social Competence Skills

This course will focus on the development and improvement of speech, language, and social competence skills for individuals with autism. Also included are research-based approaches to assessment, intervention, and remediation of communication disorders for individuals with autism. The functional relationship between communication skills and behavior is also examined.

EDS 566 — Assessment and Interventions for Individuals with Autism I and

EDS 567 — Assessment and Interventions for Individuals with Autism II

Various assessment processes such as screening, diagnosis, and identification of developmental skills for individuals with autism are included. Focus is on assessment of specific skills in developmental domains, such as sensory, oral, motor, play, and communication and practical strategies detailing what to teach based on assessment data. Research-based interventions that promote progress in the areas of communication, social, academic, behavior, and sensory motor skills for students with autism are examined. An overview of numerous curricula approaches and materials for individuals with autism is also included in this course. Methods for monitoring the impact of interventions are explored in a variety of service delivery models.

EDS 571 — Management of Challenging Behaviors

An overview of the use of applied behavior analysis (ABA) for individuals with autism is the main focus of the course. Included are methods to increase behaviors, decrease behaviors, maintain behaviors, and generalize behaviors. Observation skills, data collection, and monitoring effectiveness of interventions are practiced.

EDS 580 — Research in Autism

Research in the field of autism is emphasized. An overview of various types of research methodologies is included in the course. Candidates will locate, interpret, analyze and synthesize the research base on autism and also prepare and implement a comprehensive research project and share the results.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION: SPECIAL EDUCATION - AUTISM TRACK = 30.0 CREDITS

EDL 515: Advanced Literacy Instruction

EDS 530: Research Issues and Trends in Special Education

EDS 535: Technology and Students with Disabilities

EDS 537: Collaborating with Families, Students, and Professionals in Community and Educational Settings

EDS 502: Autism: Characteristics, Etiology, and Current Issues

EDS 542: Communication and Social Competence Skills

EDS 566: Assessment and Interventions for Individuals with Autism I

EDS 567: Assessment and Interventions for Individuals with Autism II

EDS 571: Management of Challenging Behaviors

EDS 580: Research Seminar in Autism

AUTISM CERTIFICATE PROGRAM = 15.0 CREDITS

EDS 502: Autism: Characteristics, Etiology, and Current Issues

EDS 542: Communication and Social Competence Skills

EDS 566: Assessment and Interventions for Individuals with Autism I

EDS 567: Assessment and Interventions for Individuals with Autism II

EDS 571: Management of Challenging Behaviors of Challenging Behaviors

Autism Certificate Program Admission Requirements:

1. Bachelor's degree with a minimum 2.75 overall GPA and a minimum 3.0 GPA in the undergraduate major.
2. Personal essay explaining why the candidate wants to pursue this degree.
3. Two letters of recommendation.

Master's of Science in Education: Special Education – Autism Track Admission Requirements

1. Applicant must be a certified teacher.
2. Possession of a baccalaureate degree with a minimum 2.75 overall GPA in the under-graduate major.
3. Two letters of recommendation related to the applicant's competence for this graduate pro-gram and professional work.
4. Essay (500 words or more) explaining why the applicant wishes to pursue this graduate program