

Autism Education at Arcadia University

Global Perspectives...Personal Attention...Real-World Integrative Learning Experiences

Coordinator

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Graduate Certificate

**Arcadia University Graduate Certificate in
Autism**

About Arcadia's Graduate Certificate in Autism

The Arcadia University Graduate Certificate in Autism is designed to develop and enhance effective educational practices to support K-12 educators, school districts, and community-based organizations in using best practices in working with individuals who have been identified as having Autism Spectrum Disorders. Practicum hours in each course are designed to help students understand the connections between coursework and the direct work with children and youth with autism.

This certificate is offered fully online and in a blended format at the King of Prussia Campus.

Credit toward a graduate degree in

Education: The 12 credits earned in this certificate program may be applied to a Master of Education degree program with departmental approval and advising.

Academic Policies: Students in Arcadia University Graduate Certificate programs are subject to the academic policies of the College of Graduate Studies.

Transfer Credit: Transfer credit is not permitted in this program.

Admission to the Graduate Certificate in Autism Program

The following program-specific requirements must be met:

- A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with a recommended GPA of 3.0 or better.
- An official transcript for each college or university attended.

- A graduate admission application including personal statements, to be completed online at www.arcadia.edu/gradapp.
- One letter of recommendation. The letter must be of a professional not personal nature. If the student has been out of school five years or fewer, the letter must come from a professor.
- A background in education, psychology, communication disorders, or another related discipline is recommended.
- State and federal clearances (required for practicum hours), which include criminal check, child abuse and FBI fingerprinting. Information can be found on the Education website at www.arcadia.edu/education.

Students can take a course before formal application and matriculation into the program, but they should apply for admission into the certificate program before taking a second course. Taking a course does not guarantee admission into the program.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who should take the Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) course?

Educators and professionals interested in seeking additional expertise in the field of autism can take ED 660 Characteristics of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

If I am not an educator, can I still apply for the Arcadia Graduate Certificate program?

Yes, as long as you have a bachelor's degree, you can qualify for admission to the Arcadia Graduate Certificate program.

Can I enroll in a course if I do not have a bachelor's degree?

No, the courses offered in this certificate require a bachelor's degree.

What is the cost of the program?

Autism Education at Arcadia University

Courses offered will be billed at the prevailing Arcadia University part-time graduate course rate. See www.arcadia.edu/tuition.

How long will it take me to obtain the Graduate Certificate in ASD?

The program consists of four courses, and students usually take one or two courses per semester

Are all four of the classes needed for the Graduate Certificate offered online?

Yes, all of the courses are offered online, and they also are offered in a blended format offered with a combination of in-person classes and online sessions at the King of Prussia Campus.

Requirements for the Graduate Certificate in Autism

(12 credits)

The following courses are required:

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| ED 660 | Characteristics of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (3 credits) |
| ED 661 | Applied Behavior Analysis I: Principles of Teaching Strategies (3 credits) |
| ED 662 | Teaching Methods for Students with Autism (3 credits) |
| ED 663 | Special Topics in Autism (3 credits) |

Each course requires a 20-hour practicum.

Autism Course Descriptions (ED)

ED 660
Characteristics of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders
(3 credits)

This seminar provides students with introductory knowledge regarding children diagnosed with autism. Topics addressed include characteristics of students with Autism Spectrum Disorders; considerations in school and home programming; family, community and legal issues; and life transitions.

ED 661
Applied Behavioral Analysis I: Principles of Teaching Strategies
(3 credits)

This seminar is designed to provide students with introductory knowledge of applied behavior analysis (ABA). Topics addressed include the history of ABA, principles of ABA, reinforcement, data collection, , teaching procedures, teaching complex behaviors, generalization, and maintenance of skills. Readings, assignments, and participation in online coursework instructional activities offer an essential understanding of behavior analytic principles. Ethical considerations in the application of these principles are discussed. Challenging behaviors are studied from a learning perspective.

ED 662
Teaching Methods for Students with Autism
(3 credits)

This seminar provides students with knowledge of current research-based teaching strategies for students in the autism spectrum. Participants gain experience in assessing and planning meaningful learning goals, developing effective teaching plans, and evaluating student outcomes. Topics addressed include teaching complex behaviors, analyzing challenging behaviors, and collaborating with families.

Prerequisite: ED 661

ED 663
Special Topics in Autism
(3 credits)

This seminar provides students with knowledge of relevant language, social, community and sensory characteristics of students in the autism spectrum. Participants examine assessment tools and intervention strategies to support students with autism. Other topics covered include family, sibling and emotional issues in relation to cultural context, as well as transition issues and "next environment" planning

Prerequisites: ED 660; ED 661 and admission to the program