



Autism Spectrum Program Overview*

Core Professional Competencies in Autism Related Knowledge and Practice	Autism Spectrum Courses	Field Experiences	Field Hours	Evidence of Competency (Portfolio Documentation)
1. Nature of ASD 2. Family support and partnerships 3. School and community partnerships 4. Individualized educational supports and services 5. Assessment frameworks and procedures 14. <i>Professional literacy and leadership</i>	SPED 791 Nature of Autism Spectrum Disorders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Observe learners on the autism spectrum in educational/therapeutic settings Interview professionals Interview family members Interview individual on the autism spectrum, as appropriate 	25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case portrait of learner on the autism spectrum Group project/presentation Weekly reflection log Field experience tracking sheet
6. Curriculum and instruction 7. Structuring learning environments 8. Addressing challenging behavior 9. Supporting communicative competence 14. <i>Professional literacy and leadership</i>	SPED 825 Communication, Behavior and Instruction: Autism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct environmental/ecological inventory and adapt environment Design and implement instructional plan in educational/therapeutic setting 	25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecological/environmental inventory Instructional plan paper (DVD) Weekly reflection log Field experience tracking sheet
10. Supporting social competence 11. Supporting play/leisure and imagination 12. Inclusion with typical peers 14. <i>Professional literacy and leadership</i>	SPED 794 Socialization and Imagination: Autism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct formal assessments of socialization, communication, play/leisure, imagination Design and implement intervention with typical peers 	25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment paper Intervention paper (DVD) Weekly reflection log Field experience tracking sheet
Variable 13. Transition, vocational and independent learning 14. <i>Professional literacy and leadership</i>	Graduate Seminar Elective (approved by faculty advisor)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interview adult on the autism spectrum Variable (with advisor approval) 	25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interview summary Related course paper/ project or exam Weekly reflection log Field experience tracking sheet
All competencies	Culminating Experience (Exam, Creative Project/ Field Study, Thesis)**		Total Hours 100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self-evaluation <i>Culminating Experience**</i> Exit Survey Final Evaluation Report

* Issues of diversity and the socio-cultural contexts within which learners with differing abilities, ethnic, cultural, linguistic, social and economic backgrounds participate are threaded throughout the competencies, coursework and field experiences.

**MA candidates with autism emphasis