



Master of Education • Graduate Certificate

# Autism Specialist

36 credits, 3 terms full-time • This program does not satisfy licensure requirements for K-12 public school teachers.

**AUTISM SPECIALIST (MEd)**— Teachers in general education and special education today are working with more and more students diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). This program answers the growing need for more understanding and better preparation for those working with students with severe disabilities. It is designed for experienced teachers and para-professionals, to enhance their working knowledge of the field. It also provides opportunities to explore new opportunities this knowledge would provide.

**This is not a licensure program and does not lead to BACB certification.**

**Learning Outcomes** — Graduates will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of autism, behavioral issues and severe special needs.

**Careers** — This program will enhance the skills and understanding of:

- Experienced special educators, wanting more information to better serve the needs of this growing population.
- General educators who wish to work more effectively in their inclusion classes.
- Para-professionals currently working with students with severe disabilities, to gain a better understanding of the autistic needs and behavioral issues of the students they serve.
- Anyone wanting to know more about this growing field.

## Professional Seminar & Project .....9 credits

ESP691S-693S Professional Seminar in Special Education/  
Autism Spectrum Disorders (3 terms @ 2 credits)

ESP800 Independent Learning Project (take with Seminar III)

## Autism & Special Education Courses ..... 27 credits

ESP615 Assistive Technology: Modifying Curriculum  
for Diverse Learning Styles ..... every term

ESP610 Autism: History, Prevalence, Diagnosis  
& Characteristics ..... Fall, Spring

ESP695 Laws & Regulations Pertaining to  
Special Education ..... Fall, Spring

ESP689 Theories of Typical & Atypical  
Human Development ..... Fall, Summer

ESP621 Assessment & Appraisal Process (ASD) ..... Spring

ESP625 Behavior Management (ASD) ..... Spring

ESP616 Communication Disorders (ASD) ..... Fall, Summer

ESP630 Social and Psychological Perspectives  
in Autism Spectrum Disorders ..... Summer

ESP635 Teaching & Curriculum Development  
for Students with Severe Disabilities ..... Summer

All courses 3 credits except as noted.

## Autism Specialist Certificate..... 18 credits



The Autism Specialist Certificate provides an opportunity for teachers, administrators and parents to gain understanding and professional expertise to better support the growing numbers of K-12 school students with autism spectrum disorders. This course work supplements training/licensure for those employed in substantially separate classrooms. It is also very helpful for paraprofessionals working in special education classrooms.

Note: If a student later enrolls in the Autism Specialist M.Ed., these courses may be accepted into the degree.

- ESP610 Autism: History, Prevalence, Diagnosis  
& Characteristics ..... Fall, Spring
- ESP621 Assessment & Appraisal Process (ASD) ..... Spring
- ESP625 Behavior Management (ASD) ..... Spring
- ESP616 Communication Disorders (ASD) ..... Fall, Summer
- ESP630 Social and Psychological Perspectives  
in Autism Spectrum Disorders ..... Summer
- ESP635 Teaching & Curriculum Development  
for Students with Severe Disabilities ..... Summer

**Admission requirements:** Bachelor's degree and other general requirements (see Admission).

**Program and schedule subject to change.**

**Program chair:** Mary Garrity, EdD • [mary.garrity@cambridgecollege.edu](mailto:mary.garrity@cambridgecollege.edu)