



Master of Education

Autism Specialist (Puerto Rico)

• CIP code 131013 • 30-39* credits, 4-5 terms full-time

• **Program approved** by the Puerto Rico Board of Postsecondary Institutions and offered in compliance with the recertification regulations of the Puerto Rico Department of Education (DEPR).

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.

Program Description — 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.

Program only for recertification by the Puerto Rico Department of Education. Prior valid Puerto Rico teacher certification in another area required.

This program satisfies the licensure requirements for public and private schools (K-12).

Program and courses subject to change.

Program chair: Nicole Stallions, M.Ed.

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***Program credits:**

39 credits for those who do not have Special Education teacher certification from the DEPR and who desire recertification as Autism Teacher.

30 credits for those who have Special Education teacher certification from the DEPR, or who do not aim to be recertified.

This is a **hybrid** delivered program, with 60% of classes delivered synchronously and 40% delivered asynchronously through Canvas Learning Management System.

All courses are offered in Spanish

Courses for Autism 30 credits

- ESP 610 Autism: History, Prevalence, Diagnosis & Characteristics (*recommended first course*) All terms
- ESP 695 Laws & Regulations Pertaining to Special Education All terms
- ESP 621 Assessment & Appraisal Process (ASD) Fall
- ESP 689 Theories of Typical & Atypical Human Development All terms
- ESP 616 Communication Disorders (ASD) Fall
- ESP 630 Social and Psychological Perspectives in Autism Spectrum Disorders Spring
- ESP 635 Teaching & Curriculum Development for Students with Severe Disabilities Spring
- ESP 615 Assistive Technology: Modifying Curriculum for Diverse Learning Styles All terms
- ESP 625 Behavior Management (ASD) Summer
- ESP 721R Teaching Spanish Language Arts, Math, History and Science for K-12 Special Education Students Fall or Spring

Additional Courses for Special Education 9 credits

Only for those who aim to be recertified by the DEPR, who do not have a valid teacher certificate in special education.

- ESP 662R Principles of Spanish Language Development Bridging Differences & Disorders Spring or Summer
- ESP 602 Teaching Numerical & Geometrical Structures for Special Education K-12 Students Spring or Summer
- ESP 681 Pedagogy in Reading & Spanish Language Arts for Special Education Students Fall or Spring

All courses 3 credits except as noted.