



Post-Master's Certificate

# Autism Specialist Endorsement Certificate

• CIP code 13100

15\* credits, 2 terms, part-time • Endorsement program for Massachusetts licensed educators

**Program Description** — This DESE endorsement recognizes specialized study in Autism by individuals with an Initial or Professional license and two years' teaching experience. This program provides educators in special education with a contextual and practical understanding of the Autism Spectrum and how to support families and schools while meeting the needs of students. The endorsement is not required for licensure or employment in schools. This program requires four courses and a 150-hour field-based experience.

The program and coursework are available in a hybrid format.

**Learning Outcomes** —

- Meet the unique and complex educational needs of students on the Autism Spectrum.
- Assist public schools in including students on the Autism Spectrum in developing and implementing IEPs and participating in regular education settings.
- Assist families of students on the Autism Spectrum to participate meaningfully in their children's education.

**Careers** — Career options are defined by the educator's original certificate. However, the Autism Specialist Endorsement indicates that the educator has acquired specialized knowledge and skill in assisting students on the Autism Spectrum. School districts have authority to require candidates to hold or be eligible for the Autism Specialist Endorsement in addition to the original license.

**Courses required may vary based on transcript analysis.**

**Courses** ..... 15 credits

ESP 610	Autism: History, Prevalence, Diagnosis & Characteristics — <b>required first course</b> . . . . .	Summer
ESP 625	Behavior Management (ASD) . . . . .	Summer
ESP 616	Communication Disorders (ASD). . . . .	Fall
ABA 702	Field Experience Internship and Seminar: Autism Specialist . . . . .	Fall
*ESP 607	Psycho-Educational Assessment for Teaching Exceptional Students . . . . .	Fall

\*If students have already completed ESP607 outside of this program, students are instead required to take ESP630:

ESP 630	Social and Psychological Perspectives in Autism Spectrum Disorder
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**Admission requirements:**

Candidates are expected to enter the program based on prerequisite criteria to ensure that they have the prerequisite skills to be effective in the licensure role:

- Valid Massachusetts initial or professional license as: Teacher of Students with Moderate Disabilities, Teacher of Students with Severe Disabilities, Teacher of Visually Impaired, Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
- School of Education requirements for certificate programs.

**\*Program credits:** Other educators interested in participating in these courses are welcome, but will not receive the DESE endorsement unless they meet the requirements listed above.

Courses already taken in this program at Cambridge College will be accepted. One 3-credit graduate-level course from another college or university will be considered.

**Please note:** This program has been approved for financial aid.

**Program subject to change.**

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(All courses @ 3 credits except as noted.)