

# SPECIAL EDUCATION: AUTISM

MASTER OF EDUCATION  
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

[www.sru.edu/SPED](http://www.sru.edu/SPED)



## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

According to the Center for Disease Control, one in every 88 children born today will have an Autism Spectrum Disorder. The "Autism Epidemic" as it has been characterized by many leading researchers and scientific organizations has led to a significant demand for working professionals that understand Autism. At Slippery Rock University, we have developed a graduate program in Special Education with an Autism emphasis to meet the demands of schools and community agencies that service children and adults with ASD.

## CURRICULUM (36 CREDITS)

The M.Ed. in Special Education with an emphasis in Autism is an advanced master's degree. It is available only to interested students with an existing undergraduate degree in Special Education or professionals working in human services agencies that support children and adults with Autism (ex. Behavior Specialist, Wraparound, etc).

### Foundations in Special Education (6 credits):

SPED 611: Special Education Law

SPED 620: Contemporary Issues in Special Education

### Research (3 credits):

SPED 617: Current Research in Special Education

### Courses in Special Education (12 credits):

SPED 607: Positive Classroom Interventions

SPED 618: Developing Integrated Language and Literacy Programs for Students with Disabilities

SPED 625: Instructional Strategies for Learning & Behavioral Problems

SPED 646: Assessment and Evaluation

### Autism Emphasis (12 credits):

SPED 640: Advanced Study of Autism Spectrum Disorders

SPED 641: Applied Behavior Analysis/Single Subject Experimental Design

SPED 642: Program Development for Students with ASD

SPED 643: Communication and Social Competency for students with ASD

### Practicum (3 credits):

SPED 648: Clinical Practicum

Students may choose a thesis option SPED 800 in place of the practicum under the supervision of a graduate faculty mentor.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

SRU's Autism Program offers:

- A highly specialized courses that address the social and communication needs for children with Autism, an Applied Behavior Analysis course to prepare teachers for academic instruction, and curriculum and program needs for children with ASD.
- An exclusively online program convenient for the working professional
- A flexible curriculum that meets the demands of classroom teachers or human service agency professionals
- Program approval by the Pennsylvania Department of Education leading to an endorsement on a teaching certificate
- Classes taught by professors with an expertise in ABA and Autism Spectrum Disorders
- A curriculum aligned with CEC standards and Pennsylvania Department of Education competencies

## ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must submit the following materials along with a completed online graduate application and non-refundable application fee:

1. A final official transcript sent directly from the institution that conferred the applicant's undergraduate degree as well as official transcripts from any other undergraduate or graduate coursework completed.
2. A copy of your teaching certificate, a Pennsylvania certificate is not required.
3. Resume
4. Recommendation forms: one academic reference from a former or current college or university faculty member with knowledge of the applicant's academic abilities and one professional reference from a school administrator, teacher, or supervisor with knowledge of the applicant's professional attributes. Recommendations must be on the appropriate forms, which are available electronically at [www.sru.edu/graduate](http://www.sru.edu/graduate), under "Forms".

Unconditional admission may be offered to applicants who submit acceptable credentials as listed above, and who have earned an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or higher (based on a 4.0 scale). Applicants who do not meet all of the above criteria may be offered conditional admission upon recommendation of the graduate coordinator and approval by the Director of Graduate Admissions. Applicants should have their final official transcripts forwarded directly to the Office of Graduate Admissions.

## CLEARANCES

Clearances are due no later than one (1) week prior to deadline for course registration for each program's practicum/field experience. No student will be permitted to register for their program's practicum and take part in practicum/field experiences without clear clearances on file at SRU.

Students are to send the following by the due date:

- Clear Act 34 Criminal History Record NO record...NONE concerning prohibitive offenses. A meeting headed by the Dean of the College of Education is required if clearances show non-prohibitive offenses. Clearance must be less than one year old at the time of submission.
- Clear Act 114 FBI Record Check NO record...NONE concerning prohibitive offenses. A meeting headed by the Dean of the College of Education is required if clearances show non-prohibitive offenses. Clearance must be less than one year old at the time of submission.
- Clear Act 151 Child Abuse Background Check NO record...NONE concerning prohibitive offenses. A meeting headed by the Dean of the College of Education is required if clearances show non-prohibitive offenses. Clearance must be less than one year old at the time of submission.
- Act 24 Arrest/Conviction Report and Certification NO record...NONE concerning prohibitive offenses. A meeting headed by the Dean of the College of Education is required if clearances show non-prohibitive offenses. Students must file an updated Act 24 with SRU if any additional arrests convictions occur while enrolled at SRU.

# SPECIAL EDUCATION: AUTISM ENDORSEMENT

www.sru.edu/SPED



## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Are you a classroom teacher interested in improving your knowledge in the area of Autism Spectrum Disorders? If so, read on! According to the Center for Disease Control, one out of every 88 children born today will be diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder. Many of these children are capable of being included in a typical classroom setting with some assistance from a knowledgeable professional. Do you want to be that professional?

## AUTISM ENDORSEMENT ONLINE (12 CREDITS)

The Autism Endorsement Program is a program recognized by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. It is available to interested students with an existing undergraduate degree in education (any area) or professionals working in human services agencies that support children and adults with Autism (ex. Behavior Specialist, Wraparound, etc). The program has been developed as a response to the increasing need for highly trained teachers and professionals to work with students diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders in public and private schools and outside agencies.

The program curriculum is highly specialized with courses that address the social and communication needs for children with Autism, an Applied Behavior Analysis course to prepare teachers for academic instruction, and curriculum and program needs for children with ASD. This program can be completed in two semesters and is exclusively online. Upon completion of the program, educators are eligible to receive the endorsement on their current teaching certifications by applying for the endorsement through PDE.

### Autism Endorsement (12 credits):

- SPED 640: Advanced Study of Autism Spectrum Disorders
- SPED 641: Applied Behavior Analysis/Single Subject Experimental Design
- SPED 642: Program Development for Students with ASD
- SPED 643: Communication and Social Competency for students with ASD

\*The educational policies and procedures are continually being reviewed and changed in keeping with the mission of the university. Consequently, this document cannot be considered binding and it is intended to be used as only an informational guide. Students are responsible for being informed of official policies and regulations for meeting all appropriate requirements.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

SRU's Autism Endorsement Program offers:

- An exclusively online 12-credit program convenient for the working professional educator and can be completed on two semesters.
- A highly specialized courses that address the social and communication needs for children with Autism, an Applied Behavior Analysis course to prepare teachers for academic instruction, and curriculum and program needs for children with ASD.
- Program approval by the Pennsylvania Department of Education leading to an endorsement on a teaching certificate
- Classes taught by professors with an expertise in ABA and Autism Spectrum Disorders
- A curriculum aligned with CEC standards and Pennsylvania Department of Education competencies

## ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must submit the following materials along with a completed online graduate application and non-refundable application fee:

1. A final official transcript sent directly from the institution that conferred the applicant's undergraduate degree as well as official transcripts from any other undergraduate or graduate coursework completed.
2. A copy of your teaching certificate, a PA certificate is not required
3. Resume
4. Recommendation forms: one academic reference from a former or current college or university faculty member with knowledge of the applicant's academic abilities and one professional reference from a school administrator, teacher, or supervisor with knowledge of the applicant's professional attributes. Recommendations must be on the appropriate forms, which are available electronically at [www.sru.edu/graduate](http://www.sru.edu/graduate), under "Forms".

Unconditional admission may be offered to applicants who submit acceptable credentials as listed above, and who have earned an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or higher (based on a 4.0 scale). Applicants who do not meet all of the above criteria may be offered conditional admission upon recommendation of the graduate coordinator and approval by the director of Graduate Admissions. Applicants should have their final official transcripts forwarded directly to the Office of Graduate Admissions.

For questions about academics and course scheduling:

Dr. Robert Isherwood  
Graduate Coordinator  
216 McKay Educational Building  
724.290.6057  
robert.isherwood@sru.edu

For questions about admissions:

Office of Graduate Admissions  
105 North Hall, Welcome Center  
Slippery Rock, PA 16057  
724.738.2051 or 877.SRU.GRAD  
graduate.admissions@sru.edu  
www.sru.edu/graduate

SlipperyRock  
University<sup>SM</sup>  
of Pennsylvania

www.sru.edu

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