

SPECIAL EDUCATION

AUTISM

MASTER OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

DELIVERY METHOD

100% online

START TERMS

Fall, Winter, Spring, or Summer

COMPLETION TIME

M.Ed.: Students can be complete in one calendar year but have up to 6 years to finish the program. Classes are offered year-round, and students can work toward completion based on convenience and preference.

Endorsement: can be completed in one year

NUMBER OF CREDITS

Autism (M.Ed.) - 36 credits
Autism Endorsement - 12 credits



Slippery Rock University's College of Education was recently recognized by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) with the Frank Murray Leadership Recognition for Continuous Improvement. SRU was one of 21 colleges and universities in the world recognized for excellence in educator preparation through the purposeful use of self-study procedures and evidence-based reporting that assure quality and support continuous improvement to strengthen P-12 learning.

SlipperyRock
University

A member of Pennsylvania's State System
of Higher Education

EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

www.sru.edu/graduate

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

According to current research, one out of every 54 children born today will be diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. This has led to a significant demand for working professionals who understand autism. That is why SRU developed the Special Education with an Emphasis on Autism graduate program. This program's curriculum is highly specialized with courses that address the social and communication needs of children with autism, an Applied Behavior Analysis course to prepare teachers for academic instruction, and curriculum and program needs for children with ASD.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

SRU's Autism Program offers:

- Highly specialized graduate degree that addresses 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
- 100% online program convenient for the working professional
- Flexible curriculum that meets the demands of classroom teachers or human service agency professionals
- Classes taught by professors with an expertise in Applied Behavior Analysis and Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Curriculum aligned with Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) standards and Pennsylvania Department of Education competencies

CURRICULUM GUIDE

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, case manager).

Area I - Core Courses in Special Education

SPED 611	Special Education Law	3
SPED 617	Current Research in Special Education	3
SPED 625	Instructional Strategies for Learning and Behavioral Problems	3
Subtotal		9

Area II - Concentration/Additional Classes

SPED 607	Positive Classroom Interventions	3
SPED 618	Developing Integrated Language and Literacy Programs for Students with Disabilities	3
SPED 620	Contemporary Issues in Special Education	3
SPED 640	Advanced Study of Autism Spectrum Disorders	3
SPED 641	Applied Behavior Analysis/Single Subject Experimental Design	3
SPED 642	Curriculum and Instruction for Autism Spectrum Disorders	3
SPED 643	Communication and Social Competency	3
SPED 646	Assessment and Evaluation	3
Subtotal		24

Area III - Practicum

SPED 648	Clinical Practicum in Special Education*	3
Total Hours		36

*Students may choose to complete a thesis option (SPED 800) in place of Practicum SPED 648.

TUITION

Information on current tuition can be found on the Graduate Admissions website at www.sru.edu/graduate. Financial Aid brochures are available through the Financial Aid Office www.sru.edu/FinAid.

AWARDS



SPECIAL EDUCATION AUTISM ENDORSEMENT

MASTER OF EDUCATION
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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 54 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?

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

SRU's Autism Endorsement Program offers:

- An exclusively online 12-credit program convenient for the working professional educator and can be completed in two semesters
- 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
- Curriculum aligned with CEC standards and Pennsylvania Department of Education competencies

CURRICULUM GUIDE

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). 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 certification by applying for the endorsement through PDE.

Required Courses

SPED 640	Advanced Study of Autism Spectrum Disorders	3
SPED 641	Applied Behavior Analysis/Single Subject Experimental Design	3
SPED 642	Curriculum and Instruction for Autism Spectrum Disorders	3
SPED 643	Communication and Social Competency	3
Total Hours		12

FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT ACADEMICS AND COURSE SCHEDULING:

Dr. Eric Bieniek
Graduate Coordinator
206 McKay Education Building
724.738.4106
eric.bieniek@sru.edu

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 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.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

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

1. Official undergraduate degree transcript(s) and any graduate transcripts.
2. Copy of teaching certificate, a PA certificate is not required. If you are not a teaching professional, please notify graduate.admissions@sru.edu so we may adjust your application requirements. Students without a teacher certification are not eligible for the endorsement
3. Resume
4. Two electronic recommendation forms: Two from a professional or one from a professional and one from a faculty member
5. 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.

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE CERTIFICATION

Special Education: Autism M.Ed. with Endorsement
Program approval by the Pennsylvania Department of Education leading to an endorsement on a teaching certificate.

Autism Endorsement

Upon completion of the program, educators are eligible to receive the endorsement on their current teaching certificates by applying for the endorsement through PDE.

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 clearances on file at SRU. Please refer to the graduate website at www.sru.edu/graduate and select "Requirements by Program" to learn more.

TESTING AND PDE CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

(to view the most updated information, click on the QR code provided below)



FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT ADMISSIONS:

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