

# AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS - GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

College of Education Health and Human Services  
School of Lifespan Development and Educational Sciences  
[www.kent.edu/ehhs/ldes](http://www.kent.edu/ehhs/ldes)

## About This Program

The Autism Spectrum Disorders certificate program provides students with knowledge and skills necessary to understand and support autistic individuals across the lifespan and across contexts. Read more...

## Contact Information

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- Connect with an Admissions Counselor: U.S. Student | International Student

## Program Delivery

- **Delivery:**
  - Fully Online
  - Mostly Online
- **Location:**
  - Kent Campus

## Examples of Possible Careers and Salaries\*

### Education teachers, postsecondary

- 4.8% about as fast as the average
- 77,300 number of jobs
- \$65,440 potential earnings

### Special education teachers, all other

- 8.5% much faster than the average
- 36,600 number of jobs
- \$62,820 potential earnings

### Special education teachers, kindergarten and elementary school

- 2.9% slower than the average
- 193,000 number of jobs
- \$60,620 potential earnings

### Special education teachers, middle school

- 2.6% slower than the average
- 84,700 number of jobs
- \$61,820 potential earnings

### Special education teachers, preschool

- 8.3% much faster than the average
- 23,000 number of jobs
- \$61,400 potential earnings

### Special education teachers, secondary school

- 3.2% about as fast as the average
- 143,000 number of jobs
- \$62,320 potential earnings

### Healthcare support workers, all other

- 6.9% faster than the average
- 96,900 number of jobs
- \$39,530 potential earnings

### Social and human service assistants

- 16.8% much faster than the average
- 425,600 number of jobs
- \$35,960 potential earnings

\* Source of occupation titles and labor data comes from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics'

Occupational Outlook Handbook. Data comprises projected percent change in employment over the next 10 years; nation-wide employment numbers; and the yearly median wage at which half of the workers in the occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less.

For more information about graduate admissions, visit the graduate admission website. For more information on international admissions, visit the international admission website.

## Admission Requirements

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university
- Minimum 2.750 GPA on a 4.000-point scale
- Official transcript(s)
- Goal statement
- Two letters of recommendation
- English language proficiency - all international students must provide proof of English language proficiency (unless they meet specific exceptions to waive) by earning one of the following:<sup>1</sup>
  - Minimum 79 TOEFL iBT score
  - Minimum 6.5 IELTS score
  - Minimum 58 PTE score
  - Minimum 110 DET score

<sup>1</sup> International applicants who do not meet the above test scores will not be considered for admission.

## Application Deadline

- **Fall Semester**
  - Rolling admissions
- **Spring Semester**
  - Rolling admissions
- **Summer Term**
  - Rolling admissions

## Program Requirements

### Certificate Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
<b>Certificate Requirements</b>		
SPA 54010	SOCIAL COMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT AND DISORDERS IN AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS	3
SPA 54030	AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS OVER THE LIFESPAN	3
SPA 54309	AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS: THEORY AND DIAGNOSIS	3
SPED 53030	APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS I: THEORY AND TECHNIQUES	3
SPED 63959	MEDICAL ASPECTS OF LIFESPAN DISABILITIES	3
Certificate Elective, choose from the following:		1-3
SPA 64096	INDIVIDUAL INVESTIGATION:SPEECH PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY	
SPA 64098	RESEARCH	
SPED 53031	APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS II: APPLICATION	
SPED 63949	AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER CAPSTONE	
SPED 63996	INDIVIDUAL INVESTIGATION IN SPECIAL EDUCATION	
<b>Minimum Total Credit Hours:</b>		<b>16</b>

### Graduation Requirements

Minimum Certificate GPA	Minimum Overall GPA
3.000	3.000

- Students declared in a doctoral degree should enroll in the doctoral level version of these courses, if offered.

### Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of this program will be able to:

- Describe the diagnostic and learning style characteristics of individuals with autism spectrum disorder.
- Identify early signs of autism spectrum disorder and identify and evaluate instruments used to screen for and diagnose autism spectrum disorder in children and adults.
- Identify neurobiological and environmental factors implicated in the etiology of autism spectrum disorder.
- Describe medical and complementary and alternative medical interventions used by individuals with autism spectrum disorder.
- Compare the social-communicative development of individuals with autism spectrum disorder to that of neurotypically developing individuals.
- Describe different theoretical models for understanding autism spectrum disorder.
- Implement evidence-based interventions to address the needs of individuals with autism spectrum disorder.

### Graduate Certificate Policy for the College of Education, Health and Human Services

- Students seeking a graduate certificate must maintain a minimum 3.000 grade point average. A graduate certificate student who receives a combination of more than 8 credit hours of B- or lower

grades, or more than 4 credit hours of grades lower than C is subject to dismissal. Students who are unable to maintain academic standards of the College are subject to dismissal for academic reasons. Grades of C- or below are not counted toward completion of the certificate.

- Certificates must be completed within six years after the first graduate enrollment.
- No more than 2 credit hours of workshop may be used toward a certificate.
- Before being eligible to be awarded a Certificate, students must be admitted to the Certificate program.
- Students currently in a graduate degree program may also apply to a certificate program. Their degree seeking coursework may be applied to the certificate coursework with advisor approval. The courses must be completed within six years and satisfy certificate course requirements.
- Students who have a previous graduate degree and are not currently seeking another graduate degree may transfer a maximum 6 credit hours with advisor approval. These credits may include hours from another KSU program, or from another accredited institution, if the following conditions are met: (1) courses were at the graduate level; (2) a grade of "A" or "B" was earned; (3) credit will be less than six years old at the time the certificate is conferred at Kent; and (4) student was admitted as a graduate student at the time the course was taken.
- Some program areas may be more restrictive. Students are advised to consult their program.

### Full Description

The Autism Spectrum Disorders graduate certificate prepares students for understanding and addressing the needs of individuals with autism across the spectrum, across the lifespan and in varied contexts, including general and special education classrooms and community settings. Students gain knowledge and skills related to diagnostic and learning style characteristics, causes and medical intervention, early signs and assessment protocols, social-communicative development and disorders, theoretical models and implications of those models for intervention, family characteristics and evidence-based intervention practices.

This certificate is most relevant for students who want to specialize in autism spectrum disorders and/or professionals assuming leadership roles in supporting individuals on the spectrum and their families in the programs and organizations in which they work.