

Autism Studies

Post-Baccalaureate Certificate

- For classroom teachers, special area teachers, special education teachers, school nurses, guidance counselors, OTs, SLPs, degreed paraprofessionals, and others working with children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD).

Towson University's **two year, 16 credit** Post Baccalaureate Certificate Program in Autism Studies offers advanced training for professionals working with individuals on the autism spectrum or with other complex and overlapping challenges (e.g. behavior problems, social difficulties, anxiety disorders, executive function issues, and rigidity/resistance to change.) Students gain an **enormous breadth and depth of autism-focused knowledge**. Topics covered include:

- Typical traits of individuals on the autism spectrum (*gifts/ challenges, from infancy/adulthood*)
- Co-occurring conditions (*e.g. anxiety, ADHD*)
- Evidence-based interventions (*behavioral approaches, social skills training, classroom strategies*)
- Program planning and problem solving
- Family impact

Students in the program interact and network with other professionals who also have a passionate interest in autism. Each brings insights from their field, as well as their setting, from pre-school to high school. Some know about a certain group, like high-IQ teenagers or recently diagnosed toddlers. All together, they bring a wealth of perspectives to the program, enriching each other's learning and enhancing their store of autism-focused resources.

- Courses are offered in an online, synchronous format using BlackBoard Collaborate. You will "meet" weekly on the computer at a scheduled time.
- Admission requirement: Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university with a minimum GPA of 3.0 (2.75 for conditional admission).
- Tuition for 3 credit courses is \$900. Please ask about agreements with specific counties.

Course Sequence

Spring 1	IDHP 621 Contemporary Issues for Infants and Children on the Autism Spectrum (3) IDHP 641 Communication, Behavior, and Participation Linkages for People on the Autism Spectrum (3) <i>*features key evidence-based interventions and classroom strategies</i> (Courses given back to back, 7 weeks each)
Fall 1	IDHP 623 Contemporary Issues for Adolescents and Adults on the Autism Spectrum (3)
Spring 2	FMST 610 Family and Professional Collaboration (3)
Fall 2	IDHP 642 Program Design and Implementation in Autism (3) <i>*Ziggurat Model for designing individualized programs for children/teens with ASD</i> IDHP 681 Seminar in Autism Spectrum Issues (1)

Note: this PBC is an academic credential and not a certificate from the MDSE.

Please contact Alyssa Zumpano azumpano@towson.edu for more information