



California University of Pennsylvania
AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS
Online Graduate Program



CALU
Graduate Studies

The Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) online program is designed to qualify students to apply for endorsement with the Pennsylvania Department of Education or to provide professional development for those working with individuals/students with ASD.



With the rapidly growing prevalence of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) nationwide, many school districts recognize the importance of having a special education teacher or other professional who is knowledgeable about individuals/students with ASD. In response to this need, Cal U has developed a specialized program to extend the training and professional development of students who have earned a graduate degree or certificate in special education and would like to add the ASD endorsement to their current certification.

Cal U's program in Autism Spectrum Disorders directly addresses the needs of educators and professionals working with individuals with ASD throughout their lifespan.

There are two program options:

- Professionals who have held teaching certification in special education can complete the four-course, 12-credit online program and apply to the Pennsylvania Department of Education to have ASD added to their current teaching certificates.
- Individuals who do not currently hold special education certification, including educators with certification in any area, other education professionals, family members of individuals with ASD, and others, can complete the four-course, 12-credit online program for professional development but will not be able to apply for ASD certification.

Admissions criteria for either option are similar to the special education master's degree or certification-only programs.

Graduate Programs with a Higher Degree of Character

It's no wonder that graduate enrollments at California University rank in the top four among all universities in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education. Our master's degree and professional programs are academically rigorous, and they build upon the rich work experiences that students bring to their studies.



“The ASD program at Cal U is excellent; the instructors are very knowledgeable in their field, and they work very hard to make sure their students have a clear understanding of how to work with and teach children or adults with autism.”

JULIE DEVIRGILIO
BEHAVIOR SPECIALIST CONSULTANT, WJS PSYCHOLOGICAL
CAL U GRADUATE STUDENT

Delivery Mode

100% online

Accreditation

National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and
Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE)

> AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS – 12 CREDITS

ESP 740	Nature/Characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorders	3
ESP 741	Communication, Behavior and Instruction: ASD	3
ESP 742	Life Transitions and Partnerships: ASD	3
ESP 743	Navigating the Social World: ASD	3

The prerequisite for the ASD courses is ESP 701: Introduction to Behavior Analysis, or another comparable course. The prerequisite may be taken concurrently with the first course taken, but must be taken prior to the additional courses.

With the prerequisite requirement in mind, the program coordinator will review each admitted student's transcript on a case-by-case basis.

ESP 740 Nature/Characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorders (3 credits): This introductory course provides a foundation in understanding and addressing the unique and complex challenges individuals on the autism spectrum face in their learning, development and social experiences.

ESP 741 Communication, Behavior and Instruction: ASD (3 credits): This course offers preparation in the design and delivery of communication, behavior and instructional supports for diverse learners with ASD and includes data-based assessment and intervention; Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA); functional communication; Augmentative Alternative Communication (AAC); environmental supports; structured teaching; differentiated instruction; and cognitive, developmental and sensory-based approaches.

ESP 742 Life Transitions and Partnerships: ASD (3 credits): This course is designed to offer rigorous exploration and critical analysis of contemporary issues influencing the lifelong learning, development and socio-cultural experiences of people on the autism spectrum. The course addresses core professional competencies in autism-related knowledge and practice: (1) transition, vocational and independent living, (2) sexuality, (3) family support and partnerships, (4) school and community partnerships, and (5) professional literacy and leadership.

ESP 743 Navigating the Social World: ASD (3 credits): This course is designed to provide preparation in methods to enhance socialization, communication and imagination in diverse learners with ASD. The course merges the theoretical understanding of the "triad of impairments" as defining features of autism with practical modes of assessment and intervention.

For complete course descriptions of all graduate programs offered in a variety of academic disciplines at Cal U, visit www.calu.edu.



PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr. Kalie Kossar
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ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

- Official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended, verifying a 2.8 GPA (or higher), even if a degree was not earned from a particular institution
- \$25 nonrefundable application fee
- Current Act 34, 114 and 151 clearances
- Copy of teaching certificate or professional licensure in special education

APPLICATION

Applications are available online at our website, www.calu.edu.

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GRADUATE FACULTY

Faculty teaching graduate courses in the Special Education program include:

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