

Old Dominion University

Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate	Passing score: Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators Tests (or VBOE-approved equivalent) or Virginia Collegiate/Postgraduate Professional Teaching License	*Official university transcripts; program entrance requirements
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The department of Communication Disorders and Special Education at Old Dominion University is pleased to offer a 12-credit-hour certificate program designed to prepare teachers and related service providers to effectively work with and provide support for students with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The Virginia Autism Council has provided a comprehensive list of knowledge and skill statements which are critical to successfully serve students with autism spectrum disorders. In accordance with these knowledge and skill statements, students will be assessed during these courses through case-based learning, practicum assignments and comprehensive examinations designed to demonstrate mastery in the Virginia Autism Council's skill competencies.

All applicants should hold a bachelor's degree in the area of special education. However, individuals who hold a valid teaching license in any educational field may be considered for admittance. Participants are required to earn 12 graduate credits as outlined below. Applicants must be currently admitted to ODU or must complete the graduate non-degree entry process, including the in-state tuition rate form. This coursework can be completed separately from, or integrated into, the ODU Master's Degree in Special Education.

Curriculum

Credits

SPED 625: Characteristics of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders	3
SPED 627*: Instructional Strategies for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders	3
SPED 569: Communication/Language Development and Intervention for Students with Significant Disabilities	3
SPED 621*: Effective Interventions for Children and Youth with Challenging Behavior	3

*45 hour early field experience required.

Upon successful completion of the certificate program, participants will be able to:

Describe the primary and secondary characteristics of ASD and the impact on socialization, communication, sensory processing disorders, patterns of behaviors, and learning styles.

Understand and apply theories and research that form the basis of curriculum development and instructional practice.

Assess and evaluate the function of the behaviors of students with ASD and identify how to provide positive behavioral interventions to replace, reduce or prevent current and/or future behaviors.

