

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM FOR PARAPROFESSIONALS: AUTISM

The six-course non-credit certificate has been developed to meet the professional development needs of Para educators, job coaches, adult service providers, parents, and community members who work or provide services to students and adults with disabilities. These courses will also benefit classroom teachers, college students, grandparents and family members, as well as community advocates working on behalf of raising awareness and improving services for students and adults with disabilities.

The six-course sequence consists of three disability related foundation courses and three specialty track courses. Participants can either elect to take all six courses to obtain a Certificate of Completion or take any individual course(s) based on interest or need.

Each course is 15 hours in length and meets from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at a cost of \$120. Payment must be made in full upon registration. To register, please contact the Division of Continuing Education, Corporate and Public Sector Training at (201) 447-7488.

Location:

Foundation Courses:

Overview of Disabilities

This course introduces learners to the spectrum of disability classifications within the medical and education models. Gain knowledge of disabilities that will include, but not limited to: Learning Disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD/ADD), Physical Disabilities, Traumatic Brain Injury, Autism, and Bipolar Disorder. The last class will focus on the transition of special needs students from high school to college with an understanding of the differences in IDEIA and ADA for school age children and for adults with disabilities.

CE 970 Monday 9/13 -10/11/2010 **Instructor:** Lynn Gold

The Learning Process: Enhancing Instructional Skills

This course discusses the spectrum of disability classifications and the specific ways they affect learning and achievement. It will provide an overview of medications commonly used and their effects, practical strategies on identifying learning styles to support instructional practices and an ability to assist in adapting and modifying the classroom, home and community for optimal learning. Also, included are strategies that promote independence and how to develop and maintain supportive learning environments by appropriately organizing learning activities.

CE 971 Monday 10/18 - 11/15/2010 **Instructor:** Louise Ryan

Managing Behavior & Social Interactions for Learners with Disabilities

This course will discuss the primary factors that influence behavior and provide information on how to effectively employ a variety of strategies to reinforce positive behaviors. Strategies for collecting objective and accurate information on behaviors that may be exhibited in a variety of environments and development of social skills by using strategies to modify the environment and/or facilitate communication will be discussed.

CE 972 Monday 11/22 – 12/20/2010 **Instructor:** Sue Berger

Autism Specialty Track Courses:

Overview of Children and Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders

This course will present a comprehensive overview of the characteristics of children and adults on the autism spectrum including Autism Disorders, Aspergers, and PDD-NOS. Discussion on how children and adults with autism are evaluated and classified including diagnostic medical models versus diagnostic educational models. The effects of autism on the family including parents, siblings and the extended family will be discussed.

CE 973 Tuesday 9/14 – 10/12/2010 **Instructor:** Marissa Gynn

Overview of Methodologies to Support Students & Adults on the Spectrum

This course will provide an introduction to methodologies used to support children and adults on the autism spectrum including ABA, DIR Floor time, DRT, Miller, Carbone, TEACCH, PECS, SCERTS, Sensory Integration and others. This course will provide information so as to allow participants to compare and contrast the accepted methodologies used to support and instruct children and adults with autism.

CE 974 Tuesday 10/19 – 11/16/2010 **Instructor:** Shannon Medeiros

Behavioral and Social Skills Supports for Children & Adults with Autism

This course will give an overview of the main behavioral characteristics of children and adults with autism and the methods used to facilitate and support the development of appropriate behaviors and social skills in the school, home and community. Normal developmental sequences and the developmental gaps found in social skill development across the autism spectrum will be reviewed.

CE 975 Tuesday 11/23 – 12/21/2010 **Instructor:** Melanie DeFuria