Graduate Certificate in Autism Spectrum Disorders

In 2000, the Center for Disease Control estimated that 1 in 1000 children were diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD). By 2014, those estimates had increased to 1 in 68. All preK-12 schools in Maine are required to provide educational services to students with an ASD in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE). The primary purpose of this 3-course certificate sequence is to prepare experienced educators, administrators, and related service providers to assume a leadership role in the development and implementation of educational programs for students with autism in school settings.

Certificate program objectives:

1. Candidates will develop theoretical knowledge and applied skills for understanding the needs of students with ASD and providing evidence-based practices according to individual needs.

2. Candidates will have the necessary theoretical and applied background to provide leadership to their schools and districts in developing a sound model of educational and social/behavioral support and intervention.

3. Candidates will be familiar with and able to access available resources to support their districts’ efforts in providing services for their students with ASD.

4. Candidates will have the knowledge and skills to serve as team leaders and coaches in supporting program implementation in their schools and districts.

Courses:

The certificate program includes three courses (a total of 9 credits). Courses will be offered annually, one per semester, in the following sequence:

1. SED 528 Educational Methods for Students with Autism (Fall semester)
2. SED 585 Communication for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (Spring semester)
3. SED 563 Positive Behavioral Supports for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (Summer semester)

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