

Severe Developmental Disabilities and Autism

Graduate Certificate 18 Credit Hours

This program is offered by the School of Education. It is available online (asynchronous).

For information on the general requirements for a certificate, see Certificate Program Policies and Procedures under the Academic Policies section of this catalog.

Program Description

The graduate certificate in severe developmental disabilities and autism offers a concentrated program of study in the assessment and instruction of children and youth with severe developmental disabilities and autism. The program builds on the knowledge base of special educators who are already qualified to teach students with mild and moderate disabilities and extends the capabilities of special educators to provide individualized and appropriate educational opportunities and resources to all children.

Completion of the graduate certificate in severe developmental disabilities and autism qualifies those who already hold initial teacher certification in Mild/Moderate Cross-categorical Disabilities (K-12) in the State of Missouri to apply for Severe Development Disabilities (K-12) add-on certification through the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

Learning Outcomes

Graduates of this program are able to:

- Use valid and reliable assessment practices to minimize bias.
- Use their knowledge of general and specialized curricula to improve programs, supports and services at classroom, school, community and system levels.
- Facilitate the continuous improvement of general and special education programs, supports and services at the classroom, school and system levels for individuals with exceptionalities.
- Conduct, evaluate and use inquiry to guide professional practice.
- Provide leadership to formulate goals, set and meet high professional expectations, advocate for effective policies and evidence-based practices, and create positive and productive work environments.
- Use foundational knowledge of the field and professional ethical principles and practice standards to inform special education practice, engage in lifelong learning, advance the profession, and perform leadership responsibilities to promote the success of professional colleagues and individuals with exceptionalities.
- Collaborate with stakeholders to improve programs, services and outcomes for individuals with exceptionalities and their families.

Requirements

- SPED 5245 Counseling for Life's Transitions (3 hours)
- SPED 5311 Assessment of Functional Skills for Students with Severe Developmental Disabilities and Autism (3 hours)
- SPED 5312 Curriculum and Methods of Teaching Students with Severe Developmental Disabilities and Autism (3 hours)
- SPED 5313 Augmentative and Alternative Communication for Students with SDD and Autism (3 hours)
- SPED 5090 Special Education Practicum: Severe Developmental Disabilities (3 hours)

- SPED 5880 Integrating Resources: Community, School and Family (3 hours)

Admission

See the Admission section of this catalog for general admission requirements. Students interested in applying must submit their application online at www.webster.edu/ apply. Transcripts should be sent from your institution electronically to transcripts@webster.edu. If this service is not available, send transcripts to:

Office of Admission
Webster University
470 E. Lockwood Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63119

Additional Requirements

Requirements for admission to the Graduate Certification in Severe Developmental Disabilities and Autism include:

- Receipt of all official transcripts.
- Final degree conferred GPA of 2.5 or higher.