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PROFESSIONAL &
CONTINUING EDUCATION
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

Autism Studies: Theory & Practice

Develop a comprehensive understanding of autism spectrum disorders and appropriate interventions (Classroom or Via Webinar)

Approved by the UW Department of Psychology

Program Overview

The Certificate in Autism Studies: Theory & Practice provides professionals and paraprofessionals with an understanding of autism spectrum disorders (ASD) at both the scientific and practical levels by linking cutting edge scientific findings to best practices in treatment and education. The goal is to provide greater insight into the scientific foundations of ASD will lead to deeper and broader understanding of intervention approaches and their application.

Given that the prevalence of ASD is now roughly 1 in 50 children, anyone engaged in health, education and other service fields will come into contact and work with children, youth, and adults with ASD. The knowledge and skills gained in the certificate will provide a foundation for the instruction of practical tips, strategies, tools, and techniques that can be applied to early detection, assessment, diagnosis, intervention and education in ASD.

Key Knowledge Areas and Skills

- Learn about ASD symptoms including the implications for educational, social, and mental health needs and outcomes.
- Learn strategies used in the early identification and diagnosis of ASD.
- Study ASD treatment approaches including empirically supported interventions and controversial approaches within their historical contexts.
- Develop a proficiency discussing scientific and clinical issues with professionals and families across a range of diverse disciplines, orientations, and vocabularies.
- Identify and discuss current scientific perspectives on the genetic and neurobiological underpinnings of ASD and how they develop the development of behavioral symptoms.
- Evaluate scientific literature, anecdotal reflections, and media reports related to ASD.

Program Starts

Autumn Quarter 2016—Visit www.pce.uw.edu to learn more and apply today

Location

UW Campus, Seattle or via webinar

Format

Classroom or enroll to attend via an online webinar connection. Classes meet Wednesdays 6:00pm to 9:00pm. PST (Seattle)

Contact

info@pce.uw.edu

206-685-8936 or 888-469-6499

www.KeepLearning.uw.edu

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Courses

Understanding Autism (Autumn, 3 Graduate Credits/3 Non-Credit CEU's—*also available as a single course enrollment—SCE*)

This course focuses on the etiology, neuroscience, diagnosis, and conceptualization of ASD. Approached from a multi-disciplinary perspective, this didactic course brings together genetics, neuroscience, and behavioral sciences to provide an academic foundational understanding of ASD. The class structure includes lectures, readings, and writing assignments. The class also includes guest speakers (parent, representative from advocacy group, individual with ASD) and a range of activities designed to enhance learning from multiple approaches.

Autism Treatment and Intervention (Winter, 3 Graduate Credits/ 3 Non-Credit CEU's)

This course focuses on the theoretical principles and specialized skills relevant to the treatment and intervention of ASD. Through lectures, discussions, readings, and assignments, students engage in critical review and understanding of the scientific literature on intervention in autism. In addition to this coursework, readings and assignments, students shadow and observe diagnostic and treatment sessions conducted at the UW Autism Center.

Current Issues in Autism (Spring, 3 Graduate Credits/ 3 Non-Credit CEU's)

This third and final course builds upon the foundational knowledge cemented in the first two courses of the program. Students will engage with Seattle-area experts around current issues facing the field of clinical work with ASD. Readings and expert-led discussions will provide enhanced integration of issues facing clinicians, educators, families, and scientists focusing on ASD. Topics will include: prevalence of ASD, the use of complementary and alternative interventions, ethical issues pertaining to clinical and research work with families, ASD in the media, and other current issues.

Program Features

- Guest speakers including individuals impacted by autism, leading scientists and experts working in the field
- Group projects promoting interaction and networking with other regional professionals and paraprofessionals
- Individualized mentorship focused on tailoring the application of course content to professional goals
- Choice of graduate credit or CEUs

Who Should Apply

- Individuals with an undergraduate degree and experience working with people impacted by autism
- Professionals and paraprofessionals from a variety of backgrounds, including nursing, education, medicine, speech and hearing sciences, occupational/physical therapy, psychology and social work