

**GRADUATE COUNCIL
NEW PROGRAM PROPOSAL**

**It is required that you follow this format when presenting a
New Graduate Program for review and approval.**

Please submit the typed original with all required signatures to the Graduate Council.

Form functionality most compatible using Adobe Acrobat 9 and newer.

Title of New Program: Autism Spectrum Disorders Graduate Certificate Program

Department or other unit proposing the New Program: Education

Contact Person: Nancy Murray and Robert Shapiro

List Members
of the Graduate
Curriculum
Committee: Ruth Joseph (Chair), Janna Heiliegstein (Chair), Anne Howard, Nancy Murray, Robert Shapiro, William Cortezia,
Lyndsey Benharris

This is a: ☒ New Program ☐ New Concentration

This refers to a (check all that apply): ☒ Certificate Program ☐ Teacher Licensure Program ☐ Degree Program

Briefly describe new program as it will appear in university catalog:

The Autism Spectrum Disorders Graduate Certificate Program is designed to provide licensed educators with specialized knowledge and skills in order to meet the unique and complex needs of students with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Educators who hold a teaching license at the Initial or Professional level who have at least three credits related to special education are eligible to apply for this certificate program. This program will lead to an Autism Endorsement for Educator Licensure through the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

This program consists of a four course sequence (12 credits total) in order to meet the Subject Matter Knowledge requirements for the Autism Endorsement put forth by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Population/anticipated enrollment/staffing plan (i.e., Who/how many will program serve?)

Teachers holding an Initial or Professional license and looking for expertise in the working with individuals with ASD.

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The ongoing increase in students diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder(ASD) has created a specific need for teachers to obtain further knowledge and skills in order to meet the needs of all students . Teachers graduating from programs are afforded minimal knowledge and skills around the unique and complex needs of students with ASD. This program will provide the candidates with the necessary expertise and practice which meet the DESE indicators for obtaining a Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Autism Endorsement for Educators License while significantly enhancing the education received by students with ASD.

Will program run on cohort model? ☐ Yes ☒ NoWill additional faculty be needed, day/adjunct? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Library and other resources needed:

no additional resources needed

Describe program's admissions requirements:

Same as all other special education graduate programs.

Candidates can only take two courses prior to matriculation into the certificate program.

Implementation plan (what semester will new program begin; will it be phased in; attach suggested execution)

Fall 2018. These courses will be offered in a sequential 7-week online format. Following the course sequence as scheduled, a candidate could complete this program in two semesters (fall, spring).

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A plan of study must be included with this proposal.

If new courses are proposed or major changes are made to existing courses, submit a Graduate Council New Course Approval form. Attach any letter(s) of support from professional agencies or others within or outside the university.

☒ Plan of Study is Attached

☒ Reviewed by Dean:

Bruno Hicks

Print Form

Required Signatures—Graduate and Continuing Education New Program Approval

New Program Initiator:

Nancy Minay

Date: 1/10/18

Department Chair:

Nancy Minay

Date: 1/10/18

Graduate Council Chair:

Genée Scappatone

Date: 02/06/18

(Indicates Graduate Council approval)

President:

Paul S. Lapadula

Date: 2/2/18

Autism Spectrum Disorder Graduate Certificate Program

Plan of Study

7 week courses

Course	Semester Offered	New/Existing Course
Foundations and Characteristics of Autism (25 hour field based prepracticum experience)	Fall 2018 (First 7 weeks)	New
Assessment of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (50 hour field-based prepracticum experience)	Fall 2018 (Second 7 weeks)	New
Positive Behavior Supports (25 hour field based prepracticum experience)	Spring 2019 (First 7 weeks)	Existing Course SPED 8180
Interventions for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (50 hour field-based prepracticum experience)	Spring 2019 (Second 7 weeks)	New

Note: The state requires 150 field based experience hours, with a minimum of 75 hours in an inclusive setting with students with autism and 75 hours of additional experience in any type of school setting working with students with autism.