Required Training for Teachers of Students with Autism

The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing has recently revised program requirements for teachers of students with autism. Every Education Specialist teaching children with autism must obtain training in working with children with autism.

Cal State Fullerton’s Autism Added Authorization will enable you to meet this requirement. Four online courses cover all aspects of teaching students with autism, enhancing the previous training that you have received.

Requirement Details

If you currently hold an Education Specialist credential in Early Childhood Special Education or Moderate/Severe, you already have training in autism and are NOT required to obtain this new Added Authorization.

However, anyone who received their Education Specialist credential in Mild/Moderate prior to Fall 2010 AND who currently works with or is interested in working with children with autism must complete an Added Authorization. Additionally, persons with a Learning Handicapped Credential, Life Ryan Credential, or the Education Specialist in other areas must also obtain the new Added Authorization.

If you have already taken credential courses at Cal State Fullerton that include any of the classes listed below, you’ll only be required to complete the remaining courses. If you’ve taken these classes at another university, forms will be required for you to waive those courses.

The Classes

Four ONLINE courses (3 units each) are currently offered. SPED 401 should be taken first as it serves as a prerequisite for SPED 502. After that, the classes can be taken in any order or more than one at a time. The recommended order is as follows:

**SPED 401 Introduction to Autism**
An introduction to the field of Autism. It covers the foundations and characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorders and presents up-to-date evidence-based best practices for teaching students with ASD. This course serves as a prerequisite for SPED 502.

**SPED 502 Teaching Strategies for Students with ASD**
Prerequisite: Introduction to Autism. The course focuses on teaching, learning and behavior strategies for autism spectrum disorders and presents up-to-date evidence-based best practices for teaching students with ASD.

**SPED 522 Positive Behavior Support**
The course encourages the development of an educational approach to supporting positive behaviors in the classroom and community. Regulations mandated by Hughes AB 2386. Behavior Intervention Case Manager (BICM) certificate provided to qualified personnel.

**SPED 533 Seminar: Issues and Trends in Collaborative/Consultative Services**
This course highlights contemporary research and practices as they apply to collaborative and consultative services in school and agency settings.

If you have questions or need more information regarding these courses, please contact Suzanne Robinson at srobinson@fullerton.edu