

The Autism Certificate Program consists of four courses (12 semester hours) covering Virginia's *Skill Competencies for Professionals and Paraprofessionals*. Those who complete the program receive Radford University's Post Baccalaureate Certificate of Autism Studies. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

Which careers does this certificate enhance?

There is no teaching licensure in autism in Virginia. This certificate responds to needs seen by school divisions and parents of people with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). People that have completed the certificate include those that are working in or preparing to work in:

- Special and general education
- Speech language, occupational, and physical therapy
- School and district administration
- School psychology
- Human services provision
- Paraprofessional assistance
- Parenting

How successful are completers in finding employment?

Many students who complete the certificate are already employed, and are interested in enhancing their skills. Some of these students become the autism expert for their school division or other in providing support to other parents of people with ASD.

Some students who complete the certificate do so while also completing a master's degree in another field. Those students typically find jobs in their chosen profession and have reported that having the classes in autism was a powerful selling point during interviews.

How long will it take to complete the certificate?

Most students complete the certificate in one year. EDSP 500 *An Introduction to ASD* is taught each fall, EDSP 501 *Approaches for Supporting and Teaching Individuals with ASD* is a spring course, EDSP 502 *Expanding Social Competence for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders* is offered during summer session, and EDSP 670 *Proactive Classroom Management and Advanced Positive Behavior Support* is typically offered fall and spring semesters, and sometimes during summer session.

What is the cost of the program?

Tuition costs can be found at: <http://finaid.asp.radford.edu/grchoice.htm>. Full-time Virginia educators (K-12) can qualify to pay a reduced tuition rate for Radford University courses. The Reduced Tuition Rate for Virginia Educator's is set by the Board of Visitors each May to be effective the following fall semester. For information on the current reduced rate contact the College of Graduate and Professional Studies at <http://gradcollege.asp.radford.edu/>.

The Virginia Autism Council will reimburse eligible students up to \$300.00 per course for up to three courses. Courses must be taken for academic credit and successfully completed with a grade of "B" or better. Tuition reimbursement is offered for students taking coursework designed to prepare educators to work with students with ASD. For more information go to:

<http://www.autismtrainingva.org/index.php?mod=resourcetree&id=100>