

# ENDORSEMENT CERTIFICATION IN AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS



La Salle is one of the leading providers of graduate education in Pennsylvania.

- Multiple –site course offerings at the Bucks County Intermediate Unit, Chester County Intermediate Unit, as well as at La Salle’s Main Campus, Bucks County Center, and Montgomery County Center;
- Face-to-face and online instruction activities; and
- Practical experiences with children.

**PA Endorsement Certification:** The Autism Spectrum Disorders program meets the requirements for the Pennsylvania Department of Education **Autism Spectrum Disorders Endorsement**. Master’s Option: These four courses can be combined with six core elements from the Master of Arts in Education series to earn the Master of Arts in Education at La Salle University.

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:

---

### EDC 655: Dimensions of Autism

Presented by faculty and regional experts, the course examines the characteristics of students who fall within the autism spectrum (Asperger’s syndrome, pervasive development disorder, Rett’s syndrome, childhood disintegrative disorder, and hyperlexia). In preparation for teaching students with ASD in inclusive and self-contained settings, the continuum of interventions is introduced. Also included is an overview of the historical and legislative antecedents of current practices.

### EDC 657: Systems Approach with Families and Educators

This course provides graduate students with understandings of how family, education, and community mental health systems operate collectively and independently to influence one another and the child and family affected by ASD. The program develops an understanding of services of potential benefit to the student/family dealing with ASD and the value of collaboration in the delivery of services. The course includes an examination of cultural and ethical considerations in working with the special needs of these children and their families.

### EDC 665: Communications Strategies for Students Spanning the Special Needs Spectrum

In this follow-up course, candidates for the certificate explore the role of speech, language, and hearing specialists in developing and directing the support of the child presenting with ASD and employ tactics developed to best apply these communication strategies in a

practicum experience involving students with individualized education plans (IEPs).

### EDC 667: Implementing the IEP in the Inclusive Classroom

This hybrid course will enhance graduate students’ understanding of how to interpret a Comprehensive Evaluation Report (CER) and Individualized Education Plan (IEP) in order to meet the academic, social, and/or behavioral goals of students with disabilities within the context of the general education curriculum. Also addressed is special consideration of the needs of English language learners and gifted and talented students. Application of universal design, differentiated instruction, and specific accommodations and strategies for students with disabilities is stressed. Mastery learning and action research are emphasized.

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

---

La Salle University  
Graduate Programs in Education,  
Olney Hall 112  
1900 West Olney Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19141  
215.951.1593  
E-mail: [at\\_graded@lasalle.edu](mailto:at_graded@lasalle.edu)

For more information about the program or to apply online, go to [www.lasalle.edu/graded](http://www.lasalle.edu/graded).

