

**NEW PROGRAM  
GRADUATE  
MAJOR OR CONCENTRATION  
Within an Existing Degree Program\***

\*For a new degree program, use procedures and forms found in the "SCHEV Guidelines" (page 35).

Type of Program (Check One):

**Major or Concentration** (circle one) Name:

**Certification in Autism Spectrum Disorders**

Department EDUC & SPED      Degree \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Interdisciplinary Program (or Cross-Disciplinary Major or Minor)  
Name of Program

Date \_\_\_\_\_      Resubmission of previous proposal? If so,  
Date of previous submission \_\_\_\_\_

I. Outline of the proposed major, minor, or concentration. *Attach extra sheets*

Certificate in Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)

Pse see the attached sheet.

II. New courses which will be proposed as part of this program. Be sure to submit a separate proposal for each course using the appropriate forms). *Attach extra sheets.*

**SPED 550. Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorders**

**SPED 555. Promoting Social and Communicative Competence in Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders**

**SPED 560. Strategies and Interventions for Supporting Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders in School, Home, and Community**

**SPED 580. Internship in Autism Spectrum Disorders**

III. Rationale for the program:

The number of students with autism spectrum disorders in the school system has increased significantly in the past five years. Thus in order to adequately meet the needs of these children it is vital to have teachers who are certified in ASD. Virginia council for autism is also encouraging universities to offer certification in this disorder as part of their program. In addition, there has been increasing requests from our current students and area schools

for such a program. We have already offered one course (Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorders) as a special topic during the 06-07 intersession and the students who took this course are requesting for more courses toward certification.

IV. Resource Assessment

A. Estimate additional staff requirements for this program.

Depending on the number of students interested in the program, we may need one additional faculty. However, we can manage with the current faculty and with one or two adjuncts initially until the number is justified.

B. Estimate the amount and cost of equipment, library resources, computer hardware and software, and other resources that will be required to carry out this program.

We have a good collection of books and videos on autism spectrum disorders at our Longwood library at this time.

V. Anticipated enrollment in program after five (5) years. 20 – 25 at a minimum

VI. Affected Departments or Programs.

If the proposed program changes could have an impact on other departments or programs, the appropriate affected chairs or program directors should be notified of the proposed changes. Where teaching licensure may be affected, the licensure officer should also be notified.

Licensure Officer : Dr. Connie Ballard \*\* Date Notified: Sept.5, 2007

\*\* Right now this program is not proposed for a License.

List other departments/programs that might be affected:

Individuals contacted and date contacted: Virginia Autism Council, Richmond – Nov. 2006

VII. Approvals

	<b>Date Rec'd</b>	<b>Signature Date</b>	<b>Approved</b>
1. Department Curriculum Committee Chair	_____	_____	_____
2. Department Chair	_____	_____	_____

- 3. College Dean \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. Graduate Committee \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. Educational Policy  
Committee \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. Faculty Senate \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. Date received by Registrar \_\_\_\_\_

**Proposals must be submitted early enough to reach EPC by March 1 in order to be included in next year's catalog.**

## **Attachment I**

### **Certificate in Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)**

The graduate Special Education Program offers a twelve-credit hour (four courses which include one Internship) Certificate in Autism Spectrum Disorders. Autism Spectrum Disorder encompasses several types of disorders such as autism and Asperger syndrome. In order to teach students who fall into this category the educators need special training. Thus the purpose of this certificate program would be to equip teacher candidates, existing teachers, paraprofessionals, and parents of students with ASD with the appropriate skills to educate/train individuals with ASD to enable them to be productive citizens.

Certificate course requirements include the following courses:

**SPED 550, Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorders**

**SPED 555, Communication and Social Skills for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders**

**SPED 560, Strategies and Interventions for Supporting Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders in School, Home, and Community**

**SPED 580, Internship in Autism Spectrum Disorders**

Additional information and applications can be obtained from the Graduate Special Education Program Coordinator or from the Dept. of EDUC & SPED.