

MAT Autism Spectrum Disorders • College of Education

About the Program

In line with the Madonna University mission, the master's degree program in autism spectrum disorders (ASD) is founded on intellectual inquiry, a respect for diversity, and a commitment to serving others. The MAT in ASD prepares certified teachers to effectively facilitate learning for students with ASD. Because autism is a spectrum of disorders, this program is based on an interdisciplinary approach, integrating developmental, behavioral, educational, and medical research and theory and best practice to treat all symptoms of this disorder and all aspects of the child. The program also emphasizes understanding ecological forces on the child.

Purpose

An MAT with a specialty in autism spectrum disorders is a comprehensive program for teachers who possess a valid Michigan teaching certificate. The program prepares teachers to understand and effectively work with the ASD student population. Candidates learn to administer and interpret formal/informal assessments, accurately identify student needs, and utilize best practice interventions. The curriculum enables teachers to critically analyze and utilize research-based instructional strategies to address ASD in all educational placements. Through coursework and field experiences, candidates apply theory to practice as collaborators with other educators, families, and service providers in light of inclusion and transition planning. Students may choose to pursue the ASD endorsement alone, or incorporate it into a master's degree in ASD.

Program Outcomes

After successful completion of the program students are able to:

- Describe the field of autism spectrum disorders from an interdisciplinary perspective from inception to current practice.

- Employ current formal and informal assessment instruments and approaches while consistently linking assessment outcomes to planning and instruction.
- Analyze interdisciplinary strategies, treatments, and interventions to effectively address socio-behavioral, communication, and academic symptoms of ASD in all educational settings.
- Collaborate with parents, other educators, and allied service providers in educational planning, instructional modifications, and transitional considerations for students with ASD.
- Evaluate research relevant to ASD within the context of special and general education.

Unique Features of the Graduate Program in Autism Spectrum Disorders

Summer Student Teaching Opportunity

Some students who participate are already teaching. Having to take a semester off to do student teaching would create a major financial hardship for these individuals. In light of this, Madonna University works collaboratively with various schools and districts to design and establish summer programs for students with disabilities. In addition to providing valuable opportunities for K-12 students, these specially developed programs give student teachers in the ASD program the opportunity to complete student teaching requirements without having to experience loss of income.

Graduate Project

Although students pursuing the MAT may complete a traditional thesis to fulfill program requirements, they also have the option of implementing and documenting innovative programs designed to bring immediate benefit to students with disabilities and the staff members who serve them. Such projects are the result of

local needs assessment and contingent upon affirmation of identified needs by the building administrator where they are implemented.

Admission Requirements

Admission to the MAT program in autism spectrum disorders is determined on the basis of the following criteria:

1. Possession of a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution with an undergraduate grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. (An average of less than 3.0 will be reviewed for conditional admission.)
2. Two letters of recommendation from current supervisor or professional persons.
3. Valid Michigan teaching certificate, current or expired. An expired certificate must be renewed to be ASD endorsed.
4. Prior or concurrent teaching experience.
5. Admission interview with the Coordinator of the Autism Spectrum Disorders Program.

Transfer Students

Students may transfer up to 6 semester hours of credit, with departmental approval for the MAT in ASD.

Students may take up to 6 semester hours prior to admission.

Tuition

Reduced rates are available for Madonna graduates. Special tuition rates are available for teachers in the Archdiocese of Detroit. Please contact Student Accounts at Madonna University for the current rate. The Archdiocese also offers a tuition assistance program for qualified candidates working in the Archdiocese of Detroit Schools. Please contact the Office of Catholic Schools at 313-237-5770 for information.



For Admissions Information

Office of Graduate Studies
 Madonna University
 36600 Schoolcraft Rd.
 Livonia, MI 48150-1176

9734)432-5667
 Fax (734)432-5862
 800-852-4951 ext. 5667
 TDD (734)432-5643

web: www.madonna.edu
 e-mail: grad@madonna.edu

For Program Information

College of Education
 Madonna University
 36600 Schoolcraft Rd.
 Livonia, MI 48150-1176

(734)432-5655
 800-852-4951 ext. 5655
 Fax (734)432-5504
 TDD (734)432-5643

e-mail: jrobinson@madonna.edu
 web: www.madonna.edu

Madonna University reserves the right to withdraw or modify information in this brochure.

See Advisor/Admissions Office for current information.

Madonna University guarantees the right to equal educational opportunity without discrimination because of race, religion, sex, national origin, age, or disabilities.

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* Undergraduate prerequisite to the special education and specialty sequences:
EDU 3300, The Exceptional Learner in the Classroom, 3 s.h.

Program Requirements (41-42 s.h.)

The MAT with a specialty in autism spectrum disorders reflects the Michigan Department of Education requirements for K-12 endorsement in autism spectrum disorders.

Special Education Core (13 s.h.)*

(required for endorsement and degree):
 SED 5330 Transition Planning Issues and Practices 3 s.h.
 SED 6090 Formal and Informal Assessment 4 s.h.
 SED 6620 Consultation and Collaboration 3 s.h.
 SED 5500 Methods of Teaching Students w/ Mild Disabil. 3 s.h.

Autism Spectrum Disorders Specialty (15 s.h.)

(required for endorsement and degree):
 ASD 5400 Interdisciplinary Perspectives of ASD 2 s.h.
 ASD 5410 Foundations of ASD: Educ. Implications 4 s.h.
 ASD 6410 Social and Behavioral Issues in ASD 3 s.h.
 ASD 6420 Communication and Language in ASD 3 s.h.
 ASD 6430 ASD: Educ. Intervention 3 s.h.

Required Student Teaching or Practicum (5-6 s.h.)

(required for endorsement and degree):
 ASD 6500 Student Teaching Autism K-12 or
 ASD 6700 and 6720 Autism K-12 Practicum I and II 4-5 s.h.
 ASD 6930 Autism Seminar 1 s.h.
 Subtotal for endorsement 33-34 s.h.

Endorsement requires MTTC Test 64: Autistic

Required Education Foundation Core (6 s.h.)

(required for degree):
 EDU 5000 Current Developments/ Teaching and Learning Theory 2 s.h.
 EDU 5050 Amer. Educ.: Historical, Social, and Political Perspectives or
 EDU 5070 Schooling: Compar. & Internat. Perspective 2 s.h.
 EDU 5080 Instructional Research & Evaluation 2 s.h.

ASD Research Project (2 s.h.)

(required for degree):
 ASD 6960 ASD Research Project 2 s.h.

TOTAL 41-42 s.h.

Graduate Faculty

Jill Robinson, Education: B.A., S.U.N.Y. New Paltz; M.A., Marymount University; Ed.D. Virginia Technological and State University.

Lorraine Jakubielski, Education: B.A., University of Michigan; M.A., Wayne State University; Ph.D., Michigan State University.

Stewart Wood, Education: B.Ed., Bishop Grosseteste College, Lincoln, United King.; M.A., University of Sheffield; Ph.D., University of Michigan.

T.J. Rivard, Education: B.S., Western Michigan University; M.A., University of Michigan; Ed.S., University of Michigan.

Steven Schwartz, Education: B.S., Oakland University; M.A., University of Detroit; J.D., University of Detroit Law School.