Program Title: Minor in Autism Spectrum Disorders

Program Description: The minor in Autism Spectrum Disorders helps prepare highly qualified personnel, including special education teachers, speech/language pathologists, educational diagnosticians, school psychologists, and social workers to work with children with ASD and their families. The courses comprising the requirements for the minor include patterns of development in autistic spectrum disorders, theories of underlying deficits and strengths, general and specific strategies of intervention, classroom-based approaches to communication, behavior, and social development, and methods of evaluating effectiveness as recommended by the National Research Council. The minor is offered at the undergraduate, masters and doctoral levels.

Application Procedures/Requirements: None

Program Course Requirements: Four courses are required in order for students to earn the minor in ASD. The four courses are:

SPED 485/585/685 Introduction to Autism (3 credit hours)
Course Description: This course will provide an overview of autism spectrum disorders as a triad of impairments, including historical and theoretical perspectives, assessment issues, characteristics of autism, intervention programs, and family issues. Differentiated assignments for SPED 585/685.

SPED 486/586/686 Behavior and Autism (3 credit hours)
Course Description: This course will cover the first of the triad of impairments. Students will gain an understanding of the behaviors of children with autism. Students will examine several behavior management philosophies and research based interventions and how they can be applied in the educational setting. Attention will also be given to play skills. The family perspective and participation in the proactive behavior management process will be incorporated throughout the course. Differentiated assignments for SPED 586/686. Prerequisite: Introduction to Autism or Consent of Instructor.

SPED 487/587/687 Social Skills and Autism (3 credit hours)
Course Description: This course will cover the second of the triad of impairments. Students will gain an understanding of the social skill deficits often associated with autism spectrum disorders. Review a variety of social cognition theories and explore effective social skill interventions for children functioning at a variety of levels along the autism spectrum. Differentiated assignments for SPED 587/687. Prerequisite: Introduction to Autism or Consent of Instructor.

SPED 488/588/688 Communication and Autism (3 credit hours)
Course Description: This course will cover the third of the triad of impairments. Students will gain an overview of communication characteristics and difficulties often associated with autism spectrum disorders. Review current tools and
strategies used to assess speech, language, and interaction skills. Use assessment results to identify needs and implement appropriate interventions. Explore a variety of intervention strategies aimed at building receptive, expressive, and pragmatic language of children functioning at a variety of levels along the autism spectrum. Differentiated assignments for SPED 588/688. Prerequisite: Introduction to Autism or Consent of Instructor.

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