

Assistive Technology Specialist Certificate Course

Susan Simmons, Ph.D., Instructor

*New Virtual Course with small group format
beginning March 2021*

Description: This Assistive Technology (AT) Certificate Course uses thorough instruction, 1:1 coaching, and exercises to teach participants how to assess and support K-12 students with curriculum access needs.

The course does not include AAC.

Format: Weekly 3-hour webinars with activities to complete between sessions.

Time & Dates: Fridays 9-12 pm/ March, April, and May (skipping the week of March 29, 2021)/36 hours
*date/time conflicts can be adjusted by group agreement. Contact Dr. Simmons with any concerns.

Who should attend?

The most successful districts have a plan for their participant's role in their organization, prior to attending the course. If you need help creating a plan - Dr. Simmons is happy to help you.

The ideal participant will be a key AT Assessor, or current AT Assessor, who would like more specific in-depth training in school-based AT. The following groups reported the course greatly supported their work with students; Teachers of Orthopedically Impaired students, and UDL coaches, OTs and SLPs.

Lead RSP/SAI teachers have also attended with the intention of supporting their students as well as teaching other RSP/SAI teachers to consider AT needs for their students.

What to expect?

This course is demanding and rewarding. It requires time and attention.

Participants will assess 2-3 students' AT needs, using a range of AT tools, and write defensible reports.

It is important to choose highly motivated individuals and provide administrative support.

Why is this course unique?

- The focus is exclusively on education, schools, and special ed law & curriculum access
- Personal attention and individual coaching for all participants
- Small group size, maximum 6-8 participants

Learning Outcomes

Participants will demonstrate skills in the following areas:

- software that meets a range of curriculum access needs including; word prediction, text to speech, internet access, reducing text complexity & organization
- benefits of commercial and free software tools
- comparing student needs with and without AT
- special ed law governing AT and curriculum access accommodations

additionally, successful certificate recipients will:

- write 2-3 defensible reports that reflect findings— trials, recommendations and implementation
- utilize resources for support, locate listservs, and groups of AT Specialists to get and give support

The AT Certification Course meets the needs of two distinct audiences.

Future AT Assessors and Administrators who do not need to assess but need to expand their knowledge.

Registration is on a space available basis, only 8 spots are available

Full Course: AT Specialist Certificate Participants—6 spaces (University units available)

Registration paid by January 29, 2021

Registration fee \$1895

Requirements:

Attend class sessions and practice with students to develop experience with AT tools.

Write 2-3 assessments that meet defensible criterion.

Utilize 1:1 coaching

Audit Non-certificate (University units not available) – 2 spaces

Registration paid by January 29, 2021

Registration fee \$895

Administrators, Program Specialist or ATs who need a refresher can Audit the course.

Those who audit will learn what AT consideration really means, what an adequate AT Assessment includes, and be able to discuss AT in IEP meetings with confidence.

Requirements: Since there isn't a certificate, there are no attendance or writing requirements. The auditor option doesn't require attendance however you will really want to attend

Prepaid Pre-registration is required to hold your space.

Step 1: Pre-register using this link <https://tinyurl.com/ATCERT20-21>

Your place will only be secure once your payment has been received.

Step 2: Susan Simmons & Associates will send an invoice and W-9 form to the *Billing* email address on the pre-registration form. Please follow up to ensure that prepayment is received by the deadline.

Questions? Email or call Dr. Simmons Susan@SusanSimmons.com 626-298-1111

REFUND POLICY Due to the limited number of participants, **there are no refunds.**

Participants may be substituted prior to the start of the course.

Dr. Simmons has been an Assistive Technology Specialist who has developed AT programs for school districts and mentored ATs for over 25 years. From 2005 – 2014, she was the AT and Education Specialist at Diagnostic Center, Southern CA where she provided professional development for educators in AT and Universal Design for Learning (UDL). Since 2014, she has been in private practice working with school districts throughout California. She has offered the AT Certificate Course, updated annually, for the past 10 years. She is a frequent speaker at national and international conferences on both AT and UDL.

Testimonials

Susan is an amazing teacher and mentor! I have been lucky enough to attend some of her trainings and she has provided much appreciated consultation to my district. Her breadth of knowledge is incredible, and her trainings are so well-organized, practical, and state-of-the art. She is always my "go to" person whenever I have a question about assistive technology. I could not be the AT Specialist I am today without her continued guidance and support.

Miriam Brock, AT Specialist & SLP Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District

Susan has been a great asset to our District. She truly understands assistive technology in an educational setting and her assessments reflect her knowledge. We hope to continue our relationship with her for years to come!

Sharon Amrhein, Special Education Director, Hart High School District, Santa Clarita, CA