



UNIVERSITY *of* ST. THOMAS  
MINNESOTA

University of St. Thomas  
Online Master's Degree,  
License and Certificate

**Special Education**  
With a Specialization in  
**Autism Spectrum Disorders**  
Master's Degree, License and Certificate

## UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS

With more than 10,000 diverse students across four beautiful campuses – St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Owatonna, Minnesota, as well as Rome, Italy – the University of St. Thomas is Minnesota's largest private institution. Since its founding in 1885, students have benefitted from a quality Roman Catholic liberal arts education with a focus on practical learning, critical thinking and advancement of the common good. With bachelor's, master's, education specialist, juris doctor and doctorate levels of study, the university offers undergraduate degrees in more than 90 major and 60 minor fields of study and offers more than 60 graduate degree programs.

St. Thomas has been educating teachers since 1917 and offering special education training for new and experienced teachers for more than 40 years. The university's education programs are taught by award-winning faculty, all experts in their fields. Our teacher training program accreditation by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) provides national recognition of our programs' quality. And now the university features the only online program offering a specialization in Autism Spectrum Disorders with an option for a master's degree, license or certificate. St. Thomas' special education programs are a pathway for excellent teacher preparation.

## Contact Us Today!

→ 855-295-1867  
→ Intl. +1 813-612-4297  
→ [StThomasOnline.com](http://StThomasOnline.com)



# Challenge Yourself. Change Our World.

## LEARN LIFE-CHANGING SKILLS TO MEET THE COMPLEX NEEDS OF STUDENTS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS – 100% ONLINE.

When it comes to students with special needs, the right teacher with the right skills can be a game changer – a difference maker. The University of St. Thomas in Minnesota offers online graduate programs in which busy professionals like you can gain the knowledge, skills and dispositions needed to positively impact pre-school, elementary, teen and young adult learners with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) in both classroom and community settings. Learn evidence-based best practices for facilitating crucial social and communication skills. Understand how to build on each individual's strengths so that he or she can enjoy meaningful interactions and become as independent and successful as possible. Choose from four different tracks to meet your needs:

- Master of Arts in Special Education with an Autism Spectrum Disorders License
- Master of Arts in Special Education with a Specialization in Autism Spectrum Disorders (Non-License)
- Special Education Teacher License in Autism Spectrum Disorders
- For-Credit Graduate Certificate in Autism Spectrum Disorders

St. Thomas is the only university offering an online master's degree, license *and* certificate in Autism Spectrum Disorders in a convenient and flexible online classroom. Streaming video lectures and downloadable audio and video allow professionals like you to learn anytime, anywhere – on your own busy schedule, from your desktop, laptop, tablet or mobile device.

## A Pioneer in Special Education

With a tradition of academic excellence since 1885, St. Thomas' mission is "to seek to develop morally responsible leaders who think critically, act wisely and work skillfully to advance the common good." Ranked a Best National University by *U.S. News & World Report* and recognized by both *Forbes* and *Washington Monthly*, the University of St. Thomas is a leader in the area of special education, supporting both new and experienced teachers. Regionally accredited St. Thomas began offering special education courses 40 years ago and today offers on-campus programs in six areas of licensure:

- Academic Behavioral Strategist
- Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Developmental Disabilities
- Early Childhood Special Education
- Emotional Behavioral Disorders
- Learning Disabilities

All programs feature full-time professors who are well-versed in cross-disability issues and understand that, when it comes to teaching students with special needs, even small gains can be huge triumphs.



## Learn Crucial Skills to Solve Complex Challenges

Credentials in Autism Spectrum Disorders from St. Thomas prepare you for the high demands of and fulfilling experiences in the field of special education. You'll learn to use evidence-based best practices in your teaching by experiencing them in your own coursework and applied assignments. You'll gain foundational knowledge and examine the most current ideas in the field of autism and special education. Most importantly, you'll develop the creative and critical thinking skills crucial to solving problems in this complex area of teaching – problems that call for highly developed decision-making skills that take multiple factors into consideration.

## Learn From Dedicated Professors

St. Thomas' Autism Spectrum Disorders courses are taught and facilitated by dedicated professors – practicing professionals who are experts in their fields. Selected for their scholarship and professional experience, many St. Thomas professors are nationally recognized for their ability to work effectively with students on the autism spectrum, as well as their ability to teach and support those striving to make gains with these students. Committed to making sure you grow personally and professionally, faculty members lead engaging video lectures, host live sessions with virtual whiteboards, conduct live simulations, moderate discussion boards, and hold regular office hours. They continue to support students long after graduation, by helping them make valuable professional connections and being available to help solve challenging problems that arise on their jobs.

## Who Should Apply?

The University of St. Thomas' Autism Spectrum Disorders programs are designed to help professionals realize their full potential to reach students on the autism spectrum. These programs are ideal for:

- Special Education Teachers
- General Education Teachers
- Instructional Coordinators
- Teaching Assistants
- Paraprofessionals
- Childcare Workers
- Occupational Therapists
- Recreational Therapists
- Counselors
- Social Workers
- Speech/Language Therapists
- Psychologists
- Physical Therapists
- Personal Care Attendants
- Others who work closely with individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders

## EXPERIENCE AN UNMATCHED ONLINE CLASSROOM

Our online classroom is second to none! It's dynamic, interactive and multimedia-driven. Instant messaging and shared virtual whiteboards allow you to interact with classmates and faculty in real time. And two-way voice over IP is a great personal touch for students who prefer to communicate via voice to ask questions or discuss weekly assignments.

Communicating with professors during virtual office hours and viewing leading industry experts via streaming video make learning faster than in the traditional classroom setting. You'll do everything online in your own time, so you can work full time while continuing your education.

## UNPARALLELED FEATURES

- 24/7 access with the ability to study anytime, anywhere
- Chat rooms, discussion boards, and group study technology allow you to interact with professors and students in real-time
- Professor-led classes through online streaming video
- Multimedia access – not a book-in-a-box, go-it-alone program
- Access the classroom from any mobile-ready device – even download lectures
- Lectures also available on CD-ROM and as downloadable MP3 and MP4 files

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# 4 Great Tracks to Meet Your Needs!

## GAIN VALUABLE SKILLS TO POSITIVELY IMPACT STUDENTS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS – 100% ONLINE!

Whether you work in a classroom or clinical environment, the University of St. Thomas can prepare you to make fulfilling gains with the increasing number of students diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). You'll gain the knowledge, skills and dispositions needed to positively impact these individuals across a variety of academic and community settings.

### Master of Arts in Special Education with an Autism Spectrum Disorders License – 30-34 Credits

Learn new ways to approach communication, socialization, behavior, thinking and perceiving, and sensory processing. Master techniques for working on motor skills, vocational and academic skills, and organizational skills. Both initial and add-on license options available.

### Master of Arts in Special Education with Specialization in Autism Spectrum Disorders (Non-License) – 30-34 Credits

If you wish to obtain a Master of Arts in Special Education non-license option, you do not have to complete the three-credit clinical practice.

### Special Education Teacher License in Autism Spectrum Disorders – 28-30 Credits

A growing number of states – including Minnesota, Delaware, Florida, Michigan, Nevada and West Virginia – now require a license to teach students with Autism Spectrum Disorders. The license-only track is comprised of nine courses and clinical practice. *The coursework, field experience and clinical practice experience in this program is compliant with the state of Minnesota requirements for a teaching license in ASD.*

### For-Credit Graduate Certificate in Autism Spectrum Disorders – 15 Credits

A five course certificate for teachers and others seeking knowledge and skills to work with children and youth with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

## STUDENTS WITHOUT A FIRST TEACHING LICENSE

If you do not have an initial teaching license (special education or general education), you must also complete Standards of Effective Practice coursework (13 credits) to qualify for a special education ASD license. These courses are also online.

## AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS CORE COURSES

Following are the required courses for a Master of Arts in Special Education with an Autism Spectrum Disorders License. You can see full descriptions of each course on the website.

### Course Descriptions

#### SPED 750 – Survey of Exceptionality (3 credits)

Introduction to special education as a part of an overall educational system, and to students ascribed the label of “exceptional.” Overview of historical and legal influences, universal design, collaboration, culturally responsive teaching practices and family-professional partnerships, in addition to more than 10 areas of exceptionality.

#### SPED 785 – Behavior Management (3 credits)

Learn research-based interventions and develop skills to teach and support positive behavior that is demonstrated in home, school and community settings.

#### SPED 716 – Fundamentals for Students with Mild to Moderate Needs (3 credits)

Learn about Autism Spectrum Disorders, cognitive disabilities, emotional and behavioral disorders, learning disabilities and other health disorders. Apply this information to the development of the Individual Educational Plan (IEP).

#### SPED 702 – Communication and Social Skills for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (3 credits)

Understand how to evaluate social and communication skills, identify needs, develop goals, design interventions, monitor effectiveness and adjust programming.

#### SPED 703 – Methods and Materials for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (3 credits)

Understand the impact of Autism Spectrum Disorders on thinking; perceiving; sensory processing; motor, vocational, academic and organizational skills. Learn to develop, implement and evaluate the effectiveness of an IEP.





#### **SPED 714 – Collaboration Skills for School Professionals (3 credits)**

Develop the personal and inter-personal skills to collaborate effectively with faculty, administrators, students, para-educators, families and community members in a variety of settings.

#### **SPED 645 – Educational Assessment (3 credits)**

Examine principles of formal and informal educational assessment, and learn to use data to make decisions about service eligibility, Least Restrictive Environment and IEPs.

#### **SPED 717 – Elementary Academic Interventions (3 credits)**

Learn to teach reading, language arts and literacy, writing and mathematics to students with mild to moderate disabilities. Learn to monitor progress and differentiate instruction.

#### **SPED 777 – Effective Literacy Instruction for Students with Moderate to Severe Developmental Disabilities (3 credits)**

Learn to select and implement comprehensive reading instruction for students with moderate to severe developmental disabilities. Understand how to differentiate instruction to meet individual learning needs. Examine assessment tools and progress monitoring methods.

#### **SPED 704 – Clinical Practice: Autism Spectrum Disorders (1-3 credits)**

Apply your skills by working with a range of students with Autism Spectrum Disorders in an educational or community-based setting. (Required for students pursuing a Special Education Teacher License in Autism Spectrum Disorders.)

#### **CIED 500 – Principles of Educational Research (3 credits)**

Master descriptive and experimental research, basic statistical theory and application, library resources and research methodology.

#### **SPED 799 – Special Education Final Project (1 credit)**

Better understand a problem or issue relevant to your classroom or community setting by developing a presentation based on a review of the literature and an action research proposal.

#### **TEGR 550 – Language Development and Literacy I (3 credits)**

Learn developmentally appropriate practices for teaching reading and language arts to kindergarten, primary and intermediate students. Learn to assess and interpret relevant data. (Required for license track for Minnesota reading standards.)

### **STANDARDS OF EFFECTIVE PRACTICE COURSES**

These additional courses are required for a first teaching license if pursuing the ASD license:

- **TEGR 510 – Education's Place in Society and Field Experience I**
- **TEGR 512 – Human Relations and Multicultural Education**
- **TEGR 530/532 – Psychology of Teaching and Learning and Field Experience II**
- **TEGR 550 – Language Development and Literacy I**

### **GRADUATE CREDENTIALS ONLINE**

St. Thomas offers four online tracks for special education with a specialization in Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD):

#### **Master of Arts in Special Education (With ASD License) Courses**

- Survey of Exceptionality
- Behavior Management
- Fundamentals for Students with Mild to Moderate Needs
- Communication and Social Skills for Students with ASD
- Methods and Materials for Students with ASD
- Collaboration Skills for School Professionals
- Educational Assessment
- Elementary Academic Interventions
- Effective Literacy Instruction for Students with Moderate to Severe Developmental Disabilities
- Clinical Practice
- Principles of Educational Research
- Special Education Final Project
- Language Development and Literacy

#### **Master of Arts in Special Education (Non-License)**

All courses listed above, EXCEPT the Clinical Practice

#### **Special Education Teacher License in Autism Spectrum Disorders**

First nine courses listed above, plus clinical practice

#### **For-Credit Graduate Certificate in Autism Spectrum Disorders**

First five courses listed above

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The University Alliance (UA) facilitates the promotion and online delivery of associate's, bachelor's and master's degrees, as well as professional certificate programs from the nation's leading traditional universities and institutions. Powered by UA's technology and support services, its university partners have surpassed 450,000 online enrollments – making UA the largest facilitator of e-learning in the country. University partners include Villanova University, the University of Notre Dame's Mendoza College of Business, Florida Institute of Technology, Michigan State University, University of Florida, University of South Florida, New England College, the University of San Francisco, Jacksonville University, the University of Vermont, the University of St. Thomas, the University of Scranton and Dominican University.

One simple call connects you to a broad range of benefits. You will be assigned an enrollment advisor who serves as your contact for nonacademic issues – answering questions about financing options, helping you to enroll in the next class and more. Technical support personnel are available 24 hours a day and other professionals are also easily accessible every step of the way.

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## TUITION

The University of St. Thomas is committed to helping students from all financial backgrounds achieve their educational goals. Your enrollment advisor can discuss the options available to finance your education.

## WHAT TYPES OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ARE AVAILABLE?

### Employer Tuition Assistance

Many companies recognize the need for their employees to enhance their skill base and advance their education. Employer tuition assistance may cover all or a portion of your tuition, and may even pay for books and materials. Benefits vary by company, so check with your employer for more details on your organization's tuition assistance program.

### Federal Student Aid – You Could Qualify for Up to \$20,500 a Year Toward Your Degree\*

Federal student aid programs are the largest source of student aid in America. Take advantage of this opportunity by determining your eligibility with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). For more information, visit [StThomasOnline.com](http://StThomasOnline.com).

### Federal Direct (Stafford/Ford) Loans

Federal Direct Loans are available to graduate students and must be repaid – typically via installment payments upon graduation. Students are eligible to borrow up to \$20,500 per year.\*

### Private Educational Loans

The University of St. Thomas understands that a graduate degree entails a significant financial commitment. Many financial institutions offer student loans that can supplement your resources and make it easier to manage your education expenses. Check with your bank or credit union to see if it has a student loan program. Alternately, you can apply for a private educational loan from one included on the private loan lender list of the University of St. Thomas. For additional information, visit [StThomasOnline.com](http://StThomasOnline.com).

### Convenient Payment Options

All major credit cards are accepted for tuition payments and related expenses.

\* Maximum yearly loan award amounts are up to the amount listed above. Receipt of financial aid is not a guarantee and is dependent on the individual financial needs of the student. For more information please visit [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov).



UNIVERSITY  
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## TUITION SUPPORT FOR OUR NATION'S MILITARY

The University of St. Thomas salutes men and women from all military branches who serve our country while continuing their education. The university is proud to offer veterans, active-duty servicemembers and their spouses special military graduate assistance. Servicemembers can take advantage of the special rate of 10% off tuition, in addition to tuition assistance. Eligible students include:

- Full-time active-duty military servicemembers, including activated, mobilized or recalled to active-duty Reservists and Guardsmen
- Veterans and dependents of disabled or deceased Veterans
- Reservists and Guardsmen
- Spouses of active-duty, Reserve, Guard and Veteran servicemembers

**Enhance your career with a master's degree online from top-ranked University of St. Thomas! Call an enrollment advisor today for more details or to apply for the next term.**

Information is subject to change without notice or obligation.

*"Most programs still operate from a deficit model — what children on the autism spectrum can't do, instead of building on what they can do. St. Thomas' program is about seeing the potential in every individual. We equip teachers with the skills they need to enhance the quality of their students' lives."*

*L. Lynn Stansberry Brusnahan, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Autism Society Professional of the Year*

## NOTABLE ALUMNI

St. Thomas graduates enjoy success in a wide variety of leadership roles:

- Dan Buettner – Explorer, Educator, Author
- Ramona Dohman – Minnesota Commissioner of Public Safety
- Timothy Flynn – Former Chairman, KPMG International
- Vince Flynn – Author
- Michael J. Hoffman – CEO, The Toro Company
- Bernadeia Johnson – Superintendent of Minneapolis Public Schools
- James Oberstar – Former U.S. Congressman
- Gerald Rauenhorst – Founding Chairman, Opus Corp.
- Ali Selim – Film Director
- Joe Soucheray – Radio Talk Show Host
- Will Steger – Polar Explorer
- Ann Winblad – Software Venture Capitalist

## Contact Us Now!

Classes start every eight weeks, six times per year.

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