

Cover/Signature Page - Abbreviated Template

Institution Submitting Request: Utah Valley University

Proposed Title: Center for Autism

Currently Approved Title: None

School or Division or Location: Academic Affairs

Department(s) or Area(s) Location: McKay Education Building

Recommended Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code¹ (for new programs): N/A

Current Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code (for existing programs): N/A

Proposed Beginning Date (for new programs): July 1, 2015

Institutional Board of Trustees' Approval Date: Pending

Proposal Type (check all that apply):

R401-5			R401-6		
<i>Items submitted will be reviewed by OCHE. If there are any issues, the proposal will be returned for clarification/correction. If no issues, the proposal will be returned with a note of approval and the request will be placed on the General Consent Calendar of the next Regents' agenda.</i>			<i>Items submitted will be reviewed by OCHE. If there are any issues, the proposal will be returned for clarification/correction. If no issues, the proposal will be returned with a note of approval and the request will be placed on the General Consent Calendar of the next Regents' agenda.</i>		
Section #	<input type="checkbox"/>	Item	Section #	<input type="checkbox"/>	Item
4.1.5.2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minor*	6.1.1	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reinstatement of Previously Suspended Program
5.1.1.1	<input type="checkbox"/>	New Emphasis on an Existing Degree*	6.1.5	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reinstatement of Previously Suspended Unit
5.1.2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Certificate of Proficiency Not Eligible for Financial Aid			
5.1.3	<input type="checkbox"/>	Out-of-Service Area Delivery of Programs			
5.1.4	<input type="checkbox"/>	Name Change of Existing Programs			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Transfer			
5.1.5	<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Restructure			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Consolidation			
5.1.6	<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Discontinuation			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Suspension			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Administrative Unit Creation			
5.1.7	<input type="checkbox"/>	Administrative Unit Transfer			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Administrative Unit Consolidation			
5.1.8	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	New Center			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	New Institute			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	New Bureau			
5.1.9	<input type="checkbox"/>	Graduate Certificate			

*Requires "Section VI: Program Curriculum" of Abbreviated Template

Chief Academic Officer (or Designee) Signature:

I certify that all required institutional approvals have been obtained prior to submitting this request to the Office of the Commissioner.

Signature

Date:

Printed Name:

¹ CIP codes must be recommended by the submitting institution. For CIP code classifications, please see <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/Default.aspx?y=55>.

Section I: Request

Utah Valley University is requesting approval to establish a Center for Autism to provide institutional leadership, support, and community outreach for programs that advance educational and social mobility programs for individuals on the autism spectrum.

Section II: Need

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Utah Department of Health, Utah possesses among the highest rates of autism in the nation and our community must find ways to help meet the educational and professional needs of this growing population.

For the past four years, Utah Valley University has convened a cross-campus Working Group to oversee its Autism Initiative. The activities of this group have paved the way for UVU to become a valuable community resource to families living with Autism. Strong community partnerships with autism service providers across the valley have allowed UVU to develop programming to help address the most urgent needs for increased awareness and education.

Community demand for programming includes best practice training for staff and educators in both specialized environments and within classrooms. Individuals with ASD can lead productive lives if given appropriate supports during critical transitional times. With ever-increasing numbers of autism diagnoses, there is a critical deficit in qualified, experienced professionals educated to work with individuals living with autism. UVU seeks to be an empowering source of information, education, and support for the community as well as those students currently enrolled on its campus who have an ASD diagnosis.

Individuals minoring in Autism Studies, or participating in the existing certificate of proficiency program, receive knowledge and practical experience to prepare them to work in a multitude of professional settings. UVU students engage in both service learning and fieldwork to enhance and extend the classroom experience and prepare them for real world practice. Families within the community receive information and support as they strive to find appropriate solutions for their individual needs. The UVU Center for Autism provides a source of reliable best practice answers for these audiences with a rippling effect reaching far beyond the immediate need.

The Center for Autism fits into the unique mission of UVU as it provides serious practical educational opportunities and services to the local community and to the UVU campus. It provides an inclusive atmosphere for students pursuing higher educational opportunities and professional goals and encourages adults with ASD to participate and contribute. Neuro-typical students have the opportunity to interact with, and learn from, individuals living with an ASD diagnosis, thus enhancing understanding and inspiring creative innovation in treatment approaches and technical aids both in and out of the classroom. Educators are given the information and tools necessary to help create an effective inclusive learning environment. Faculty, staff, students, community service providers, and families all engage together to effect positive change.

Section III: Institutional Impact

The Center will have a significant positive impact on the campus and community with no negative effect on enrollments. The Center is designed to provide more effective support for activities currently underway and which have been developing for the past several years. The Center will be a resource for students, faculty, and members of our community by providing high quality academic and outreach activities in an area of significant educational need and community demand.

Current UVU students diagnosed with ASD receive specialized instruction designed to aid in the transition to a higher education environment. Through the Center's Passages program, students are also given opportunities to develop social and life skills specifically designed to enhance their academic success. Student families are also given the opportunity to participate in instruction designed to aid in the transition success of their students. Through cross-campus collaboration, special assistance is offered to ASD families and students with regard to enrollment, registration, academic advisement, accessibility needs, and life-skills. These services offer increased opportunities for student success and serve the University focus of inclusion.

UVU students studying educational philosophies, treatment, and practices will have increased opportunities for on-campus classroom observation and direct experience with varied age groups. This experience will enhance the educational experience and serve the University focus on engaged learning.

Donated funds will help to fund a new building located on the UVU campus. This physical location will encourage the community to engage with UVU for services, and allow UVU to provide on-campus facilities for student instruction and practical, hands-on application of best practice treatment and education.

Section IV: Finances

The Center for Autism will be funded by a variety of sources including grants, private donations, and program participation fees.

Fundraising strategies are currently underway in coordination with the Development office, with success resulting in over \$500,000 in received donations currently. An Autism Resource Council was formed under the direction of the Vice President of Development and Alumni, consisting of prominent community philanthropists whose primary focus is fund-raising for the UVU Center for Autism programs and operation.