

**Cover/Signature Page - Abbreviated Template/Abbreviated Template with Curriculum**

**Institution Submitting Request:** Utah Valley University  
**Proposed Title:** Certificate of Proficiency in Autism Studies  
**School or Division or Location:** College of Humanities and Social Sciences  
**Department(s) or Area(s) Location:** Department of Behavioral Sciences  
**Recommended Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code<sup>1</sup> (for new programs):** 42.2814  
**Proposed Beginning Date (for new programs):** 08/2014  
**Institutional Board of Trustees' Approval Date:** *Pending*

**Proposal Type (check all that apply):**

Regents' General Consent Calendar Items	
<i>R401-5 OCHE Review and Recommendation; Approval on General Consent</i>	
SECTION NO.	ITEM
5.1.1	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor*
5.1.2	<input type="checkbox"/> Emphasis*
5.2.1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Proficiency*
5.2.3	<input type="checkbox"/> Graduate Certificate*
5.4.1	<input type="checkbox"/> New Administrative Unit
	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative Unit Transfer
	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative Unit Restructure
	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative Unit Consolidation
5.4.2	<input type="checkbox"/> New Center
	<input type="checkbox"/> New Institute
	<input type="checkbox"/> New Bureau
5.5.1	<input type="checkbox"/> Out-of-Service Area Delivery of Programs
5.5.2	<input type="checkbox"/> Program Transfer
	<input type="checkbox"/> Program Restructure
	<input type="checkbox"/> Program Consolidation
5.5.3	<input type="checkbox"/> Name Change of Existing Programs
5.5.4	<input type="checkbox"/> Program Discontinuation
	<input type="checkbox"/> Program Suspension
5.5.5	<input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement of Previously Suspended Program
	<input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement of Previously Suspended Administrative Unit

**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.

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**Signature**  
 Printed Name: *Ian Wilson*

**Date:** *MM/DD/YEAR*

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**Program Request - Abbreviated Template**  
**Utah Valley University**  
**Certificate of Proficiency in Autism Studies**  
**8/26/2014**

**Section I: Request**

Utah Valley University's Department of Behavior Science in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences requests approval to offer a Certificate of Proficiency in Autism Studies effective Fall 2014.

**Section II: Need**

According to the Centers for Disease Control, approximately one in 88, with some reports as high as one in 50, children have an autism spectrum disorder nationally, and in Utah that number increases to one in 47<sup>2</sup>. The state of Utah is not currently prepared to handle the growing number of children with ASD. The lack of services and service providers is considered a national public health crisis, costing the nation roughly 126 billion dollars per year, with the cost of providing care for each child across the life span estimated at 2.3 million<sup>3</sup>. Utah County has been underrepresented in the autism community with the majority of research and education taking place at the University of Utah and Utah State University.

UVU is uniquely positioned to offer the community, and the state, opportunities to become more informed, and more educated, about ASD. The Autism Studies COP will help fill the gap for an increase in informed and qualified personnel. In addition to educating UVU students to support this growing population, the COP will be available to all community members, including professionals from all walks of life such as business members, educators, public health professionals, and families affected by ASD. It will provide a solid foundation of information and experience with various aspects of ASD including:

- Diagnostic criteria: understanding and recognizing repetitive and perseverative behaviors, characteristic language delays, and social deficits
- Behavior management tools and techniques
- The autism impact on the individual, family, and community
- Best practice interventions for early childhood, elementary age, and adult
- Transitions through the lifespan
- Practical applications of evidence based intervention
- Available community resources, etc.

The Autism Studies COP will be beneficial to anyone needing to work with, or interact with, those who have ASD. This would include those in supervisory positions overseeing ASD adults, educators who may have students with an ASD diagnosis in their classrooms, counselors and medical professionals, emergency services personnel, librarians and other city personnel, and anyone seeking additional information and insight.

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<sup>2</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2012). Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network Surveillance Year 2008 Principal Investigators. Prevalence of autism spectrum disorders- autism and developmental disabilities monitoring network, 14 Sites, United States, 2008. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep, 61(3), 1-19.

<sup>3</sup> Mandell, D. & Knapp, M. (2012). Investing in our Future: The Economic Costs of Autism. Costs of Autism Summit, Hong Kong.

### Section III: Institutional Impact

The COP in Autism Studies will be housed in the interdisciplinary Behavioral Science Department, under the BSW program, at Utah Valley University. The COP in Autism Studies will be administered by a program director who is a full-time, doctoral-level faculty member of the Behavioral Science Department. The field practicum component of the program will originally be directed by the BSW field director for one semester. An assistant field coordinator will be required beyond that to support the fieldwork component of the COP. The program director will be given release time from two classes to carry out administrative responsibilities. The Autism Studies program director will report directly to the Behavioral Science Department chair. The assistant field coordinator will report to the BSW field director. Students wishing to work as teaching assistants will be able to do so for credit. The COP in Autism Studies will not have an immediate need for additional learning resources/instructional technology during the initial start up phase. During years two and three, the full-time, autism studies PhD level program director will continue to teach and administer the program while a part time BSW and adjunct faculty member will teach remaining courses to support the increased student load.

### Section IV: Finances

Funding for the COP in Autism Studies will be provided through appropriated funds from student tuition (both from within this program and across the university generally) and new tax funds provided for equity as prioritized through UVU's Planning, Budgeting, and Assessment (PBA) process. The proposed program does not involve the reallocation of funds, and no other program budgets will be impacted by this program.

### Section V: Program Curriculum All Program Courses (with New Courses in Bold)

Course Prefix & Number	Title	Credit Hours
Prerequisites		
ENGL 1010	Intro to Writing or writing proficiency determine by Autism Studies Program Director	3
Required Courses		
SW 2500	<b>Understanding the Autism Spectrum</b>	3
SW 3810	<b>Autism Across the Lifespan I: Infants and Children</b>	3
SW 3820	<b>Autism Across the Lifespan II: Teens &amp; Adults</b>	3
SW 3850	<b>Autism Assessment and Treatment</b>	3
SW 481R	Field Placement	3
SW 482R	Autism Seminar	1
	<b>Sub-Total</b>	16

### Program Schedule

Fall of First Year	Course Title	Credit Hours
SW 2500	Understanding the Autism Spectrum	3
	<b>Semester Total</b>	<b>3</b>
Spring of First Year	Course Title	Credit Hours
SW 3810	Autism across the Lifespan I: Infants and Children	3
SW 3820	Autism across the Lifespan II: Teens and Adults	3
SW 3850	Autism Assessment and Treatment	3
	<b>Semester Total</b>	<b>9</b>
Fall of Second Year	Course Title	Credit Hours
SW 481R	Field Placement	3
SW 482R	Autism Seminar	1
	<b>Semester Total</b>	<b>7</b>
	<b>Program Total</b>	<b>16</b>