

Diagnosis and Assessment in Autism and Neurodevelopment Disorders (3 credit hours)

Prerequisites of course: Previous graduate level assessment course or discretion of the instructor

Course GOAL

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to state of the science diagnostic and assessment practices for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and other neurodevelopmental disorders. Concepts of case conceptualization, assessment, development of treatment goals, cultural diversity, and ethics will be woven throughout the course. We will review in detail assessment approaches for children with atypical neurodevelopment. We will discuss and practice general clinician skills (e.g., conducting a clinical interview; direct assessment of children with ASD, assessing co-occurring issues) that are integral in the assessment of children with neurodevelopmental differences as well as developing initial treatment goals.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to incorporate evidence-based practice into child and family assessment for children presenting with atypical development. Students will utilize a high level of clinical skill to assess presenting concerns, engage in ongoing case conceptualization and treatment planning, accurately identify initial treatment targets based on assessment findings. Students will be able to appraise individual, family, environmental, social, and situation factors that impact presenting concerns and case formulation.