Graduate Certificate: Augmentative and Alternative Communication

Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)

AAC is a dynamic area of research and clinical practice to support individuals of all ages, cultures and languages who are unable to use verbal speech to express themselves. Professionals who provide AAC services personalize methods to meet each individual's needs. Types of AAC systems may include unaided forms of communication such as gestures and sign language; and aided methods such as no-tech communication books and boards and high-tech speech-generating devices.

Graduate Certificate in AAC

This 12 unit graduate certificate is designed to prepare highly qualified professionals to provide Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) services for children, youth and adults with complex communication needs (CCN) in school and community settings within the context of an interdisciplinary team. Candidates acquire specialized competence in the areas of (a) culturally responsive AAC assessment; (b) culturally-responsive AAC intervention; (c) collaborative teaming; and (d) development of AAC applications to support the language and literacy skills of culturally and linguistically diverse children, youth and adults.

Admission to the AAC Certificate

Two groups of applicants may enter the AAC Certificate: (a) current graduate students who are enrolled in master’s degrees in Communicative Disorders, Special Education, and related fields; and (b) practicing professionals in health, human services, and educational fields at the post-baccalaureate level. To apply, go to CalState Apply and select Graduate Certificate in AAC.

Benefits of the AAC Certificate

Through participation in 6 units of coursework and 6 units of concurrent field experiences, candidates will acquire working knowledge of best practice in culturally-responsive assessment and intervention to support communication through application of AAC systems for children, youth and adults to access learning, socialization and vocational opportunities in society.

Contacts

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