



Direct Support Professional (DSP) Developmental Disabilities Certificate

Purpose and Goals

The purpose of this Online Certificate program is to provide education for individuals who may be new or currently working in the DSP Industry. This program is designed to help both employers and students together. Employers using this training program will help future and current employees by offering an educational experience that will help standardize the approach to training and allow more individuals to enter this career pathway through the information and knowledge gained. It also allows students/employees the opportunity for increasing knowledge and training to become more proficient in the field they are working towards. This program helps to give students enough information, background to help them as they begin their career in human services. Upon successful completion each student will earn a certificate.

DSP-Developmental Disabilities Certificate Program Layout

Course Topic	Delivery Method	Hours to Complete
Introduction to Developmental Disabilities Learn the background through history, language and basic concepts of services for person with disabilities. Review the ideas and vocabulary that is important to working within the field of developmental disabilities. The information will make you more effective at communicating with others and understanding the system in which developmental disabilities are provided.	Online	5.5
Individual Rights and Choice This course was designed to help you understand your role in supporting individuals with disabilities as they stand up for their rights. You will learn what it takes to be an effective advocate for and with the people you support. You will also learn about the challenges faced when individuals with disabilities try to exercise their right and the strategies that can be used to overcome these challenges.	Online	3.6
Professional Documentation Practices Good documentation is a critical part of direct support work and lays the foundation for support services and helps professionals meet the needs of individuals with disabilities in all settings. The course covers reasons for and basic rules of documentation and why it is important. You will learn the difference between subjective and objective documentation, as well as confidentiality. Finally, we'll cover five common areas where documentation is often required.	Online	3.1
Working with Families and Support Networks Everyone has family and support networks in their lives. These are the people who surround you, build relationships with, and add quality, meaning and enjoyment that enrich your life. People with disabilities who receive support are not any different. They have family and support networks who are intensely important to the quality of their lives. This course will help you understand the importance of support networks and the skills to develop working partnerships with families and other support networks.	Online	2.9
Community Inclusion This course helps DSP's understand their roles in supporting inclusion of the people with developmental disabilities in the communities in which they live and work. It provides an overview of inclusion and why it is important, and you will be given strategies for enhancing inclusion of individuals with developmental disabilities.	Online	4.0

Everyone Can Communicate It is important for you as a DSP to develop and apply skills in understanding, resecting, and supporting people who have communication problems in order to be effective. The course is designed to help you improve your skills in providing communication supports. You will learn about a variety of communication methods including speech, gestures, and sign, communication boards, devices that "talk" and other forms of sending and receiving information.	Online	6.7
Functional Assessment Functional assessment is a tool that helps you learn more about people. It is useful for finding answers to the question of why a person engages in disruptive or harmful behaviors. Often DSP's are asked to participate in the process of functional assessment, and this course will help you understand its purpose and proper implementation and familiarizing yourself with the way theses assessments are completed.	Online	5.7
Positive Behavior Supports This is an introduction to methods of supporting people who engage in challenging behaviors. Strategies that are safe, fair, compassionate and effective in preventing and reducing problem behaviors are included. You will also review definitions of challenging behavior and basic behavioral terms and principles. Understand more about the history of treatment of people with developmental disabilities and why the person-centered practices at the heart of positive behavior supports are being embraced. Learn about the use of behavioral interventions and receive practical information on how to effectively support people who present behavioral challenges.	Online	8.6
TOTAL HOURS		40.10

Course Cost: \$750, **Course is completed all ONLINE.**

Course Requirements: Access to reliable internet, and a computer or laptop to complete all modules.

This course is completed at your pace and at a time that works for you! Fall course registration is open from September 1, 2023 - October 15th, 2023. In order to earn the DSP Developmental Disabilities Certificate all online modules must be completed successfully by December 15, 2023.

Spring course registration will begin January 3, 2024-February 15, 2023. In order to earn the DSP Developmental Disabilities Certificate all online modules must be completed successfully by April 19, 2024.

Summer 2024 Registration to be announced.

\$\$ Potential Funding If You Qualify! For more information or to see if you qualify for funding contact: Tammy Steinwandt, DMACC CE Health Care Coordinator, E-Mail: tjsteinwandt@dmacc.edu