



• Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorder •

Presenter: Kathryn Whitaker, M.Ed.

Target Audience: Special educators, related service providers, mental health professionals, para-educators, and parents.

Participants will explore their current understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) as it impacts individuals and their families across a lifetime. Participants may take the series of two workshops or the three-credit graduate course.

Workshop #1 (September 19, 2019)

We will begin by taking a look at autism from a different perspective. We will examine some of the assumptions inherent in the language used to characterize people with autism and examine these commonly held assumptions. Finally, we will also study diagnostic criteria from screening to diagnosis, as well as consider how to use the criteria in the evaluation process.

Workshop #2 (October 9, 2019)

We will explore the functional impacts of autism across a lifetime, including strengths, challenges and common co-morbidities. Then we will discuss the importance of the interdisciplinary team approach, and the limitations of our current service delivery models for delivering strengths-based interventions. Finally, we will hear from parents of children with autism, across different ages, to learn about their hopes, dreams and challenges. [Register for the Workshops](#)

Course:

The three-credit graduate course will engage participants in an in-depth look at: indicators and core deficits of ASD; associated conditions (co-morbidities) and their impact; manifestation of autism characteristics across environments and ages; impact on learning, home, independence, community participation and school outcomes; cultural and historical issues; promoting dignity and respect; and the recognition and fostering of individual strengths. The course includes the two workshop days; the remainder of the work is online. [Register for the Course](#)

Kathryn Whitaker is an instructor and presenter for the VT-HEC Autism program. She is an autism consultant for North Country Supervisory Union in Vermont. In her current position, she serves thirteen schools as a consultant and trainer for children with ASD and other neurodevelopmental disorders.

Dates: September 19 and October 9, 2019

Place: Capitol Plaza - Montpelier, VT

Cost: \$380/workshops, \$1590 for 3-credit graduate course

Time: 8:30-3:30

Please inquire with the Capitol Plaza reservations
(802-223-5252) about discounted hotel rates.



Use vthec.org for registration, and [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for additional news, resources, articles, etc.