

The Value of Autism Certification for Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs) and Occupational Therapists (OTs)



1 Enhanced Expertise

As many SLPs and OTs have only a limited understanding of autism, enrollment in a certification program provides a comprehensive overview of the condition and how it can affect the patient and also change how they interact with their environment and typical therapy techniques. Additionally, the training provides up-to-date research with best practices and intervention strategies that are beneficial even for those with more of a background in autism.

2 Tailored Treatment Approaches

The autism certification provides SLPs and OTs with expertise through evidence-based practices with a deeper understanding of practical application for their patients. Being able to access this knowledge combined with their professional industry background creates a synergized therapy experience for their patients which they may not otherwise have the knowledge to implement, such as Augmentative and Alternative Communication System (AAC).

3 Improved Patient Outcomes

The ideal for any therapy is to improve the life of the patient and, as a corollary to being able to create tailored treatment approaches, autism certification on the part of the provider can assist in improving patient outcomes. The specialized knowledge of autism, with its relevant comorbidities, can assist in creating not only tailored treatments, but also can create more effective strategies for communication, assist in preparing the environment for the patient and to create a better, more efficient approach to patient care that supports better outcomes overall.

In recent years there has been a 600% increase in autism diagnosis with approximately one child in one hundred receiving an autism diagnosis according to the World Health Organization. There are additionally many adults who were diagnosed later in life, or who remain clinically undiagnosed. Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs) and Occupational Therapists (OTs) offer a wide range of services that are beneficial to autistic individuals, however their professional training and familiarity with autism may be limited. Autism is a lifelong condition that can present itself within each person in a substantially unique way; specialized training on autism for SLPs and OTs can provide substantial benefits for both the patient and the provider.

4 Parental and Caregiver Support

One of perhaps the lesser known, but no-less important benefits of autism certification is learning effective communication strategies for working with the parents or caregivers of autistic individuals. These people are often a lifeline for autistic patients and connecting with them as the home care team is an essential part of the patient's on-going support. Working with the parents or caregivers provides buy-in for on-going therapy practices, reinforcement of techniques as well as a valuable source of feedback, particularly when the patients may not be able to communicate as effectively.



The Value of Autism Certification, Continued

5 Increased Credibility

The autism certification is an internationally-recognized credential with certificate holders operating in over 110 countries worldwide. Credential holders are recognized as having specialized knowledge in not only their own field, but also added expertise in working with autistic individuals.

6 Better Professional Collaboration

The training acquired through completing an autism certification provides a greater understanding of the multi-faceted approach necessary to achieve optimum outcomes for autistic patients. This understanding, combined with the credibility conveyed by the certification offers increased access when working with other professionals within an autistic individuals' care team such as other healthcare providers, psychologists, and educators. Within one's own team of peers, this credential also conveys specialized expertise which can enhance the SLP or OTs' status as a leader within their team.

7 Expanded Career Opportunities

The achievement of gaining an autism certification can also assist in elevating the status of an individual SLP or OT as it highlights their dedication to increasing their professional knowledge and expanding their skillset. Certification positions therapists as experts in a high-demand field, providing job security and career growth. Many organizations actively seek specialists with autism expertise, creating opportunities in schools, healthcare settings, private practices, and research institutions.

8 Professional Networking

Achieving an autism certification can also assist with connecting with other SLPs and OTs as a community of experts both virtually and in practice. In addition to being listed in the credentialed providers listing, members can also choose to connect with their peers after sharing their certification, which can lead to greater collaboration and professional development.



9 Higher Demand for Services

Autism diagnoses are likely to continue to increase as detection becomes more advanced; as this occurs there will be an even greater need for SLPs and OTs who are willing and capable of supporting the needs of autistic patients and their families and caregivers. The professional recognition conveyed by an autism certification also conveys the specialized knowledge and expertise that assists in job security and long-term career stability.

10 Stronger Advocacy Skills

And finally, a skill that should not be overlooked is the ability to advocate for their patients; as a certified autism professional, SLPs and OTs with this credential can be viewed as subject matter experts in their field and are able to be in a stronger position to advocate for specific care and strategies for their patients. This understanding includes not only the greater understanding of the intricacies of care necessary for total supportive care of autistic individuals, but increases their level of expertise for peer to peer discussions and collaboration with other members of the patient's healthcare team, or their parents or caregivers.

Autism certification equips SLPs and OTs with the specialized skills needed to provide high-quality care, enhance patient outcomes, and advance their careers. With the rising demand for autism-related services, earning this credential demonstrates dedication to professional growth and excellence in therapy. Take the next step in your career and become certified today!

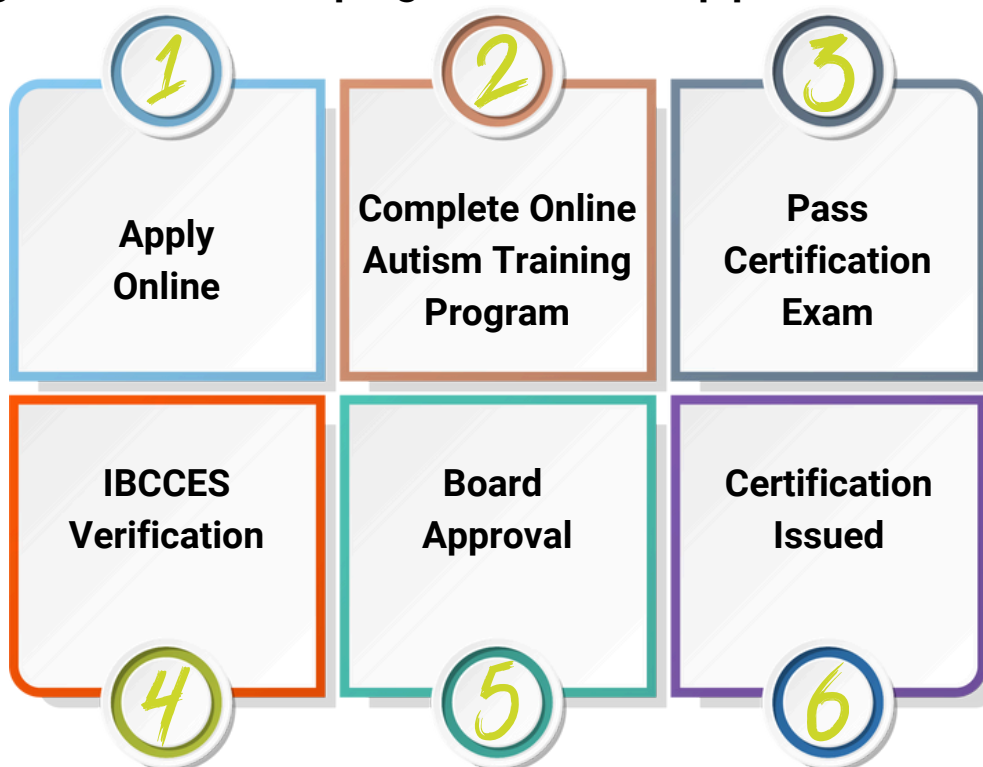


Interested in pursuing an Autism Certification with IBCCES?



The International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards (IBCCES) offers two autism certifications: Certified Autism Specialist™ (CAS) and Autism Certificate (AC). These certifications are designed for professionals who are responsible for providing services or support to individuals who have autism. The CAS program requires either a Master's degree with two years of experience, or a Bachelor's degree with ten years of experience. The AC program is designed for those who are currently working with, or will soon be working with autistic individuals. Each program incurs a required two year renewal.

The training and certification program is a six step process:



These 14 CE training and certification programs focus on best practices and feature evidence-based practices developed with the unified collaboration of medical professionals and autistic self-advocates. ASHA and AOTA-approved CEs are also available for current members of those organizations.

