



SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

1) **Nature of the intervention:**

Preparing Educators for Students with Autism (PESA) is available to post-baccalaureate students who plan to work with toddler through school-aged individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) in home, community, or school settings. Courses are designed for the upper graduate level. PESA is a fully online graduate academy of Indiana University's School of Education. Five courses focus on supporting social, communication, and behavioral competency. The courses also explore learning differences, family and individual perspectives, and research-based assessment and intervention approaches. Information about the program can be found at <http://education.indiana.edu/pesa>.

2) **Training details:**

The five PESA courses can be completed over a 1- to 2-year period. Current university online tuition rates apply. Indiana University's online platform, Oncourse, provides a format for interactive forum discussions, messaging, and other communication mechanisms. Support is provided for online video conferences and other forms of online learning.

3) **Trainer:**

Two faculty members currently teach in the PESA courses. Hannah Schertz, Ph.D., has extensive experience with online instruction and autism research. Her current research, funded by the U. S. Department of Education, is exploring effects of parent-mediated early intervention to promote preverbal social communication at sites in Indiana, Kansas, and North Carolina. Camilla McMahon, Ph.D., previously conducted research at the University of California – Davis M.I.N.D. Institute. Her research focuses on characterizing social impairments in ASD and designing and implementing targeted social skill interventions for school-aged children, adolescents, and young adults with ASD.

4) **Trainees:**

Applicants will be considered as space allows in accord with admissions requirements, including evidence of successful completion of a four-year degree.

5) **Frequency and location of training:**

Courses are offered on the schedule indicated on the program website. Course offerings may be sensitive to enrollment fluctuations.

6) **Train the trainer:**

Train the trainer options are not available through this program.

7) **Manual:**

Not applicable.

8) **Evidence base for the intervention:**

The PESA program does not subscribe to a particular intervention approach. Rather, students are encouraged to explore researched interventions and critically evaluate a range of intervention approaches for applicability to their circumstances.

9) **Provisions for cultural adaptation:**

Indiana University has a large international outreach. The PESA program extends this outreach through its availability to English-speakers across the world. Bringing together students from diverse backgrounds is an important way to understand how ASD is experienced across the globe and exposes students to culturally variant approaches to intervention.

10) Contact information:

Jeff Heller (jwheller@indiana.edu) can respond to questions about enrollment in the PESA program.