

mission

The need for well-trained, technology-literate Assistive Technology Specialists grows each year. This program is designed to offer people the opportunity to acquire skills and competencies that will enable them to assist persons with disabilities to utilize computer technology to its maximum advantage. The people enrolled in the program are individuals concerned with the evaluation, selection, organization, implementation, and utilization of appropriate hardware, software, and telecommunications resources. The program provides supplemental training for both educators and practitioners and is appropriate for general and special educators, related service personnel, and service providers.

The program has a cross-disability, people-first perspective, with the goal of providing persons with disabilities access to the educational, research, social, cultural, and economic resources that assistive computer technology can provide.

Further information may be obtained by calling the Educational Technology Department at (201) 200-3078 or by e-mail at ctwomey@njcu.edu. For detailed information, visit our Web site at <http://coeserver.njcu.edu/edtech.htm>.

requirements

For this program you will need:

- Access to a Windows or a Macintosh computer
- E-mail connectivity, with a modem baud rate of 33.3 bps or higher
- Access to the Internet using Netscape Navigator (version 6.2 or 7.0) or Internet Explorer (version 5.0, 5.5 (except Service Pack 1) or 6.0)
 - Please Note: If you do not currently have the above browsers (which are free), instructions will be provided for downloading and using them.
- Anti-virus software, updated on a regular basis
- Adobe Reader, downloadable for free

You must matriculate before you complete 6 credits.

To matriculate into the program you need:

- An application form submitted to the Graduate Office
- A Bachelor's Degree from an accredited university, with a GPA of 2.75 or higher
- Two professional references
- A personal, half-hour interview with the Chairperson
- Submission of the Application for Matriculation form

curriculum (15 credits)

EDTC 671, INTRODUCTION TO ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY (3)

This course focuses on how and why assistive technology has become an integral part of the lives of persons with disabilities, especially from the educational standpoint. The history of and the innovations in learning will be examined. Educational terminology and laws such as the ADA and Individuals with Disabilities Act, as well as Individual Educational Plans and the Core Curriculum Content Standards will be connected to the theories and the use of the assistive technology. This course has a cross-disability, project-based focus and students leave with projects that can be used in their particular settings. (Prerequisites: None)

EDTC 672, HARDWARE, SOFTWARE, AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES (3)

This course is designed to examine a range of educational hardware, software, and telecommunications that assist individuals with disabilities in performing functional tasks and achieving increased independence. A focus will be placed upon the evaluation of specific hardware and software and its effectiveness within the continuum of the disability spectrum. This course will address using computers and software to design effective technology solutions using a client-based needs assessment approach. This course has a cross-disability, project-based focus and students leave with projects that can be used in their particular settings. (Prerequisites: None)

EDTC 673, ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY AND THE INTERNET (3)

This course examines the research, theory, resources, and design issues related to the use of the Internet for persons with disabilities. Students will survey current research and theory in the field. In addition, they will evaluate Internet-based programs and resources. Finally, students will apply design theory for the creation of Internet-based education material for persons with disabilities and will learn current web development tools. This course has a cross-disability, project-based focus and students leave with projects that can be used in their particular settings. (Prerequisites: EDTC 671 and EDTC 672)

EDTC 674, ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION (3)

This course is designed to address the many aspects of assistive technology assessment. The participant will learn which technologies and strategies to use to improve functioning during specific activities. Physical characteristics such as posture, muscle tone, stamina, and range of motion will be examined as well as gross and fine motor control, method of mobility and visual perception. The participant will investigate device and software options and appropriateness, develop training plans, and identify funding sources. (Prerequisites: EDTC 671, EDTC 672, and EDTC 673)

EDTC 675, PRACTICUM IN ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY (3)

In this capstone experience, students work with a professor in assisting in the development or delivery of assistive technology services. Through mutual agreement among the graduate student, an administrator of a program that uses assistive technology, and the University professor, a program of work is designed over a 75-hour period that integrates the duties and responsibilities of an assistive technology specialist. A graduate field experience project is required. Practicum settings may include schools, independent living centers, rehabilitation agencies, resource centers, clinics, hospitals, corporations, and other facilities involved in the delivery of technology services to persons with disabilities. Seminars can be held on and off campus. (Prerequisites: EDTC 671, EDTC 672, EDTC 673, and EDTC 674)