

**PROGRAM APPROVAL APPLICATION**  
**NEW or SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE or LOCALLY APPROVED**  
(This application may not exceed 3 pages)

**Fill In Form**

Proposed Program Title: AUTISM SERVICES TECHNICIAN

Projected Program Start Date: SPRING 2018

College: WEST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE

District: LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

**Contact Information**

Voting Member: ALEX DAVIS

Title: DEAN, ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, LA CITY COLLEGE, LACCD

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**Goal(s) of Program (Check all that apply):**

- Career Technical Education (CTE)       Transfer       Other

**Type of Program (Check all that apply):**

- Certificate of Achievement 12-17 (or 17-27 quarter) units       Certificate of Achievement 18+ semester (or 27+ quarter) units  
 Associate of Science Degree       Associate of Arts Degree

**Reason for Approval Request (Check One):**

- New Program       Substantial Change       Locally Approved

**Program Information**

1299.00      Recommended [Taxonomy of Program \(TOP\) Code](#)  
 23.00      Units for Major-Degree  
 60.00      Total Units for Degree  
 13.00      Required Units-Certificate

**Written Form**

**1. Insert the description of the program as it will appear in the catalog. (See PCAH pp. 142 and 170)**

Autism Service Technicians are allied health care professionals who are qualified to implement evidence-based, autism-specific treatment using the principles and procedures of applied behavior analysis (ABA) under the supervision of a qualified health professional acting within the scope of a licensed health professional. Autism Services Technicians treat the deficits and the behaviors associated with autism spectrum disorders using the principles and procedures of ABA. The ABA process systematically applies interventions based upon the principles of learning theory to improve socially significant behaviors a meaningful degree and to demonstrate that the interventions are responsible for the improvement in behavior.

Students completing Allied Health 25A and 25B will be eligible to sit for the Board Certified Autism Technician certifying examination. Students completing additional course work including Allied Health 26, Allied Health 27,

Child Development 1 and Psychology 14 will earn a certificate of achievement. Students completing all the course requirements will be eligible for the Associates of Science for Autism Services Technicians.

**2. Provide a brief rationale for the program.**

This set of courses, certificate and degree program meet the growing demand for appropriately trained and educated providers created by recent legislation directed at insurance companies. The California Autism Insurance Law (SB 946), was enacted in 2011 and mandates insurance companies cover the behavioral health treatment for autism spectrum disorders. For purposes of the law, “behavioral health treatment” is defined as “professional services and treatment programs, including applied behavior analysis and evidence-based behavior intervention programs, that develop or restore, to the maximum extent practicable, the functioning of an individual.” Treatment must be prescribed by a licensed physician and provided by qualified autism service provider, qualified autism service professional or qualified autism service technician.

**3. Summarize the Labor Market Information (LMI) and employment outlook (including citation for the source of the data) for students exiting the program. (See PCAH pp. 85-88, 136, 147, 148, 165, 168, and 176)**

The Autism Services Technician program at West Los Angeles College will graduate 50 students each year with a certificate of achievement and 20 students each year with an Associate of Science Degree.

In September 2016, the Centers of Excellence published a report on “Board Certified Autism Technicians (BCAT) and Registered Behavior Technicians (RBT)”. As this is still an emerging occupation, there is not a specific occupation SOC code. However those that are related included Occupational Therapist Assistant, Psychiatric Technician or Mental Health Technician and Teacher Assistant. This report, demonstrated a total of 57 job openings in Los Angeles and Orange County. Most of the job postings were for teacher assistants with 22 openings.

The Center for Autism and Related Disorders is one of the largest organizations focused on the treatment of autism spectrum disorders. A recent survey demonstrated a need for 340 Autism Services Technicians, with over 50 of these positions being in the Los Angeles Area. This is just one of many organizations providing services to this client population.

**4. List similar programs at other colleges in the Los Angeles and Orange County Region which may be adversely impacted. (There is space for 10 listings, if you need more, please contact [laocr@rscdd.edu](mailto:laocr@rscdd.edu))**

College	Program	Who You Contacted	Outcome of Contact
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THERE ARE NO SIMILAR PROGRAMS AT ANY COLLEGE			

5. List all courses required for program completion, including core requirements, restricted electives and prerequisites. (There is space for 20 listings, if you need more, please contact [laocrc@rscsd.edu](mailto:laocrc@rscsd.edu)).  
 (See PCAH pp. 143 and 171)

Courses	Course Number	Course Title	Units
Core Requirements:			
Allied Health	25A	Qualified Autism Services Paraprofessional – Didactic	2.5
Allied Health	25B	Qualified Autism Services Paraprofessional – Practical	.5
Allied Health	26	Advanced Qualified Autism Services Paraprofessional – Didactic	3.0
Allied Health	27	Advanced Qualified Autism Services Paraprofessional – Practical	1.0
Child Development	1	Child Growth and Development	3.0
Psychology	1	General Psychology	3.0
Math	227	Statistics	4.0
Psychology 14	14	Abnormal Psychology	3.0
Psychology 74	74	Research Methods in Behavioral Sciences	3.0
Math	123C	Algebra (or Math 125, 128 or intermediate satisfactory score on placement test)	4.0
Electives (9 units from below):			
Psychology	13	Biological Psychology	3.0
Psychology	12	Social Biology	3.0
Childhood Development	2	Early Childhood Principles and Practices	3.0
Child Development	30	Infant and Toddler Studies	3.0
Communication	121	Interpersonal Communication	3.0

6. Include any other information you would like to share.

Students completing the above required courses as well as the general education requirements for the college will earn an Associate in Science for Autism Services Technician.

Students completing Allied Health 25A and B (or Allied Health 25) will qualify to sit for an industry recognized certificate (Board Certified Autism Technician).

Students completing Allied Health 25A, 25B, 26, 27, and Child Development 1 and Psychology 1 will earn a Certificate of Achievement. Allied Health 25 may be completed instead of Allied Health 25A and 25B.

Discussions are currently underway with the California State University at Northridge to regarding transfer opportunities for students completing the Associate in Science for Autism Services Technician.