

Concentration in Deafblindness & High Intensity Support Needs

Join us this fall for **An Introduction to Deafblindness** and **Assessment & Instructional Planning**. Both courses are aligned with Council for Exceptional Children Competencies.

01

Fall

An Introduction to Deafblindness

02

Spring

Deafblindness: Communication Strategies

03

Fall

Deafblindness: Assessment & Instructional Planning

04

Spring

Life Planning for Success: DeafBlind Strategies

Register [here](#). Space is limited. Deadline August 1, 2025.

Each course includes:

- 14-week semester (August - December)
- Approximately 3 hours of online work per week (access to high speed internet required)
- Synchronous online meetings throughout the semester
- Course must meet 16 participants minimum in order to be held

Cost: \$450 per 3-credit course

Credit Options:

- Continuing Education Hours
- Graduate Credit (additional \$40.00 per credit payable to USD)
- RID CEU's for Interpreters

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Center for Disabilities

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For Questions Contact:

USD Center for Disabilities

1-800-658-3080

www.usd.edu/cd

communityeducation@usd.edu

Course Descriptions

Course 1:

An Introduction to Deafblindness

Instructor: Brandy Sebera

This first course will provide foundational knowledge of deafblindness and the impact of hearing and vision loss on learning and communication, as well as key evidence-based instructional strategies for supporting those with deafblindness. This course includes content from the following NCDB Open Hands, Open Access Modules: Overview of Deafblindness, The Sensory System, the Brain and Learning, Building Trusted Relationships, Touch for Connection and Learning, Maximizing Vision and Hearing, The Role of the Intervener and Intervener Strategies.

Course 2:

Deafblindness: Communication Strategies

Instructor: Brandy Sebera

The key principle of this course is that all students communicate. This course includes content from the following NCDB Open Hands, Open Access Modules: Touch for Connection and Communication, Understanding Communication Principles, Emergent Communication, Progressing from Non-symbolic to Symbolic Communication & Complex Language, Introduction to Sign Language & Braille, Concept Development and Responsive Environments and Calendars. Here you will learn about the importance of touch in communicating with individuals with deafblindness and how to progress from non-symbolic to symbolic communication.

Course 3:

Deafblindness: Assessment and Instructional Planning

Instructor: Julie Maier

The course includes an overview of assessment strategies, assessment instruments, and the development of specific and measurable IEP goals based on authentic assessment data. In addition, the course includes content from the following NCDB Open Hands, Open Access Modules: Availability for Learning, Routines for Participation and Learning, Behavior and Environmental Supports, and Introduction to Orientation and Mobility.

Course 4:

Life Planning for Success: DeafBlind Strategies

Instructor: Maurice Belote

The course provides an overview of curricular options and instructional strategies to promote student success in school and beyond, and to ensure that all students successfully transition from school to adulthood. The course includes content from the following NCDB Open Hands, Open Access Modules: Transition to Adulthood and Community Living, Self-Determination, Social Skills and Peer Relationships, Sexuality, and Collaborative Teaming and Family Partnerships. The course focuses on fully integrating the module content above to prepare students who are deafblind to be actively engaged in communities of their choice.

While these courses are not required to be completed sequentially, it will be beneficial to have foundational knowledge in the content areas included in course 1 and 2 prior to enrolling in course 3. Courses will be held on a rotating basis from semester to semester.