

# **Assistive Technology Certificate Program**

## **Frequently Asked Question**

### ***What is the Assistive Technology Certificate Program?***

The Assistive Technology Certificate Program (ATCP) is a flexible packaging of 4 Assistive Technology courses taught at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). ATCP instructors are faculty members in the Department of Disability and Human Development (DHD), and group leaders within the Assistive Technology Unit (ATU). ATU provides Assistive Technology services to approximately 500 individuals with disabilities in northeast Illinois each year.

Two of the four courses are required; two courses are selected from a group of four courses based on the interests of the students. Required and elective coursework represents most of the coursework comprising the Rehabilitation Technology track within DHD. ATCP students take the courses along with the UIC students.

### ***Do you have to apply?***

Yes, ATCP is designed to accept a maximum of 8 students each year. Admittance into the program is based on academic background, work experience, and how the student will put the knowledge to practice.

### ***When are applications considered?***

The open application deadline is May 1<sup>st</sup>. Applicants will be notified of status by the end of May.

### ***If admitted, when would I start in the certificate program?***

Admitted students start in the Fall semester. However, if students want to begin the coursework early, they can take courses beginning the Summer semester.

### ***How long does it take to complete the program?***

ATCP is designed to take 15-18 months to complete, depending on student schedule.

### ***What do I receive at the end of the program?***

A printed certificate stating completion of the Assistive Technology Certificate Program is issued to each student who has finished the four-course sequence.

### ***Am I earning graduate credit as I take the courses?***

Yes, ATCP students are required to complete all assignments and exams as they take the coursework. As such, graduate credit is earned. Please note that up to 12 hours of graduate credit may be transferred into the Master of Science program in Disability and Human Development.

***How does the Certificate differ from Certification and Licensure?***

A certificate program differs from certification earned through a credentialing program, and from licensure. ATCP represents successful completion of a body of coursework focused on Assistive Technology service practices and state-of-the-art devices. Completion of the four courses indicates a significant commitment on the part of the student to make Assistive Technology an area of expertise.

Certification obtained through a credentialing program, such as the Assistive Technology Practitioner, Assistive Technology Supplier, or Rehabilitation Engineering Technologist, usually represents recognition of the expertise itself. Certification programs usually require certain educational backgrounds, work experience, and successful completion of an examination.

Licensure usually refers to a state-based regulatory system, where a professional is required to document education, work experience, and perhaps some examination of knowledge level in order to legally provide a given type of service.

***What is the cost of the certificate program?***

As of Fall 2010, classes are offered at the same rate as all classes at UIC, a cost of \$405 per credit hour and a nonrefundable fee of \$15 per credit hour is assessed per student for all extramural courses. For a three credit hour course, the total cost is currently \$1,260. Tuition is subject to change each semester.

For more information, please contact:

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