

AUTISM BADGE MATRIX

Badge Type: Education Based Badge

Badge description:

Individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) require unique approaches for driving evaluation, training, and education. Driver rehabilitation specialists servicing this population need to understand the latest research on autism education methods, types of driving-related difficulties commonly experienced due to sensory integration profiles, real-world driving outcomes for those who become licensed, and the availability of clinical assessment tools. Service providers need to be able to evaluate whether a client with autism is ready to pursue driving, understand the challenges and opportunities for autistic drivers and employ the best approach for driver education that supports the learning preferences of the client with ASD.

Competencies:

- Able to perform a driver evaluation geared toward the issues commonly seen in the autism spectrum disorder.
 - Select assessments, tools, and vehicles appropriate to diagnosis and prognosis
 - Develop quick rapport with client and other involved parties
 - Interview client and other involved parties to complete and verify medical history, driving history, social support and communication and learning status.
 - Perform cognitive assessment through evaluation and observation of memory, attention (e.g., sustained, selective, divided, and alternating), reasoning and insight, judgment and decision making, self-regulation of behavior, executive functioning, and road sign recognition/right-of-way application.
 - Perform In-Vehicle Assessment. Select driving environment and route to achieve evaluation goal. Observe pre-driving tasks, driving position and posture, pre-driving checks (e.g., seat adjustment, mirrors, seat belt), and pre-operational tasks (e.g., ignition, parking brake, gear selector, temperature control).
 - Perform behind-the-wheel evaluation under various roadway and traffic conditions including physical skills, visual/visual perception skills, and cognitive/behavioral skills.
 - Compile results of assessments, and communicate results with involved parties (e.g., client, family, medical team, third-party payers, driver rehabilitation specialists, licensing authority)
 - Interpret assessment results and document. Discuss results with client and other involved parties. Make recommendations and plan for implementation. Write reports for involved parties that meet client needs (e.g., third party funding sources, driver licensing agencies, insurance companies, driver educator, vehicle modifier, referring physician). Develop preliminary recommendations for training.
 - Implement recommendations including extended driver evaluation, driver education and training (e.g., driver improvement courses, simulator training, commentary driving, classroom education), behind-the-wheel driver education and training, monitor progress and work with other professionals to optimize performance, address licensing issues (e.g., road test, license restrictions), and document.
 - Conduct training and follow-up evaluations.
- Continuously strives to improve quality of services.
 - Remains current with relevant research and evidence related to drivers with autism
 - Understands and complies with ADED Code of Ethics
 - Understands and complies with ADED Best Practice Guidelines for the Delivery of Driver Rehabilitation Services.

Requirements to earn Autism Badge:

1. Registration and attendance of the 2-day, 14-hour course presented live at an ADED Conference.

Maintenance Requirements:

Badge earners that are an ADED member in good standing will have their badge renewed annually automatically. If a badge recipient allows their membership to lapse, the individual's badge will lapse, and verification and icon use will be rescinded until membership is renewed OR they pay the non-member badge renewal fee. If the lapse exceeds five consecutive years, the individual will have to reapply, pay the current fees associated with earning the badge and complete the program from the beginning.

Badge earners that are non-members will have to pay an annual renewal fee of \$50 to maintain the badge. If a badge recipient does not pay their annual renewal fee, the individual's badge will lapse, and verification and icon use will be rescinded until membership is renewed OR

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they become a member of ADED in which it will renewal annually at no additional fee. If the lapse exceeds five consecutive years, the individual will have to reapply, pay the current fees associated with earning the badge and complete the program from the beginning.