

# Professional Development Series for Educators & Related Service Providers

## Concentration in Deaf-Blindness & High Intensity Support Needs

**FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT:**  
USD CENTER FOR DISABILITIES  
1-800-658-3080  
[www.usd.edu/cd](http://www.usd.edu/cd)  
[communityeducation@usd.edu](mailto:communityeducation@usd.edu)

Join us for newly created 3-credit courses developed for educators and aligned with Council for Exceptional Children Competencies.

Available  
Fall 2020

### 1: An Introduction to Deaf-Blindness

Available  
Fall 2020

### 2: Deaf-Blindness: Communication Strategies

Coming  
Spring  
2021

### 3: Deaf-Blindness: Assessment & Instructional Planning

Coming  
Summer  
2021

### 4: Life Planning for Success: Deaf-Blind Strategies

**Registration Link. Space is limited.**

#### Each course includes:

- 16-week semester (August - December)
- Approximately 2½ hours of online work per week (access to high speed internet required)
- Synchronous online meetings throughout the semester

**Cost: \$200.00 per 3-credit course**

#### Credit Options:

- Continuing Education Hours
- Graduate Credit (additional \$40.00 per credit payable to USD)



# Course Descriptions

## Course 1: An Introduction to Deaf-Blindness

**Instructor: Brandy Sebera**

This first course will provide foundational knowledge of deaf-blindness and the impact of hearing and vision loss on learning and communication, as well as key evidence-based instructional strategies for supporting those with deaf-blindness. This course includes content from the following *NCDB Open Hands, Open Access Modules*: Overview of Deaf-Blindness, 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: Deaf-Blindness: 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 deaf-blindness and how to progress from non-symbolic to symbolic communication

## Course 3: Deaf-Blindness: Assessment and Instructional Planning

**Instructor: Maurice Belote**

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: Deaf-Blind 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 deaf-blind 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 courses 3 & 4.**