



SMU

ANNETTE CALDWELL SIMMONS
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
& HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

LEARNING THERAPY CENTER AT SMU-IN-PLANO

The Learning Therapy Center, a part of Southern Methodist University's Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education & Human Development, offers three graduate-level certificate programs for individuals interested in working with children or adults who have dyslexia or related written-language disorders. The programs include the Learning Therapy Practitioner Level Certificate, the Learning Therapist Graduate Certificate, and the Certificate of Advanced Studies.

LEARNING THERAPY PRACTITIONER LEVEL CERTIFICATE PROGRAM – CALP CERTIFICATION / “TEACHING LEVEL”

Overview: 10 credit- hours total; minimum of 120 Clinical Teaching Hours; 5 demonstration lessons; 1 year

The Practitioner Level Certificate Program, which prepares individuals to work as dyslexia teachers in small remedial classes in public or private school settings, is a one-year course of study. Participants receive thorough instruction in guided discovery, multisensory teaching techniques, lesson planning, and documentation of student progress. The program of study uses a sequential multisensory approach to teach alphabet and dictionary skills, reading (decoding & comprehension), fluency, spelling, cursive handwriting, and written composition. During this year of study, students must successfully complete 10 hours of graduate-credit coursework, as well as 5 teaching demonstration lessons and a minimum of 120 supervised hours of clinical teaching experience. Upon satisfactory completion of the curriculum, an individual is eligible to take the National Alliance Registration Exam to become a Certified Academic Language Practitioner, or CALP.

Individuals who are interested in becoming a Certified Academic Language Therapist (CALT) must continue for an additional year of study.

LEARNING THERAPY CERTIFICATE PROGRAM – CALT CERTIFICATION / “THERAPY LEVEL”

Overview: 21 credit- hours total; minimum of 700 Clinical Teaching Hours; 10 demonstration lessons; 2 years

The second year of study includes basic and advanced theory, methods, curriculum, and professional development for therapists working with individuals and/or groups with dyslexia. Students are trained in the structure of the written language, multisensory teaching methods, and sequential procedures for teaching written-language skills and learning strategies. The second year of study requires an additional 11 hours of graduate credit coursework. During the second year, students continue to accrue supervised clinical teaching hours and complete teaching demonstration lessons. Students who successfully fulfill the requirements of both years of study become eligible to take the Alliance National Registration Exam at the Therapist Level.

CERTIFICATE OF ADVANCED STUDIES PROGRAM (CAS)

Overview: ICALP-8 credit hours total; 1 year / QI-16 credit- hours total; 2 years

The CAS program prepares individuals to become instructors and administrators of Learning Therapy Programs. The CAS is open to individuals who hold a Master's or higher degree from an accredited college or university and have completed Multisensory Structured Language Education (MSLE) training.

The ICALP is a 1-year program designed for individuals who desire to teach the CALP certification curriculum.

The QI program requires completion of a 2-year program, and is designed for individuals planning to teach the CALT certification curriculum.