



# UC Davis MIND Institute

## ESDM Training Program

### CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

The following pages provide both an overview and detailed descriptions of the various levels of training available in the ESDM model. Each section is intended to be utilized as a reference source by individuals interested in learning ESDM and those delivering the multiple levels of training. This section of the manual provides an overview of the workshops and steps involved in achieving ESDM Therapist Certification.

#### CERTIFICATION LEVELS

| LEVEL                  | DESCRIPTION                                                                                                | TERM for INDIVIDUAL     |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Certified Therapist    | Certified to deliver ESDM therapies                                                                        | Certified Therapist     |
| Certified Parent Coach | Certified Therapists who are also Certified Parent Coaches                                                 | Certified Parent Coach  |
| Apprentice Trainer     | Certified Therapists in the Apprentice Trainer Program to become fully Certified Trainers                  | Apprentice Trainer (AT) |
| Certified Trainer      | Able to deliver ESDM training workshops and supervise ESDM <i>therapists to certification</i>              | Certified Trainer       |
| Parent Coach Trainer   | Able to train other individuals in the ESDM Parent Coaching methods                                        | Parent Coach Trainer    |
| Senior Trainer         | Able to deliver ESDM training workshops and to certify ESDM <i>trainers, therapists and parent coaches</i> | Senior Trainer          |



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### TRAINING PROGRAM LEVELS

| LEVEL                                     | DESCRIPTION                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | TERM for INDIVIDUAL      |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Introductory Workshop                     | Learn about the theoretical and empirical framework, curriculum and teaching principles of the Early Start Denver Model (ESDM)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Introductory Attendee    |
| Advanced Workshop                         | Professionals who have completed the Introductory Workshop will learn how to carry out ongoing therapy using the ESDM. Teams of 3-5 professionals will be grouped together to receive direct practice with children with ASD and supervision with implementing an ESDM intervention program.                                                                                | Advanced Attendee        |
| Therapist Certification Supervision       | Professionals who have completed the Advanced Workshop may continue to certification by completing all steps in the Action Plan under the supervision of a Certified Trainer                                                                                                                                                                                                | Trainee                  |
| Parent Coaching Workshop                  | Describes our current practices in supporting parents to incorporate the Early Start Denver Model (ESDM techniques) into their everyday routines with their young children with ASD; open to currently certified therapists who have been practicing ESDM methods for a minimum of 6 months; this course is a requirement for applicants to the Apprentice Trainer Program. | Parent Coaching Attendee |
| Parent Coaching Certification Supervision | Therapists who have completed the Parent Coaching Workshop may continue to certification by completing all steps in the Action Plan under the supervision of a Certified Parent Coach Trainer                                                                                                                                                                               | Parent Coaching Trainee  |
| Apprentice Trainer Program                | Limited apprenticeships available to become a Certified Trainer by completing the Action Plan under supervision of a Certified Trainer through the ESDM Training Program at the UC Davis MIND Institute                                                                                                                                                                     | Apprentice Trainer (AT)  |



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### INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP

#### Overview

Learn about the theoretical and empirical framework, curriculum and teaching principles of the Early Start Denver Model (ESDM), a developmental, behavioral and relationship-based intervention program for infants and toddlers with Autism Spectrum Disorder ages 12-48 months.

Topics include:

- Administering and completing a developmental assessment of children's skill levels
- Developing individualized, developmentally appropriate teaching objectives
- Implementing the ESDM teaching practices and fidelity system to evaluate technique use
- Maintaining data management and addressing poor or limited child progress, when needed

Please purchase and read the following textbook prior to the workshop, **EARLY START DENVER MODEL FOR YOUNG CHILDREN WITH AUTISM: PROMOTING LANGUAGE, LEARNING, AND ENGAGEMENT**, ISBN: 1606236318.

The Introductory Workshop is currently being offered in three formats:

- Online Course
- In-Person (Non-English)
- In-Person (English) – offered by UC Davis MIND Institute and Duke Center for Autism and Brain Development



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### Online Course

The directors of the ESDM Training Program have recently developed– and now offer – the ESDM Introductory Workshops online, through collaboration with the University of California, Davis Extension Program (UCDE). This new format includes the latest research and the self-paced format allows for the course to be completed over a six-week period. Our aim is to increase access to the introductory materials to interested individuals throughout the world.

### Instructors

- **Sally Rogers, Ph.D.**, professor of psychiatry, developmental psychologist, with a lifelong focus on developmental disabilities, particularly autism. She is particularly known for her research in early developmental processes and treatment of early autism. At the MIND Institute, UC Davis Medical Center, she is currently involved in a project focusing on teaching language skills to young children diagnosed with autism. Rogers served as President of the International Society for Autism Research from 2005-2007. She served as a member of the DSM 5 Committee for Developmental Disorders, among many other professional roles. She is a licensed practicing psychologist and scientist, having published extensively on early development of ASD and treatment of autism.
- **Geraldine Dawson, Ph.D.**, Professor, Departments of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Pediatrics, and Psychology and Neuroscience and Director of the Duke Center for Autism and Brain Development at Duke University, North Carolina. Dawson is serving as President of the International Society for Autism Research from 2015-17.. She serves as a member of the NIH Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC) which develops the federal strategic plan for autism research, services, and policy. Dawson is a licensed practicing clinical psychologist and scientist, having published extensively on early detection and treatment of autism and brain development.
- **Cynthia Zierhut, Ph.D.**, Clinical supervisor for the Collaborative START Lab, providing clinical oversight to many of the treatment projects. She is also a senior trainer in the ESDM



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Training Program. Working with the ESDM Training team, Dr. Zierhut aims to make accessible high quality learning opportunities for therapists in local communities and for our international colleagues. Dr. Zierhut is a developmental and licensed clinical psychologist specializing in working with young children with Autism Spectrum Disorders and their families for over a decade. She has been working with Dr. Sally Rogers since 2005, is a trainer and parent-coach trainer in the ESDM, and managed a collaborative ESDM group delivery project in Melbourne Australia in 2011.

### Eligibility for Enrollment

The course is open to anyone interested in learning more about the ESDM.

### Online Schedule

Course will be offered multiple times throughout the year. For current schedule, visit website at: <https://extension.ucdavis.edu/subject-areas/early-start-denver-model>

### Section Notes

Please contact 530-757-8993 or [healthinfo@ucdavis.edu](mailto:healthinfo@ucdavis.edu).

This is a self-paced, independent study online course with pre-produced lessons and assessments. Move through the content at your own pace during the six-week period. Successful completion prepares you to apply for advanced study with the ESDM Training Program at UC Davis.

### Fees

\$425.00

\*PLEASE NOTE: Fees and details are subject to change. Consult website for current fees, schedules, and details before enrolling.

### Credit

0.7 CEUs



# UC Davis MIND Institute ESDM Training Program

## Technical Requirements

To ensure your success in this online course, please review our technical requirements page at: <https://extension.ucdavis.edu/online-learning/tech-requirements>.

## Enrollment Policies

Requests to withdraw with a refund (less \$30 processing fee) or transfer to another course (with \$30 processing fee) must be received by the day the course opens (check current schedule) by 4:00 PM Pacific Standard Time.

## Completion

Certificate of completion will be provided by the UC Davis Extension Program.

Score of 80% on quizzes required to register for Advanced Workshops.

## Registration

For details on registration, visit the UC Davis Extension website at:  
<https://extension.ucdavis.edu/subject-areas/early-start-denver-model>

## In-Person Course (Non-English)

ESDM Trainers throughout the world will still be conducting Introductory Workshops in-person, in those areas which require a non-English presentation. The most current version of our Introductory Workshop is being translated into multiple languages on an as-needed basis, by qualified translators and trainers. The available languages for workshop dissemination continue to grow.

## Eligibility for Enrollment

The course is open to anyone interested in learning more about the ESDM.

## Fees

Fees vary by area, trainer



# UC Davis MIND Institute ESDM Training Program

## Credits

Availability of CEUs or additional credits will vary by area and trainer

## Instructors

Non-English in-person Introductory Workshops are conducted by ESDM Certified Trainers throughout the world.

## Enrollment Limitations

\*PLEASE NOTE: This Introductory Workshop can be provided for as many as 150 persons.

## Completion

Certificate of Attendance will be provided by the Trainer.

## Registration

For details on registration, visit the list of upcoming workshops on the ESDM Training Program website:

<http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/mindinstitute/research/esdm/workshops.html>

## In-Person Course (English)

Certified Trainers at the UC Davis MIND Institute and Duke Center for Autism and Brain Development will continue offering the Introductory Workshop in English when conducting trainings on-site or for organizations hosting trainings in their regions. Hosted workshops have the option to offer simultaneous translation during the presentation.

## Eligibility for Enrollment

The course is open to anyone interested in learning more about the ESDM.



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## Fees

Check current fee schedule with the ESDM Training Program at the UC Davis MIND Institute program by contacting [esdmtraining@ucdmc.ucdavis.edu](mailto:esdmtraining@ucdmc.ucdavis.edu) and at the Duke Center for Autism and Brain Development Program by contacting [earlystartdenvermodel@duke.edu](mailto:earlystartdenvermodel@duke.edu).

## Credits

CEUs are not currently available for this workshop. CEU credits may be available when course is taken through Duke University. For details contact [earlystartdenvermodel@duke.edu](mailto:earlystartdenvermodel@duke.edu).

## Instructors

Conducted by ESDM Certified Trainers affiliated with the UC Davis MIND Institute and the Duke Center for Autism and Brain Development.

## Enrollment Limitations

\*PLEASE NOTE: This Introductory Workshop can be provided for as many as 150 persons.

## Completion

Certificate of Attendance provided by the Training Program at the UC Davis MIND Institute and the Duke Center for Autism and Brain Development. .

## Registration

For details on registration, visit the list of upcoming workshops on the ESDM Training Program website:

<http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/mindinstitute/research/esdm/workshops.html> or contact, for those interested in attending Duke's program: Contact Dr. Davlantis at [earlystartdenvermodel@duke.edu](mailto:earlystartdenvermodel@duke.edu).



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### ADVANCED WORKSHOP

#### Overview

Professionals who have completed the Introductory Workshop will learn how to carry out ongoing therapy using the ESDM. Teams of 3-5 professionals will be grouped together to receive direct practice with children with ASD and supervision with implementing an ESDM intervention program. Coaching and feedback will be provided on how to generate and embed a developmentally-appropriate teaching curriculum into naturalistic routines for young children with ASD.

Topics include how to:

- Use the curriculum for evaluating a child's skill level across developmental domains
- Build quarterly objectives and data systems and address poor or limited child progress when needed
- Teach developmental objectives embedded inside naturalistic play routines
- Self-evaluate technique and use of intervention strategies.

The Advanced Workshop includes interactive sessions with children with ASD to equip professionals with the information, skills, and resources necessary to correctly implement the ESDM within their organization. Trainees will work daily with children with direct supervision from the Trainer. Trainees' fidelity scores in the ESDM will increase with each session, with the goal of fidelity reaching at minimum 75% by the end of the workshop.

#### Eligibility for Enrollment

- Work regularly with 12-60 month aged children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- Have educational degrees beyond a bachelor's or the academic equivalent from your country of origin (e.g., MA, Ph.D., MFT, SLP, OT)
- Work as part of an interdisciplinary team (e.g., general/special education teacher, developmental/clinical psychologist, SLP, OT, behavior analyst)



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- If it is the applicants intent to continue to certification, one should have the resources to submit training materials (after the workshop is complete) for fidelity review and certification. This would include access to internet and video recording equipment.
- Must independently supervise cases, make decisions about goals, and monitor child progress
- Based on frequent requests, the program occasionally allows participation in the Advanced Workshop by individuals who do not meet full eligibility criteria for moving on to certification supervision. This exception is made on a case-by-case basis and must be approved in advance by Certified Trainer consultation with the ESDM Training Program. We recognize that many individuals may benefit from participation in the workshops and exposure to the model. However, space is limited in workshops. Priority will always be given to groups of 3-5 training together, then to qualified individuals, then to individuals who do not meet full criteria for eligibility for certification.

### Fees

- Fees vary by area, trainer
- Current fee schedule for the ESDM Training Program at the UC Davis MIND Institute program is available by contacting [esdmtraining@ucdmc.ucdavis.edu](mailto:esdmtraining@ucdmc.ucdavis.edu) or at Duke University by contacting Dr. Davlantis at [earlystartdenvermodel@duke.edu](mailto:earlystartdenvermodel@duke.edu).

### Credits

- CEU availability will vary by area, trainer
- CEUs are not currently available for this workshop through the ESDM Training Program at the UC Davis MIND Institute. CEU credits may be available when course is taken through Duke University. For details contact [earlystartdenvermodel@duke.edu](mailto:earlystartdenvermodel@duke.edu).

### Instructors

Conducted by ESDM Certified Trainers affiliated with the UC Davis MIND Institute or Duke Center for Autism and Brain Development.

### Enrollment Limitations

Each workshop is limited to 5 trainees per Certified Trainer.



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## Completion

When an individual participates and completes an Advanced Workshop, he/she may identify as having attended workshops, but may not report to have completed ESDM certification.

## Registration

For details on registration, visit the list of upcoming workshops on the ESDM Training Program website:

<http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/mindinstitute/research/esdm/workshops.html> or for workshops at Duke University, contact Dr. Davlantis at [earlystartdenvermodel@duke.edu](mailto:earlystartdenvermodel@duke.edu).

## Application

Application procedures will vary by trainer and workshop offering. See registration and application instructions for each particular workshop you are interested in on website at: <http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/mindinstitute/research/esdm/workshops.html> or for workshops at Duke University, contact Dr. Davlantis at [earlystartdenvermodel@duke.edu](mailto:earlystartdenvermodel@duke.edu).



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## THERAPIST CERTIFICATION

### Overview

Our aim is to ensure that each individual trainee is adequately prepared for the rigorous requirements of completing the therapist certification program. In order to provide the necessary support required of both our trainers and trainees, we have created the following discrete steps towards certification to include\*\*:

- 1) Introductory Workshop
- 2) Advanced Workshop
- 3) Therapist Certification Supervision

We have also revised our program fee schedule to separate costs for the Advanced Workshop participation from that of certification supervision. We now require that individuals and/or groups sign up after completion of the Advanced Workshop, so they have a fuller understanding of the model, have had more opportunity to practice it, and are therefore able to make a more informed choice about taking on the cost and requirements for continuing to certification.

We have written a detailed explanation of all the steps of this process and the needed time for completion in the **Steps to Certification in the Early Start Denver Model (ESDM) and Therapist Certification Supervision Action Plan**. Trainers will explain the certification review process, timelines, and consequences for incompletion to their groups during the Advanced Workshop. This assures that workshop participants are aware of these requirements BEFORE requesting certification supervision.

\*\*Please Note: For individuals applying for Advanced Workshops and Therapist Certification Supervision through Duke University, those two steps are combined into one process. For details on their program's process, contact [earlystartdenvermodel@duke.edu](mailto:earlystartdenvermodel@duke.edu).



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## Steps to Certification in the Early Start Denver Model (ESDM)

### Prerequisites:

Must have met the requirements for participating in Advanced Workshop.

### 1) Read the ESDM Manual

Read our training manual entitled, **THE EARLY START DENVER MODEL FOR YOUNG CHILDREN WITH AUTISM: PROMOTING LANGUAGE, LEARNING, AND ENGAGEMENT** (Rogers, & Dawson, 2009). The ESDM is a developmental, naturalistic, and relationship-based approach for fostering children's initiative and engagement and scaffolding their communication and interaction. Included in the manual is the fidelity system for determining correct usage of the interactive procedures and a non-reproducible reference of the **CURRICULUM CHECKLIST** for evaluation of children's skill levels and development of teaching objectives. The manual and Curriculum Checklist (sold separately) can be purchased online.

### 2) Attend ESDM Training Workshops

After reading the manual, there are two workshops available for training in the ESDM.

The Introductory Workshop addresses the main aspects of the ESDM but is not intended to train professionals to fidelity. Participants will participate in all workshop activities, including didactic instruction, videotaped exercises, and group discussion.

The Advanced Workshop includes interactive sessions with children with ASD to equip professionals with the information, skills, and resources necessary to correctly implement the ESDM within their organization. Trainees will work daily with children with direct supervision from the Trainer. Trainees' fidelity scores in the ESDM will increase daily, with fidelity reaching at minimum 75% at the end of the workshop. Professionals will be required to submit follow-up training materials to demonstrate their continued competency in the ESDM following the Advanced Training Workshop (details listed below).



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### 3) Apply for Certification Supervision

After completion of the Advanced Workshop, please submit a request for certification supervision to your workshop Trainer. PLEASE NOTE: For workshops conducted by The ESDM Training Program at the UC Davis MIND Institute, requests must be submitted to [esdmtraining@ucdmc.ucdavis.edu](mailto:esdmtraining@ucdmc.ucdavis.edu).

Once your request for certification is approved you will be sent a link to access the ESDM Certified Therapist application.

Within 30 days of submitting your application the ESDM Training Program send you an invoice for therapist certification.

### 4) Submit Training Materials for Certification

Once you have paid fees in full, you will be assigned to a Certified Trainer for Therapist Certification Supervision.

**For ESDM Certification, all materials (paper and video) submitted to the ESDM training program need to be translated into English (videos will must have subtitles).**

Submit materials according to the Supervision Action Plan below. Timeline and due dates are based on the start date of when you are officially assigned to a supervising trainer.

Although the goal is for trainees to use practice materials to reach fidelity, this has to be completed within the timeline stated in the certification action plan. All steps to the certification process should be completed within 8-14 months from the individual's start date (date assigned to supervising Trainer). In situations in which: (1) any materials are not turned in within the timeline, (2) if the individual does not complete certification steps within 14 months from the start date, or (3) if the individual does not reach fidelity by the end of the training process, the training agreement has



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been executed and the assigned trainer has completed all responsibilities to the trainee. If the trainee does not achieve certification for one of these reasons, several options exist. The trainee may sign up for and take the Advanced Workshop again and/or the trainee may purchase additional supervision time from their trainer.



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### Therapist Certification Supervision Action Plan

| Step                                                                                | Activity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Evaluation                                                                                                                                               | Trainee Timeline                                                                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Step One:</b><br><i>Curriculum &amp; Objectives</i><br><br><b>*Practice Case</b> | Submit a completed ESDM curriculum and 4-5 written objectives across at minimum three different developmental domains for one child.                                                                                                                              | Trainer provides up to two rounds of feedback related to Fidelity Rating definitions of Items A-C, but scores are not required.                          | Trainee submits Step One within one month of starting certification program.    |
| <b>Step Two:</b><br><i>Teaching Steps</i><br><br><b>*Practice Case</b>              | Submit teaching steps of the 4-5 approved objectives (from Step One) for the same child.                                                                                                                                                                          | Trainer provides feedback related to Fidelity Rating definition of Item D, but score is not required.                                                    | Trainee submits Step Two within one month of receiving feedback for Step One.   |
| <b>Step Three:</b><br><i>Video</i><br><br><b>*Practice Case</b>                     | Submit one 30-minute unedited video of at minimum three teaching activities of the same child as above and scored data sheet.<br><br><i>Each recorded activity should be rated by self and peer(s) at minimum 75% fidelity or higher on total fidelity score.</i> | Trainer will observe and provide feedback and guidance. Trainer may decide to score with the Fidelity Rating System if skills are well-enough developed. | Trainee submits Step Three within one month of receiving feedback for Step Two. |



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| Phase                                           | Activity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Evaluation                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Timeline                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Step Four:</b><br><b>Official Submission</b> | <p>Prepare a complete package of the following materials with one child (may be the same child from practice case).</p> <p>Materials should encompass trainer's feedback from practice case and reflect passing scores across all fidelity measures.</p> <p><i>It is highly recommended that a peer also rate your materials to ensure accurate fidelity scoring.</i></p> <p>Submission includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Completed Curriculum Checklist</li><li>– Written objectives of at minimum two objectives per developmental domain</li><li>– Teaching steps per written objective</li><li>– One 30-minute unedited video of at minimum three teaching activities</li><li>– Self and peer-rated fidelity with scores of 80% or higher across videotaped activities</li><li>– Scored data sheet of videotaped activities</li></ul> | <p>Trainer will score with the Fidelity Rating System and provide feedback.</p> <p>Trainee will demonstrate at minimum a score of <b>"10"</b> on paperwork and <b>80%</b> fidelity across all videotaped activities.</p> | <p>Trainee submits Step Four within two months of receiving feedback for Step Three.</p> <p>Must pass without trainer feedback to count towards required two passing full submissions.</p> |



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| Phase                                 | Activity                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Evaluation                                                                                                                                                                                   | Timeline                                                                                                                                                                   |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Step Five: Official Submission</b> | Complete Step Five with a new child. Same submission requirements as Step Four apply here with the exception that additional video may not be needed if fidelity standard was met from practice case video. | Trainer will score with the Fidelity Rating System and provide feedback. Trainee will demonstrate at minimum a score of “10” on paperwork and 80% fidelity across all videotaped activities. | Trainee submits Step Five within three months of receiving feedback for Step Four.<br><br>Must pass without trainer feedback in first submission to receive certification. |
| <b>Therapist Certification</b>        | The individual has achieved the ESDM fidelity standards on paperwork and video materials with two children.                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                            |

### Additional Supervision (optional)

Trainees are required to meet certification standards on two “official submissions”. This includes scores of “10” on paperwork and 80% fidelity.

Steps 1-3 of the Action Plan are considered practice cases. At the discretion of supervising Trainer, if trainee does not pass 2 “official cases” (Steps 4-5 of Action Plan), he or she will have option to purchase additional supervision at a set rate, in order to have additional opportunities to complete certification.