

# APPLIED DISABILITY STUDIES (AAS)

**Award:** Associate of Applied Science Degree

**No. of credits required:** 60

**For more information:** Contact **Assistant Professor Brigid Cook**, 443-412-2084, [bcCook@harford.edu](mailto:bcCook@harford.edu); or Admissions, 443-412-2109.

## Program Description

This program prepares students to work with individuals with disabilities in a variety of roles including as paraeducators (teaching assistants) in schools and as direct care staff in adult services. Graduates will work under the supervision of a professional to provide instructional and/or behavioral support in a variety of settings. This program includes two required field placement experiences (30 hours each) which will provide students with experience assisting individuals with disabilities.

## Program Goals

Upon completion of the Paraeducation AAS Degree Program, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate professional behavior including effective communication.
2. Develop collaborative relationships with co-workers, community resources and parents to support learning.
3. Modify curriculum and select instructional techniques appropriate for a variety of individuals.
4. Identify influences on growth and development and theories of learning.
5. State scaffolding that can be provided to assist individuals in demonstrating appropriate behavior.
6. Make decisions in accordance with legal and ethical standards.

## Employment Information

The United States Department of Labor anticipates the number of paraeducator positions to grow by 4% between 2018 and 2026. Completion of the Paraeducator A.A.S. program makes students "highly qualified" for a position as a paraeducator and provides graduates with the skills and knowledge necessary to be a valuable addition to a general or special education classroom.

## Degree Requirements

### Recommended Course Sequence

First Semester			Credits
EDUC 100	Professionalism and Ethics in Teaching (D)		3
ENG 101	English Composition (GE)		3
Arts/Humanities Elective (GH) ( <a href="https://catalog.harford.edu/general-education/#arts-humanities">https://catalog.harford.edu/general-education/#arts-humanities</a> )			3
Select from the following: <sup>1</sup>			4
Mathematics Elective (GM)			
Mathematics Elective (GM) and General Elective (1 credit)			
General Education Elective (GB) (GH) (GI) (GL) (GM) (GS) <sup>1</sup>			3
<b>Credits</b>			<b>16</b>

### Second Semester

EDUC 101 or EDUC 102	Introduction to Education: Early Childhood through Secondary <sup>2, 3, 7</sup> or Supporting Adults with Disabilities	3
PSY 101	General Psychology (GB)	3
Biological/Physical Laboratory Science Elective (GL)		4
Career-Based Elective (p. ) <sup>4, 8</sup>		3
General Elective <sup>5</sup>		3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>

### Third Semester

EDUC 109	Paraprofessional Success	3
Select one of the following: <sup>6, 7</sup>		3
EDUC 103	The Young Child	
PSY 202	Child Psychology	
PSY 214	Human Development Across the Life Span	
PSY 216	Adolescent Psychology	
EDUC 217	Introduction to Special Education	3
Career-Based Elective (p. ) <sup>4, 8</sup>		6
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15</b>

### Fourth Semester

EDUC 210	Supporting Appropriate Behavior	3
EDUC 219	Everyday Classroom Assessment	3
Career-Based Elective (p. ) <sup>4, 8</sup>		3
Physical Education Elective		1
Select one of the following: <sup>6, 7</sup>		3
EDUC 220	Teaching Methods for Differentiating Instruction/Elementary	
EDUC 221	Teaching Methods for Differentiating Instruction/Secondary	
EDUC 225	Prevocational and Vocational Curriculum and Methods for Persons with Disabilities	
<b>Credits</b>		<b>13</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>60</b>

<sup>1</sup> MATH 216 Introduction to Statistics (GM) is recommended for the mathematics general elective (GM). HIST 104 History of the United States II (GB) (D) is recommended for the general education elective.

<sup>2</sup> Students are required to participate in a thirty-hour field placement experience in addition to time spent in EDUC 101 Introduction to Education: Early Childhood through Secondary, EDUC 102 Supporting Adults with Disabilities, and EDUC 217 Introduction to Special Education. Field placement experiences for EDUC 101 and EDUC 217 take place sometime during regular school hours, generally between 8:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

<sup>3</sup> A criminal background check and fingerprinting, at the expense of the student, may be required for courses including a field placement.

<sup>4</sup> A course with a different number of credits may be substituted as long as at least 60 credits are completed.

<sup>5</sup> A literature elective is recommended.

<sup>6</sup> Students who complete EDUC 103 The Young Child and EDUC 104 Materials and Curriculum in Early Childhood will receive the 90-hour Preschool Certificate required by the Maryland State Department of Education, Office of Child Care.

<sup>7</sup> Students interested in working with young children should take EDUC 103 or PSY 202, EDUC 101, and EDUC 220. Students interested in

working with teens should take PSY 214 or PSY 216, EDUC 101, and EDUC 221. Students interested in working with adults should take PSY 214, EDUC 102, and EDUC 225.

- <sup>8</sup> Helpful career-based electives for students interested in working with young include EDUC 104, EDUC 106, EDUC108, EDUC 207 and EDUC 219. Helpful career-based electives for students interested in working with teens include EDUC 106, EDUC 219, EDUC 225, and PSY 204. Helpful career-based electives for students interested in working with adults include BA 107, BA 109, EDUC 106, PSY 204, and PSY 212.

## Career-Based Electives

Select four of the following courses:

Code	Title	Credits
BA 107	Principles of Supervision	3
BA 109	Principles of Management	3
CIS 102	Introduction to Information Sciences (GI)	3
CMST 101	Speech Fundamentals (GI)	3
CMST 105	Interpersonal Communication (GI) (D)	3
EDUC 103	The Young Child	3
EDUC 104	Materials and Curriculum in Early Childhood	3
EDUC 106	Communication Skills for Educators	3
EDUC 108	Classroom Management: Early Childhood	3
EDUC 113	Introduction to Early Childhood Education	3
EDUC 204	Advanced Materials and Curriculum for Preschoolers	3
EDUC 207	Processes and Acquisition of Reading	3
EDUC 208	Avenues to Children's Literacy	3
EDUC 215	School-Age Child Care	3
EDUC 216	Child Health, Safety and Nutrition	3
EDUC 225	Prevocational and Vocational Curriculum and Methods for Persons with Disabilities	3
SOC 101	Introduction to Sociology (GB) (D)	3
SOC 214	Juvenile Delinquency	3
PSY 202	Child Psychology	3
PSY 204	Abnormal Psychology	3
PSY 207	Educational Psychology	3
PSY 212	The Helping Relationship	3
PSY 216	Adolescent Psychology	3
EDUC 191	Independent Study: Education	1
EDUC 192	Independent Study: Education	2
EDUC 193	Independent Study: Education	3
EDUC 194	Independent Study: Education	4

## General Education Degree Requirements

Note: The following codes identify courses which satisfy the General Education Degree Requirements:

Behavioral/Social Science (GB)  
 English Composition (GE)  
 Arts/Humanities (GH)  
 Interdisciplinary and Emerging Issues (GI)  
 Biological/Physical Laboratory Science (GL)  
 Mathematics (GM)  
 Biological/Physical Science (GS)