



**DYSLEXIA
ADVOCATE
CERTIFICATE
PROGRAM**
PROGRAM GUIDE
FALL 2025

PRESENTED BY
DYSLEXIA TRAINING
INSTITUTE

Welcome!

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Background & Philosophy

It is estimated that 10 - 15 percent of the general population has a reading based learning disability. Of those individuals, approximately 80% has dyslexia. Yet, many people are misinformed or uninformed about dyslexia, including many school teachers, school staff and parents. Children and adults with dyslexia are often not identified and/or do not receive the appropriate remediation they need to learn to read, write and spell despite the fact they have the intellectual capacity to learn.

What is dyslexia? The International Dyslexia Association (IDA) and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) adopted the following definition of dyslexia:

Dyslexia is characterized by difficulties with accurate and / or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities. These difficulties typically result from a deficit in the phonological component of language that is often unexpected in relation to other cognitive abilities and the provision of effective classroom instruction. Secondary consequences may include problems in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede growth of vocabulary and background knowledge.

Benefits, Results & Goals

Benefits of the Online Course

- Participants have access to the course content 24 hours a day/7 days a week for the duration of the course.
 - Participants fit the course work into their schedule. Coursework is instructor-led so feedback and answers to questions will always be provided on a timely basis.
 - Participants can review archived PowerPoint presentations, videos and other course material to be viewed as often as desired.
 - Participants have the opportunity to reflect on what they are learning before posting questions and reflections on discussion boards
 - Participants are not limited to on-site in class time only to ask questions and interact with instructors and program participants.
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Why DTI Developed the Online Certificate Program & Goals of the Program

It was designed to:

- Teach Participants about the Individuals with Disabilities and Education Act (IDEA), FAPE, IEPs, 504's, appropriate accommodation, letter-writing, how to request and receive appropriate services and interventions, dispute processes and resolution, as they all relate to a student with dyslexia.
 - Upon completion participants will have the information they need to effectively work with families and school districts to ensure the laws are respected and that children are receiving the services they need.
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Who Would Benefit from the Dyslexia Advocate Certificate Program?

Our Target Audience

A wide range of individuals may benefit from taking this certification program. The curriculum has been developed to be appropriate both for parents, special education advocates, practitioners and anyone interested in assisting families affected by dyslexia.

Optional Textbooks

Dyslexia Advocate! How to Advocate for a Child with Dyslexia within the Public Education System by Kelli-Sandman Hurley Ed.D. (Optional)

Wrightslaw: Special Education Law, 2nd Edition by Peter W.D. Wright and Pamela Darr Wright (Optional)

Program Requirements & Course Schedule

Requirements

The certificate program consists of: online coursework, midterm and a final, which is a case study assignment. It will take approximately 40-50 hours to complete the certificate.

- Participants will be expected to complete the assigned readings.
- Participants will be expected to complete the assigned homework.
- Participants will be expected to participate in board discussions.
- Participants will be required to pass the midterm and final (case study) before being awarded a Certificate of Completion.

**The Dyslexia Training Institute has the right to withhold a certificate of completion if a participant has not completed the program in full and/or does not demonstrate a level of mastery required to complete the program.

Course Schedule

Week 1: October 6, 2025

Dyslexia Refresher, Structured Literacy, Important terms, Overview of IDEA and 504

Week 2: October 13, 2025

Role of the Advocate, Developing a Resource Binder, IEP Experience, Overview of Special Education Process and RTI

Week 3: October 20, 2025

Evaluation/Assessment Basics, Assessment Workshop, Understanding Statistics for Advocates

Week 4: October 27, 2025

Dyslexia & Writing, Qualitative Data, Observations as Part of the Assessment Process

Program Schedule (cont.)

Required Online Classes (cont.)

Week 5: November 3, 2025

Midterm, Goals and Services

Week 6: November 10, 2025

Accommodations and Modifications, Assistive Technology, Week 6 Quiz (Accommodations, AT)

Week 7: November 17, 2025

Understanding the Dynamics of the IEP Meeting, Types of Violations and Dispute Resolution, Scenarios, Case Study, Instructions for Final Project (If This, Then What?), Week 7 Quiz (Scenarios)

Break: November 24- 28 2025

Week 8: December 1, 2025

Case Study (Assessment, IEP and Meeting) (Goals, assessment)
The science of advocacy

Week 9: December 8, 2025

The Business of Advocacy, Final

Additional Program Information

Duration of Course

Online course work will take approximately nine weeks to complete. Access to the coursework is available 24 hours/day, 7 days week for the duration of the course.

No Warranties

The Instructor makes no promises or warranties with regards to a Participant's performance as a result of any training provided. No employee at the Dyslexia Training Institute is an attorney and the content of this course should not be construed as legal advice.

Attendance

Participants are required to:

- actively participate in all online courses by completing required readings and assignments on a timely basis
 - actively post questions and reflections on discussion boards
 - participate in live chats and webinars or watch recorded version
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Grading and Tests

Each participant will be required to complete a pre-test at the beginning of the program, a mid-term and a case study at the end of the program.

Participants enrolling in Graduate Level Extension Credits through the University of San Diego will be required to meet all the requirements listed above.

Computer & Technology Requirements

Internet access

Your computer must have the ability to view PowerPoint presentations, live streaming (for webinars), download PDF files and word documents.

Enrollment

Enrollment and Fees

Participants must enroll and pay a \$100 non-refundable registration fee at least one week before the first day of the program or have a purchase order sent to DTI.

The first day of the certificate program is October 6, 2025.

Certification Program Fee - \$950.00 (\$100 registration fee + \$850 program fee) -All fees must be paid in full before the first day of the certification program.

Steps to Enrollment

- Visit www.dyslexiatraininginstitute.org to download the Dyslexia Advocate Certificate Program application or request it at dyslexiaspec@gmail.com
- Complete the application and submit. You can scan the application and email it to dyslexiaspec@gmail.com, fax it to 619-342-2643, or mail it to: Dyslexia Training Institute, 7424 Jackson Drive, Ste 1B San Diego, CA 92119
- Your application will be review and you will receive notification of your registration status within one week of the date we receive your application.
- Upon acceptance, registrant must pay a \$100 non-refundable registration fee within seven days of acceptance or by one week before the program begins, whichever comes first. This registration fee will be credited towards the total \$950.00 fee.

Refund Policy & Graduate Level Extension Credits

Refund Policy

If a participant is not able to complete the Dyslexia Advocate Certificate Program, the following is the refund policy:

Drop Date - Amount of Refund

prior to October 3, 2025 - \$950

prior to October 24, 2025 - \$450

On or After October 24, 2025 - No refund available

Graduate Level Extension Credits

Graduate Level Extension Credits are available through the University of San Diego (USD). Registering for *Graduate Level Extension Credits* is optional and not a requirement for participating in the Dyslexia Advocate Certificate Program.

USD's fee is \$79 per *Graduate Level Extension Credit*. The Dyslexia Advocate Certificate Program is three (3) credits. The fee is paid directly to USD and is not included in the fee paid to the Dyslexia Training Institute to enroll in the Dyslexia Advocate Certificate Program. Information for enrolling for *Graduate Level Extension Credits* will be available during the certificate program.

Participants enrolling in *Graduate Level Extension Credits* through the USD will be required to complete all program requirements to receive the credits.

The *Graduate Level Extension Credits* are generally used for educator's certification requirements, salary enhancement purposes and/or transferred to a degree program. However, it is the responsibility of the participant to consult with their organization requiring the credits for certifications, salary enhancement or degrees to ensure the *Graduate Level Extension Credits* issued from USD will fulfill the specified requirements.

Instructor



Kelli Sandman-Hurley, Ed.D.

Kelli Sandman-Hurley, Ed.D. is an author and co-founder of the Dyslexia Training Institute. She received her doctorate in literacy with a specialization in reading and dyslexia from San Diego State University and the University of San Diego. She also completed TESOL coursework. Dr. Kelli is a certified special education advocate assisting parents and children through the Individual Education Plan (IEP) and 504 Plan process. She has training in mediation and also serves as an expert witness in the area of dyslexia. Dr. Kelli is trained in Structured Word Inquiry, the Orton-Gillingham approach, Lindamood-Bell, RAVE-O and Read Naturally. Dr. Kelli is a past President of the San Diego Branch of the International Dyslexia Association. She is a dyslexia consultant working with schools to improve services offered to students with dyslexia and training teachers. She co-created and produced *Dyslexia for a Day: A Simulation of Dyslexia* and she is a frequent speaker at conferences. She is the author of the well-received books, *Dyslexia Advocate! How to Advocate for a Child with Dyslexia within the Public Education System*, *Dyslexia & Spelling: Making Sense of it All*, and *The Adult Side of Dyslexia*.

Contact Us

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