

IN-DEPTH TRAINING LIVE OVER THE INTERNET **ASPERGER'S/AUTISM EMPLOYMENT COACH CERTIFICATION**

Barbara Bissonnette, Principal, Forward Motion Coaching



8-Week Program for Professionals; Begins February 17, 2022

Program Features

- ◆ 8 live, weekly sessions via the Internet (schedule on next page)
- ◆ In-depth instruction on how to assist students/clients to find and maintain employment
- ◆ Detailed case studies that illustrate various Asperger's/autism profiles and employment situations
- ◆ Weekly written assignments with feedback from Barbara
- ◆ 6-week supervised practicum featuring written feedback plus 3 calls with Barbara
- ◆ Written feedback on practicum sessions
- ◆ Worksheets, resources, tools
- ◆ Group size limited to 10 to ensure full participation by all
- ◆ Qualifies for 21 GCDF credits

This comprehensive program is designed for career counselors and coaches, disability service professionals at colleges and universities, vocational rehabilitation and transition specialists and other professionals. It features live instruction and personalized mentoring. You will learn how to coach adults with Asperger's Syndrome and similar autism spectrum profiles to choose the right job or career, find employment and stay hired. The emphasis is on adapting traditional coaching techniques to fit the unique needs of these individuals.

The ***Asperger's/Autism Employment Coach Certification*** features weekly, live virtual sessions plus a 6-week supervised practicum. Sessions feature interactive exercises, case studies, and group discussions. Weekly assignments consist of readings, short-answer questions/case study reviews and practice designing action plans for clients. This program is **approved for 21 Global Career Development Facilitator (GCDF) credits**.

Certification

A certificate of completion will be awarded to participants who successfully finish the program components. This certifies¹ that the participant:

- ◆ Understands the impact of challenges related to interpersonal skills, executive function, restricted/repetitive interests and sensory processing/integration, as well as strengths that can be utilized in the workplace
- ◆ Is able to modify the traditional coaching model to meet the needs of individuals on the autism spectrum
- ◆ Can utilize strategies and techniques to assist individuals in choosing the right job/career; finding a job; and staying employed

(continued)

¹ Certification is not an endorsement from Barbara Bissonnette or Forward Motion Coaching.



**Begins
Feb. 17, 2022!**

90 minute sessions: 4:00 —
5:30pm Eastern US time

Dates: 2/17, 2/24, 3/3, 3/10,
3/17, 3/24, 3/31, 4/7

Barbara Bissonnette is a best-selling author and expert on



Asperger's Syndrome/autism and employment. Since 2006, she has coached over one thousand individuals. She is the author of the award-winning *Complete Guide to Getting a Job for People with Asperger's Syndrome*; the *Asperger's Syndrome Workplace Survival Guide*; and *Helping Adults with Asperger's Syndrome Get & Stay Hired*.

She earned a graduate certificate in Executive Coaching from the Massachusetts School Professional Psychology (now William James) and is certified by Institute for Professional Excellence in Coaching.

Barbara Bissonnette

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Program Outline

Weeks One & Two, Understanding Adults with Asperger's/autism:

Definition of autism spectrum disorder and the "Asperger profile;" impact on adults in the workplace (communication, executive function, etc.); strengths associated with this processing style.

Week Three, Adapting the Coaching Model: Modifying core coaching skills to meet the needs of these students/clients; evaluating readiness; obtaining accurate background information.

Week Four, Working with Individuals: How to address ten common challenges, plus strategies for executive function difficulties.

Week Five, Choosing the Right Job/Career and Getting Hired: Guiding individuals to find the right occupation; assessments; creating a realistic job search plan; interview preparation, including navigating the landmine of behavioral questions (continues to next session).

Week Six, Americans with Disabilities Act: How individuals are protected in the workplace; deciding whether, when and how to disclose; case examples.

Week Seven, Staying Employed: Tools and techniques for addressing common employment challenges; teaching individuals to self-advocate; intervening with an employer (continues to next session).

Week Eight, Educating Employers: Explaining Asperger's/autism to employers; tips for modifying the interview process and on-boarding; innovative employer models and how to adapt them for internships and to small/mid-size organizations.

Supervised Practicum: Participants coach an individual on the spectrum for 1 hour per week for six weeks. Written feedback is provided for each session, plus there are 3 calls with Barbara (30 min. each) to discuss progress, problems, strategies. Sessions can begin during Week Six of the instruction, or after the instruction is concluded.

The program content is for professionals who are assisting students/clients with competitive, not sheltered or heavily supported, employment.

An application is required;
see next page for details



Fee and Cancellation Policy

The cost of the **Asperger's/Autism Employment Coach Certification** is \$2,400.00 and includes written materials. Upon acceptance, a \$250.00 deposit is required to hold a spot. Full payment is due prior to the first meeting.

Participants accepted into the program may cancel and receive a refund, less a \$175 processing fee, up to February 3, 2022. After that date **there are no refunds for any reason**. Cancellations must be submitted in writing.

Forward Motion Coaching reserves the right to cancel the program due to low enrollment, in which case participants will receive a full refund of all monies paid.

Request Application

To receive an application, or if you have questions about the program, please get in touch.

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Program Details

An application is required. Applicants will be evaluated based on their background and experience in a service profession. Prior experience working with individuals on the spectrum is not required.

Program participation: It is expected that participants will attend the live, virtual meetings and contribute to the group learning. We also understand that an unavoidable situation may occur, therefore **each live session will be recorded and available for viewing for two weeks after the original session date.** After that time, the recording will be erased.

Participants are responsible for finding an adult on the autism spectrum to coach for 1-hour per week for 6 weeks. The individual can be a job seeker or someone who is already employed and must be at least 18 years old. Practicum sessions must be finished by May 27, 2022.

What Participants Say

"I had such a great experience and learned so much from the class!" *EW, Recruiter*

"The experience was extremely informative for me – the structure and the exercises and the exchanges that took place between participants as well. [The case studies are] a valuable way of training, through the complexity ... of each case." *AP, Job Coach, Non-Profit*

"The content, readings, case studies and group discussions were insightful and extremely helpful in better equipping me to work with individuals with Asperger's/autism. I have already had the opportunity to put a lot of what I've learned into practice with clients." *SO, University Career Counselor*

"I found the course to be informative, relevant, practical and encouraging. It offered a balance of theory and application. Barbara provided a rich learning experience through the presentations, discussions, assignments and one-on-one coaching for participants. Actual client stories delivered a realistic perspective ..." *JY, Neurodiversity Consultant*

"Excellent and up-to-date knowledge ... Almost immediately, [it] helped me be more patient and empathetic to the young man I have been coaching." *BS, Executive Director, Counseling Organization*

"I particularly valued the coaching tool kit, resources and the personal coaching sessions. I highly recommend this program to anyone who is seeking more knowledge or plans to work with individuals on the autism spectrum." *KS, Transition Teacher*

"Using case studies was helpful to see how to apply the concepts. The tools you shared were thorough yet easy to use." *LR, Job Developer, Non-Profit*

"I came away with many tools and strategies to help autistic students at my university. Barbara pulled heavily from her expertise in the field and provided real-life examples to bring concepts to life. I recommend this course to anyone wanting to ... better serve neurodiverse clients." *GS, Career Counselor*