



Foundations of Augmentative and Alternative Communication: An Interprofessional Course

Who?

It has been designed for new clinical staff working in Ontario Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) clinics. This includes Speech Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, Communicative Disorder Assistants and Assistive Technology Consultants. Additional team members such as managers, teachers or psychologists can also take the course. It is a requirement of the Assistive Devices Program (ADP) that all new clinicians practicing at an AAC centre in Ontario complete this course within the first 6 months of employment, and must provide ADP with a certificate of completion.

What?

The course consists of introductory content modules in AAC:

- Assistive Devices Program (ADP)
- Centralized Equipment Pool (CEP)
- General Assessment Information
- Face to Face Communication Assessment
- Writing Aids Assessment
- Controls and Access Methods
- Seating
- Mounting
- Speech Recognition
- Disability Modules on Specific Diagnoses

When?

The course runs for 8 weeks, and is offered 3 times a year. The course is primarily on-line with an in-person, hands on day at CEP at the beginning and a consolidation day at the end of the course.

Estimated Time Allotment

Participants should allot time each week for course reading, assignments and discussion forums. It may take up to 35 hours to complete the course requirements (e.g., 3-4 hours per week for 8 weeks).



How to Register?

To register go to the CEP website at www.cepp.org and click on Continuing Education to access the Course Registration link. Payment by credit card ONLY. A receipt will be provided. No refunds for online courses.

Cost

For those working in ADP designated AAC centres in Ontario = \$45
For those outside of the Ontario AAC clinic system = \$250

Detailed Course Information

The course is an on-line learning environment using the courseware program called ATutor. You will be sent a login and password through email on the start date of the course.

Requirements for Course Certificate

1. Complete all content modules (8) and quizzes (70% on each quiz).
2. Complete a group case study assignment by the date assigned. The due date will be posted in the discussion forum.
 - a. Group presentations are oral presentations (20 min presentation, 10 min questions).
 - b. There is a choice of case studies including paediatric and adult to meet various learning needs and areas of interest.
3. Participate in the discussion forum actively – Complete postings weekly in the forums, a minimum of 8 times during the course. Moderate one week of forum topics. We encourage participants to share information and ask questions.
4. Complete the pre and post CEP feedback forms, the links to these are posted on the home page of the course.

Discussion Forum

Check the discussion forum each time when you log into the course. Information related to the course, clinical questions and current topics in AAC will be posted. Participation is necessary for course completion and is a great opportunity to ask questions and share information with course participants. You will also be required to moderate or co-moderate one week of the discussion forum.

Course Facilitators

Clinical Education Coordinators

Anne Marie Renzoni, OT Reg. (Ont.)

amrenzoni@mail.cepp.org

Tracy Shepherd, CCC-SLP, Reg. CASPLO

tshepherd@mail.cepp.org