



**Animal
Behavior
Institute™**

Enriching their lives & ours

Animal Assisted Therapy Certificate Program

Are you a therapist, social worker, educator or health care worker looking for new ways to expand your practice and your professional toolbox? Join the rapidly growing field of Animal Assisted Therapy, Education and Activities. Through our convenient and flexible **online** program we can give you the skills required to establish your own program and start enriching the people and animals in your life.

What is Animal Assisted Therapy?

Research has validated what every pet owner already knows: interacting with animals reduces stress and increases our sense of well being. Anxiety melts away as we stroke our cat or play with a beloved pet. Animals stimulate enormous motivation for people of all ages and are often an integral factor in the success of treatment and educational programs.

When animals are used for therapeutic purposes the activities are known as Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT). When they are incorporated into teaching and learning activities it is known as Animal Assisted Education (AAE). Animal Assisted Activities (AAA), such as visitations with the elderly or shut ins, are designed to improve human physical, social, emotional and cognitive functioning.



Employment & Career Opportunities

Animal assisted therapy, education and activities are now used in a wide variety of careers. AAT/E/A is a tool used by professionals in many fields including:

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| *nurses | *occupational therapists | *psychologists |
| *nurses' aides | *therapy assistants | *teachers |
| *physicians | *therapy aides | *reading specialists |
| *recreational therapists | *counselors | *residential coordinators |
| *physical therapists | *social workers | *program managers |

AAT/E/A is a new field, poised for growth. As the research supporting the value of AAT grows, so does public and institutional support. While specific statistics for AAT are not yet available, the outlook for professionals employing AAT is extremely positive. For example, therapy positions are expected to grow much faster than average for the next decade, by at least 27%! Average salaries in fields such as occupational therapy are about \$55,000 for therapists and \$38,000 for assistants (2004, source: US Department of Labor).

Let's Get Started!

Only five courses are required to complete the program! Class sizes are kept small (max. 8) to ensure quality interaction between students and faculty. Consequently, space is limited and we recommend registering early to avoid being shut out of a course. Detailed information on tuition, financing and course offerings is available online at animaledu.com. You may also contact our AAT Director, Dr. Janis Hammer, at hammerj@animaledu.com or toll free at (866) 755-0448, ext. 3