

IS A CAREER AS AN ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY (AT) SPECIALIST RIGHT FOR YOU?



WHAT IS AN AT SPECIALIST?

An Assistive Technology Specialist is a professional who helps students with disabilities select and use **assistive technology** (see below). The goal for using these technologies is to help students maintain or improve their independence and interactions with others.

There is a wide range of devices, software, apps, and strategies that can be used as assistive technology, depending on the need. Through the use of assistive technology, those with disabilities can optimize their ability to see, hear, read, write, organize, communicate, and walk.

IF YOU HAD A CAREER AS AN AT SPECIALIST, YOU MIGHT WORK IN A SCHOOL, A HOME, OR IN THE COMMUNITY.

The roles and responsibilities of an AT specialist vary from day to day and may include working with others to:



Determine a student's AT needs and find technology options for the student



Work with students on using appropriate technology for reading, writing, math, communication skills, and/or activities of daily living



Develop plans for students' independence and success by integrating technology into their activities and routines

YOU MIGHT ENJOY THIS WORK IF YOU LIKE TO:

- Work with individuals of varying abilities and ages
- Explore and learn the latest technologies
- Identify potential barriers and solutions
- Teach students and adults how to use technologies
- Think out of the box

VOICES FROM THE FIELD: MEET AN AT SPECIALIST

“ I had a student who was diagnosed [with a visual disability] in kindergarten and we put an iPad in his hands...and it just changed his life.”

Amanda Whelan, AT Specialist
Bucks County IU 22

Scan the QR code to
watch the interview.



HOW TO BECOME AN AT SPECIALIST IN PENNSYLVANIA:

The qualifications needed to become an AT specialist often include professional certification and a bachelor's degree. Opportunities exist to earn certification with the right experience and educational background.

AT SPECIALIST CERTIFICATION PROGRAM IN PENNSYLVANIA:

- **Certificate in Universal Design for Learning and Assistive Technology**
West Chester University, West Chester, Pennsylvania
<https://tinyurl.com/4abxxk3d>



OUT-OF-STATE PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

- **Assistive Technology Certificate**
Bowling Green University, Bowling Green, Ohio
<https://www.bgsu.edu/ecampus/certificates-and-endorsements/assistive-tech-certificate.html>
- **Assistive Technology Professional (ATP) Certification**
California State University Northridge, Northridge, California
<https://www.resna.org/Certification/Assistive-Technology-Professional-ATP>
- **Assistive Technology Graduate Certificate and Master's Program**
George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia
<https://education.gmu.edu/assistive-technology/>

