



DYSLEXIA ADVOCATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

PROGRAM GUIDE

Fall 2026

October 12 - December 18, 2026

**PRESENTED BY
DYSLEXIA TRAINING
INSTITUTE**

Welcome!

Table of Contents

- Page 3 - Background and Philosophy
- Page 4 - Benefits, Results & Goals
- Page 5 - Who Would Benefit from the Dyslexia Certificate Program?
- Page 5 - Optional Textbooks
- Page 6 - Program Requirements & Course Schedule
- Page 7 - Course Schedule (cont.)
- Page 8 - Additional Program Information
- Page 9 - Enrollment
- Page 10 - Refund Policy & Graduate Level Extension Credits
- Page 11 - Instructor
- Page 12 - Contact Us

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 Program

- Participants have 24/7 access to all course content for the full duration of the program, allowing them to complete coursework on a schedule that fits their needs. The course is instructor-led, ensuring that questions are answered promptly and feedback is provided in a timely manner.
 - Course materials, including archived PowerPoint presentations, videos, and additional resources, can be reviewed as often as desired. This gives participants the opportunity to reflect on what they are learning before posting questions or insights on the discussion boards.
 - Learning and interaction are not limited to in-class time; participants can engage with instructors and fellow learners at any point during the course.
-

What to Expect

- You'll have 24/7 access to all course content, so you can fit the work into your schedule.
 - The course is instructor-led, which means you'll always get timely answers to your questions and helpful feedback.
 - You can revisit presentations, videos, and other resources anytime you'd like, they're available throughout the course.
 - There are opportunities to pause, reflect, and share your thoughts on the discussion boards when you're ready.
-

Goals of the Program

- This course will guide participants through the legal rights and processes that protect students with dyslexia. Topics include the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE), Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), Section 504 plans, appropriate accommodations, effective letter-writing, and how to request and secure needed services and interventions. Participants will also learn about dispute resolution options and advocacy strategies.
- By the end of the course, participants will have the knowledge and practical tools to work effectively with families and school districts, ensuring that legal protections are upheld and that students with dyslexia receive the services and support they need to succeed.

Who Would Benefit from the Dyslexia Advocate Certificate Program?

Our Target Audience

A variety of individuals can benefit from this certification program. Whether you are a parent, an advocate, an education professional, or simply someone committed to helping families impacted by dyslexia, the curriculum is built to meet your needs.

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 12, 2026

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

Week 2: October 19, 2026

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

Week 3: October 26, 2026

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

Week 4: November 2, 2026

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

Program Schedule (cont.)

Required Online Classes (cont.)

Week 5: November 9, 2026

Midterm, Goals and Services

Week 6: November 16, 2026

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

Break: November 23-27, 2026**Week 7: November 30, 2026**

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)

Week 8: December 7, 2026

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

Week 9: December 14, 2026

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
-

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, videos, 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 12, 2026.

Certification Program Fee - \$950.00 (\$100 registration fee + \$850 program fee) –All fees must be paid in full on or before October 9, 2026 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 12, 2026 - \$950

prior to October 30, 2026 - \$450

On or After October 30, 2026 - 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., C-SLDI

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

Email	DyslexiaSpec@gmail.com
Phone	619-517-0683
Fax	619-342-2643
Address	7424 Jackson Drive, Suite 1B San Diego, CA 92119
Website	DyslexiaTrainingInstitute.org
