



Advanced certification courses for health care professionals (ALS), Multiple sclerosis [MS], and Guillain-Barre syndrome [GBS]) for The Neuro Specialist Institute, their Doctoral Capstone Experience (DCE) site.

Purpose: To provide the global community of rehabilitation and health care specialists advanced certification to positively impact patient care and outcomes.

A neurodegenerative condition tends to be chronic, progressive, generally incurable, and sometimes fatal (Preissner, 2014). People with a neurodegenerative condition face long-term changing levels of disability and thus must learn how to cope with and manage disability over time (Preissner, 2014). There are multiple rehabilitative protocols, techniques, and strategies that one can use to address a neurodegenerative condition with the goal of maintaining their safety and independence. There continues to be a gap in the literature related to occupational outcomes for people with neurodegenerative conditions (Foster, 2014). Certification is one major way to ensure increased competency. Other values of certification include perceived increased empowerment, personal value, professional development, and increased competency and skills, and recognition by others (Mauk, 2013).

Rehabilitative
Impairments unable to be remediated
Focus on remaining abilities

The Neuro Specialist Institute is a continuing education and certification program provider. Three major areas of need at the DCE site were:

- 1) Current, evidenced-based practices
- 2) Ample time for hands-on participation/practice
- 3) Experts in the field to teach or guest lecture course

Taking into consideration the results of the literature review, there was a need to develop an advanced certification course on neurodegenerative conditions to address the following problem:

- 1) Obtain academic skills in the teaching-learning process and learn how to develop curriculum for advanced certification courses for health care students and practitioners.
- 2) Obtain skills in creating educational materials for healthcare practitioners to support their learning.
- 3) Obtain the skills needed to develop a comprehensive evaluation that effectively assesses