

ADOS-2 training workshop FAQs



Who can use and administer the ADOS-2?

Anyone with a master's degree in psychology, school counseling, occupational therapy, speech-language therapy, social work, education, special education, or related field.

Who can purchase the ADOS-2?

Anyone qualified to administer the ADOS-2 or representing a group that is qualified, such as a purchaser for an organisation or a local education authority.

Required Materials

Participants are encouraged to purchase and read the ADOS-2 Manual prior to the course start date. Participants should bring their ADOS-2 Manual to the workshop. The ADOS-2 Manual must be purchased separately; it is not included as part of the workshop fee.

All other materials are included as part of the workshop registration and will be provided prior to or at the workshop, this include a pre-course pack and post-course downloadable materials that you are encouraged to familiarise yourself with before and after the course. Please contact us if you do not receive these.

Please note - If you book late on to the course you are unlikely to receive these materials in advance of the course. This doesn't prevent you attending.

Who may attend an ADOS-2 clinical training workshop?

Workshop attendees are typically professionals who will be qualified to use the ADOS-2 in practice – that is, professionals who, prior to the workshop, have education, training and experience in using individually administered test batteries and who have a background and experience in the treatment of autism spectrum disorders. Some examples of clinicians who have a professional mandate to treat autism spectrum disorders and who make use of the ADOS-2 in their daily work are clinical and educational psychologists, psychiatrists, occupational therapists, and speech and hearing professionals. In some cases, schools and clinics will send additional staff to a workshop with a view that a better understanding of the instrument will help their teachers, counselors, special educators, or other program staff make better use of reports based on ADOS-2 results. Note that in all cases, however, simple attendance at the workshop is not sufficient to ensure competent use of the ADOS-2.

After I take the ADOS-2 training, can I diagnose autism spectrum disorders?

Learning to use the ADOS-2 and diagnosing autism spectrum disorders are two different professional activities. The ADOS-2 training is designed to help professionals learn to competently administer and score the ADOS-2. It is the first step toward that end—becoming fully competent on the ADOS-2 itself requires additional practice beyond the initial training. The ADOS-2 training is not a comprehensive curriculum in autism spectrum diagnosis. Autism spectrum diagnosis involves much more than administration of the ADOS-2; it typically involves a multidisciplinary evaluation of multiple areas of a child's functioning, of which the ADOS-2 is just one piece.

The ADOS-2 is used in several kinds of practice. In each one, the test user's credentials must match the purpose of the use. For example, a medical diagnosis requires a licence, such as that of a medical doctor or clinical psychologist; a special education qualification requires a locally recognised credential, such as that of an educational psychologist; and so on. The ADOS-2 can also be used for purposes other than making a diagnosis. For example, occupational therapists and speech and hearing professionals often use the ADOS-2 for treatment planning and program evaluation. It may be helpful to check with your local regulations, and with colleagues who diagnose autism in your area of practice, with additional questions along these lines.

Once I have completed ADOS-2 clinical training, can I train someone else?

No. The Pearson materials are designed to provide training to individual users only. Completion does not provide the additional materials and experiences required for the skills needed to train others.

What is required for someone to become competent in using the ADOS-2?

If you are an ADOS-2 user who has not previously been trained in the ADOS, you should do the following to obtain essential competence in the ADOS-2:

1. Make sure you have prior education, training, and experience that includes extensive exposure to autism spectrum disorders.
2. Study the ADOS-2 Manual.
3. Attend a Pearson ADOS-2 Clinical Workshop (live in-person or live webinar).
4. Upon completion of the ADOS-2 Clinical Workshop (live in-person or live webinar), you will receive a certificate of completion.
5. Practice using the ADOS-2 on cases that are not part of formal evaluations and become completely confident that you are familiar with the assessment activities and can apply the coding categories accurately. If you have considerable experience in formal behavioural observation and individual test administration, you may reach this level in as few as 10 practice sessions (2 per module). Otherwise, you may need considerably more practice to obtain competence in administering and coding the ADOS-2.
6. If you are involved in formal research that may be published in peer-reviewed journals, you must also take a research training workshop, which is followed by exercises to establish item coding accuracy to a specific criterion. Pearson is not involved in the research training workshops.