

Higher Educational Options for Students with Autism

Today there are more options for high-functioning students with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) to gain access to higher education than ever before. Students with ASD, are often academically gifted. Numerous colleges and universities now offer academic classes, programs, scholarships and support services geared to the successful transition of neurodiverse students into academia. Many autistic students require very little customized support as they move to this next phase of adulthood with some thriving in higher education. Often their innate skills set them up for success in highly systematic professions such as engineering, computer programming and mathematics.


On campus programs vary with some schools offering de-centralized counseling and academic support through disability services offices. Others are specifically designed for autistic students and include everything from social transitioning to academic counseling through a staff of dedicated counselors. Peer mentoring is often a fixture in the stronger programs.

Some colleges cater specifically to physically disabled students with housing accommodations and on-campus programs with dormitories and commuter services although program enrollment capacity is often limited.

Parental communication will vary from program to program. Application procedures, fees and financial aid will also vary between institutions, but most

require prospective students to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student aid (FAFSA) and their education.

Neurodiverse students and their parents begin their search and application process early and include on-site visits and

communication with each school's support services as offerings at each school can vary widely. 

SCHOOL	PROGRAM	LOCATION	WEBSITE
Adelphi University	Bridges to Adelphi	Garden City, NY	www.adelphi.edu/bridges
American University	Learning Service	Washington, D.C.	www.american.edu
Appalachian State University	Scholars Diverse	Ablty.Boone, NC	www.appstate.edu
Beacon College	College Program	Lessburg, FL	www.beaconcollege.edu
Bellevue College	Navigators	Bellevue, WA	www.bellevuecollege.edu
Daemen University	CATS	Amherst, NY	www.daemen.edu
Dakota State University	STRONG	Madison, SD	www.dsu.edu
Drexel University	DASP	Philadelphia, PA	www.drexel.edu
Eastern Illinois University	STEP	Charleston, ILdrop	www.eiu.edu/step
Eastern University	CSP	St. Davids, PA	www.eastern.edu
Fairleigh Dickinson University	COMPASS	Madison, NJ	www.fdu.edu/compass
George Mason University	MASI	Fairfax, VA	www.gmu.edu
Grand Valley State University	Links	Allendale, MI	www.gvsu.edu
Hofstra University	PALS	Hempstead, NY	www.hofstra.edu/pals
Kent State University	AIREO	Kent, OH	www.kent.edu
Landmark College		Putney, VT	www.landmark.edu
Marist College	Learning Supp. Prgm.	Poughkeepie, NY	www.marist.edu
Marshall University	College Program	Huntington, VA	www.marshall.edu/collegeprogram
Mercyhurst University	AIM	Erie, PA	www.merchurst.edu/aim
Michigan Car. & Tech. Ins.	Career Readiness	Plainwell, MI	www.michigan.gov/leo/bureasagencies/mcti
Misericordia University	ALL	Dallas, PA	www.misericordia.edu
Nova Southeastern University	Access Plus Program	Davie, FL	www.nova.edu
Rochester Institute of Tech.	Spectrum Sup. Prgm.	Rochester, NY	www.rit.edu
Rutgers University	CSP	New Brunswick, NJ	www.newbrunswick.rutgers.edu
Southern Illinois University	Achieve Program	Carbondale, IL	www.siu.edu
St. Joseph's University	ASPIRE	Philadelphia, PA	www.sju.edu
Syracuse University	Inclusive Program	Syracuse, NY	www.syracuse.edu
Texas Tech University	CASE	Lubbock, TX	www.ttu.edu
Trinity International University	ACCESS	Deerfield, IL	www.tiu.edu
University of Alabama	UA-ACTS	Tuscaloosa, AL	www.ua.edu
University of Arizona	SALT	Tucson, AZ	www.arizona.edu
University of Connecticut	Beyond Access Prgm.	Storrs, CN	www.uconn.edu
University of Denver	LEP	Denver, CO	www.du.edu/lep
University of Idaho	Raven Scholars Prgm.	Moscow, ID	www.uidaho.edu
University of Iowa	REACH	Iowa City, IA	www.uiowa.edu
University of Michigan	Serv, for Stud. w/ Disb.	Ann Arbor, MI	www.umich.edu
University of Missouri	STRIVE	Columbia, MO	www.missouri.edu
University of Tennessee	Mosaic Prgm.	Chattanooga, TN	www.utk.edu
University of Texas at Dallas	Y.A.S.C.G	Dallas, TX	www.utdallas.edu
University of West Florida	Argos Program	Pensacola, FL	www.uwf.edu
Utah State University	Accessibility Prgm.	Logan, UT	www.usu.edu
Vanderbilt University	Best Step Program	Nashville, TN	www.vanderbilt.edu
West Virginia Wesleyan	Learning	Buckhannon, WVA	www.wvwc.edu
Western Kentucky	Circle of Support	Bowling Green, KY	www.wku.edu

For FREE information on over 230 post-secondary programs offered at schools throughout the country visit www.TopCollegeConsultants.com.

Other national resources for students with disabilities: (1) NCCSD - National Center for College Students with Disabilities, www.nccsd.ici.umn.edu; (2) AHEAD - Association in Higher Education and Disabilities, www.ahead.org; (3) NCITSPSD - National Center for Instruction and Technical Support for Post-Secondary Students with Disabilities, www.ed.gov.