

Colleges with Specific Programming for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder:

Resources: <https://collegeautismspectrum.com/collegeprograms/> & college websites

- 1. University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL** offers the ASD College Transition and Support Program for students entering college who are on the spectrum. Services provided include meetings three times a week to assist with development of these skills, a required weekly four hours of study in the program's building, group meetings every other week, one-on-one discussions with a mentor to help the student adjust to college, and help with seeking employment following graduation. Two days prior to the start of classes, UA-ACTS offers an orientation for incoming students and their parents, where they are introduced to their mentor, can prepare for class, and will also receive information about UA and the ACTS.
- 2. University of West Florida, Pensacola, FL** can benefit students with one-on-one assistance. Through "Argos for Autism," this top college for autistic students provides individualized academic, social, and career support. Professional coaches not only help with academic planning and study skills, but they also work to smooth the transition to college and provide guidance on day-to-day issues. ASD students who are nervous about move-in can also take advantage of a relatively inexpensive (just \$100) early move-in program. This option includes two days of activities specifically designed for undergrads who are new to dorm housing and independent living.
- 3. Aurora University, Aurora, IL** has the Pathways program, which is a multifaceted program designed to help students with autism reach their potential in their studies and in their careers. Students can participate in as many or as few of the components of the program that fit individual needs and start the program at any point: Summer Camps, College Connections, College Program and Early Career. One of the key components of the Pathways program is getting students familiar with new environments and experiences gradually over time.
- 4. Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL** offers the Students with Autism Transitional Education Program (STEP), designed to give students with ASD support in acclimating to college life. Enrollment is limited to fifteen students per academic year. Program components include one-on-one peer mentors, tours of the campus prior to the start of each semester based off the individual's class schedule, social skills groups, group social events, and residential support among others. The program can arrange for single rooms in university housing. There is a fee in addition to tuition per semester. The program is open to all students regardless of class standing and transfer students.
- 5. Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL** has the Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders (CASD), which is a multidisciplinary research and training center that provides high quality leadership in the study of autism spectrum disorders. CASD is funded through The Autism Program of Illinois (TAP) which assists in working in the following areas: Research, Student Training, and Community Service.
- 6. Loras College, Dubuque, IA** has a program for students on the autistic spectrum called Connections. Through their comprehensive four-year support, Loras College provides study sessions and mentoring, among other services. Freshmen have access to a five-day summer transition period and seniors can participate in targeted career prep assistance. Loras College has one of the best autism programs due to their all-encompassing approach.
- 7. Ancilla College, Donaldson, IN** offers APAC (the Autism Program at Ancilla College) It is a college-level program to help students with Autism Spectrum Disorder to build social, workplace, and academic skills and knowledge. APAC is designed for students who, while exhibiting superior intellectual ability, face serious challenges with communication, social interactions and group educational settings.

8. **Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY** offers academic, social and personal assistance to students on the spectrum. The affordable Asperger's college support program is called the Kelly Autism Program. Undergrads benefit academically by attending required group "study tables" four times each week. At each session, trained tutors provide help with coursework as well as executive functioning skills. To develop social competence, KAP members attend monthly "socials" and participate in regular activities with their mentors. For personal growth, KAP provides access to counseling (either individually or in a group), while students who need a little extra space can opt for a private dorm room.
9. **Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI** offers the Autism Collaborative Center (ACC), which is one of the most comprehensive, but also one of the most expensive costing up to \$8,500 per semester. Yet it provides support in every aspect of college life and will help students steadily improve both academically and socially throughout their time in school. Help from the ACC ranges from nutrition therapy to academic support, and students will not only interact with staff, but also a large number of autistic students from the college and the surrounding community.
10. **Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI** offers the Campus Links program, which matches ASD students with a peer mentor, usually an upperclassman, who will assist them in surviving the transition to college. The program is designed to offer students on the spectrum support in the classroom, in social interactions, and academics. The program has two tiers, Red and Blue. Students in the Red Tier are part of a residential program where mentors and mentees live in the same dorms on-campus, allowing mentors to provide support to students in their housing. The Blue Tier is non-residential, but still offers the same services Red Tier students receive outside of the dorm. Grand Valley also offers a student organization outside of the program geared toward individuals with ASD, STAAR- Students Toward Autism Advocacy and Respect.
11. **Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI** has the BOND (Building Opportunities for Networking and Discovery) offering structured opportunities for social, academic, and independent living skills development. Within this program, students connect with others facing similar challenges, grow capacity, and contribute awareness and ability to the broader MSU and autism community. Participants are empowered as learners and leaders while they shape the development of this dynamic program.
12. **Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI** has an affordable autism college support program beginning the summer after high school. Incoming freshmen arrive on campus nearly eight weeks early, giving plenty of time to acclimate to the dorms. During this extended orientation, they'll complete a part-time work-study job and enroll in their first college course. Once the school year begins, ASD students can benefit from a ton of additional services, including a peer mentoring "Best Buddies" program and organized social events. WMU's Autism Services Center also offers informational workshops that run the gamut from "Dating 101" to "Test Taking Skills." Seniors can take advantage of the Workforce Recruitment Program, which connects them with federal and private-sector employers.
13. **University of Montana, Missoula, MT** has a program called MOSAICC (Mentoring, Organization and Social Support for Autism Inclusion on Campus). The program supports students anywhere on the autism spectrum, but those who need speech or language help will particularly appreciate the school's program. That's because this affordable college for autistic students includes direct speech language therapy as one of its five core tenets. Other areas of focus include academic and social support, where both trained professionals and classmates help program members develop their skills. The program directors use evidence-based practices (such as scripting, modeling, and social narratives) to ensure that their interventions will truly help the students who need them.

14. **Fairleigh Dickinson University, Teaneck, NJ** has the Metropolitan Campus COMPASS Program, which is an individually tailored, comprehensive, academic and social support program for up to six college students with high functioning Autism Spectrum Disorder or Asperger's Syndrome in each incoming class.
15. **Manhattanville College, Harrison, NY** offers the *Pathways And Connections (PAC) Program* as a comprehensive program for students with Autism Spectrum and related disorders. The PAC Program is a fee-based program that will include features such as career development, individual counseling, peer-mentoring and a partnership with Purchase College's Autism Spectrum Disorders Program for social events.
16. **Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY** has the Spectrum Support Program providing innovative supports that positively impact the college experience for RIT students, particularly those with autism spectrum disorders. They are committed to helping students build the connections to RIT that will assist them in achieving academic, social and career success. The program seeks to create a campus culture of acceptance and support through collaboration, consultation, and training. The SSP looks to support students and foster growth and independence in wellness and self-care, self-determination and self-advocacy, social connection, academic planning, executive functioning and career preparation.
17. **Defiance College, Defiance, OH** has a top Asperger's college support program (ASD Affinity Program) that breaks services into three categories: academic success, social/personal growth, and residential support. But the ASD Affinity Program will also tailor its services to each participant's individual needs. To support this approach, the program conducts personal evaluations each spring. During evaluations, undergrads meet with staff to discuss their progress and develop a new plan for the upcoming year. Note that Defiance offers one of the most robust residential programs on this list: Dedicated apartment-style housing is available to students on the autism spectrum, and all RAs have received special training so that they can offer support, behavior modeling, and interventions as necessary.
18. **Kent State University, Kent, OH** has varied services for autistic students. The most comprehensive services is College Success for Students with Asperger's or Autism, a program that offers everything from self-advocacy training to individualized academic support and job assistance. Another option is Partnering for Achievement and Learning Success (PALS), a mentoring initiative that pairs ASD individuals with neurotypical students to help develop social skills. The Autism Advocates Program matches undergrads with a faculty member who will meet with them several times a year to develop strategies for academic and personal success.
19. **Ohio University, Athens, OH** developed a coaching support program called '*ASPeCT: Autism Spectrum PEer Coaching Team*' to address the increasing need to support students on the autism spectrum. The program is designed to provide an additional layer of individualized support for students throughout their transition to college.
20. **Xavier University, Cincinnati, OH** has the [X-Path Program](#), which is a program providing individualized support for students on the autism spectrum or related disorders. Support and coaching is tailored to the needs of each student to promote the development of academic competence, social integration, and self-advocacy. The mission of the X-Path Program is to increase opportunities for success for students who have autism and related disorders. Each student will work directly with the Accommodation and Support Coordinator and will be assigned to a Peer Coach.
21. **Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA** has DASP (the Drexel Autism Support Program), which is a student-centered program for current Drexel students with the goal of promoting academic and social competency, self-advocacy, interpersonal skills, independent living, and social integration. Their goal is to ensure that DASP participants take

advantage of University life, develop the academic and social skills needed to pursue career opportunities, and lead a full and enriched life. DASP values neurodiversity and all the benefits that diversity contributes to the greater societal good. We value the individual along with individual differences and support personal growth through understanding their strengths and how those strengths can build and support areas of need and personal development.

22. **Edinboro University, Edinboro, PA:** The BASIS (Boro Autism Support Initiative for Success) Program assists students with an autism spectrum disorder through individualized transition support. Academics, social competence, daily living skills, communication, and employment are the focus of BASIS. A wide range of staff, peer advisors, and campus resources collaborate to provide students with ASD a positive successful experience.
23. **Mercyhurst University, Erie, PA** has the Autism Initiative at Mercyhurst (AIM) to facilitate and support the successful adjustment and progression of college students on the autism spectrum in all domains of college life, thereby broadening their vocational opportunities, and enhancing social and community engagement. The AIM program strives to accentuate each student's abilities within the academic, social, emotional, and independent living domains, while building new skills within the domains where the student may be deficient. Mercyhurst has become a leader and a resource for many other institutions across the country. Very few colleges and universities across the United States offer a program of collegiate support like AIM for this cohort of students.
24. **St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia, PA:** has the Kinney Center ASPIRE Program providing Saint Joseph's University students who are diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) assistance in their transition to college. This program is intended for individuals who have the intellectual, academic and organizational capabilities to succeed as a full-time matriculated student, but require the additional social support necessary to be fully successful. The ASPIRE program includes crisis intervention and prevention, time management strategies, independent living and social skills training and a supported work environment. The Kinney Center acts an intermediary with faculty and residence life, provides academic support and facilitates student mentoring.
25. **Clemson University, Clemson, SC:** The Spectrum Program provides individualized services beyond standard accommodations for students diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The Spectrum Program is committed to helping students build connections through their college experience that will assist them in achieving academic, social, and career and professional development success. The first year will primarily focus on the transition from high school to college. The Spectrum Program will also provide a scaffolded-approach for professional development skills including: volunteer work, internships, on-campus employment, co-ops, off-campus employment, and/or other opportunities preparing students for ease of transition into careers after college.
26. **University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, TN:** Mosaic is a multifaceted and comprehensive program developed to support the holistic needs of degree-seeking UTC students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). This program has been in existence since 2008 and the drive to meet the unique needs of students with Autism has made Mosaic one of the most comprehensive programs in the country. Students on the autism spectrum that enroll in the school's Mosaic program can develop the social and organizational skills required for college life. There are four year-long courses with a focus on each year: Year 1: Independence, Social & Study Strategies, Year 2: Developing Identity, Strengths & Self-Perceptions, Year 3: Turning Skills & Strengths into Careers and Year 4: Developing Workplace Skills. Students meet twice each week with a Life Coach to work out any issues that may have come up during the week, and also meet with student peer mentors. The program offers a unique monthly activity to apply what they've learned - for example, students may go to a restaurant to practice communication or visit local companies to learn about job placement.

27. **Landmark College, Putney, VT:** Landmark College serves students who learn differently. Students at Landmark present with a variety of learning differences and diagnoses, including dyslexia, ADHD, and autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Their integrated services model provides a structured living and learning environment that combines a renowned pedagogical approach with tailored social and other programmatic supports. Landmark College recognizes the need to provide additional programming to assist students with ASD to meet their college goals. At the same time, the College requires that the student applicant with ASD be deemed “college-ready” by our enrollment management department, ensuring that the student has the potential to be successful in our program and is adequately prepared for the challenges of college life. Landmark College, however, does not simply admit learners with ASD; they have set, as a strategic priority, development and refinement of ASD services that are integrated, progressive, and student-centered.

28. **Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI:** *On Your Marq* is a college success program designed to assist students on the autism spectrum in navigating the college landscape at Marquette University. Utilizing an interdisciplinary approach, formal and informal supports include weekly seminars, one-on-one coaching, and peer mentors to aid students in developing academic, social, and independent living skills. The first two years of the program focus on the student’s transition to the rigors of academia. In the second two years of the program, *On Your Marq* works with students to identify strengths and skills to transfer to their career and life after college.

Colleges Who are More Supportive in Nature and/or have Some Programming for Students on the Spectrum:

1. **Coe College, Cedar Rapids, IA** has a special orientation session for students on the spectrum and small group support focusing social skills.

2. **Cornell College, Mount Vernon, IA** has a special orientation before school for students on the autistic spectrum. It is a small school where they will have lots of attention and there are strong special educational supports in place. The one course at a time might be a plus for some students as well.

3. **University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, IL** has the [TAP program](#) which sounds like a resource room for students on the autistic spectrum.

4. **Muskingum College, OH** has the PLUS Program, an Embedded Learning Strategy model blended with a Learning Conversation approach designed to empower rather than rescue students. Student self-direction and control of their learning process are crucial components of the experience leading to success. The PLUS Program Learning Consultants and Learning Associates will challenge and support students in developing skills, both academic and social, leading to self-direction, confidence and independence.

5. **University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, WI** has Project Success, a remedial program for students with dyslexia and other language-based disabilities attending the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. The program is one of the few university programs in the country that specializes in the use of phonics-based multisensory methodology to improve reading, spelling and writing skills. The program also provides remedial mathematics instruction and support for university math classes.

6. **University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, WI** has Project Assist, a supplementary, fee-based program providing comprehensive and individualized support services to students. The program is intended to empower students with

tools they need to be successful at UW-Whitewater and in the community. While the primary focus of Project ASSIST is academic support, the program also strengthens the student's time management, organization and problem solving skills. Eligible students may participate in this program each semester.

The College Finder List

Colleges for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder: The Very Friendly Ones

Adelphi U(NY): Bridges to Adelphi

Alabama: Autism Spectrum Disorders College Transition and Support Program (UA-ACTS)

Arkansas: Autism Support Program

Austin Peay State U (TN): Full Spectrum Learning

Bellevue C (WA): Autism Spectrum Navigators Program

Castleton U (VT): College Steps Program

Connecticut: Strategic Education for Students with ASD (SEAD Program)

Defiance C (OH): ASD Affinity Program

Drexel U (PA): Autism Support Program

Eastern U (PA): The College Success Program for Students Living with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Eastern Illinois U: Students with Autism Transitional Education Program (STEP)

Marshall U (WV): College Program for Students with ASD

Mercyhurst U(PA): AIM Program

Minnesota - Morris: LINK program

Nova Southeastern U (FL): Access Plus Program

Rochester Institute of Technology: (NY): Spectrum Support Program

Rutgers U (NJ): College Support Program for Students on the Autism Spectrum (CSP)

Southern Vermont C: College Steps Program

St. Joseph's U (PA): Kinney Center for Autism ASPIRE Program

Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State U: Stepped Transition for Students with ASD (STEPS Program)

West Florida: Autism Inclusion Program

Western Kentucky: Kelly Autism Program

Wright State U (OH): Raiders on the Autism Spectrum Excelling (RASE Program)