

Postsecondary Programs for Young Adults with Autism in the Tri-State Area

Participation in support programs at postsecondary institutions is one way to maximize the experience of a student with autism after leaving high school. Support programs offer support in social, academic, personal, and professional domains. The amount of support a program offers differs largely by program, as do the requirements for entering a program. The way that support is offered also differs between programs, and can include peer mentorship, one-on-one counseling with a professional, or group help with peers or facilitators. Many of the programs require admission to the institution before admission to the program can be sought. Below are the institutions in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, and Delaware that offer some type of autism support program.



Pennsylvania

Eastern University:
The College Success
Program (CSP) for
Students Living with
Autism Spectrum
Disorder.

Autism
specific
program

This program provides targeted support, practical knowledge, and cultural awareness to students living with Autism and to the community of Eastern University. The goal is equal access to an undergraduate education, successful participation academic, residential, and social realms of the University, and fulfillment of the greater mission of the university. Deadline for application is February 1st.
--Application to Eastern University required before application to the CSP program.
--\$6500 per semester after University tuition

St. Davis, PA

<http://www.eastern.edu/student-life/academic-support-counseling-and-disability-services/college-success-program>

Mercyhurst College:
Autism/Asperger
Initiative at
Mercyhurst (AIM)

Autism
specific
program

The program targets students with superior intellectual ability who face challenges in executive functioning and social interactions. The program offers academic supports, including individualized course planning and testing accommodations; social supports, including meal gatherings, support groups meetings, and peer mentoring; and counseling supports, including social skills groups.
--Application to Mercyhurst University is required before application to the AIM Program.
--\$4500 per year after University tuition

Erie, PA

<https://www.mercyhurst.edu/academics/autism-asperger-initiative-mercyhurst>

Mercyhurst
University: OASIS
Program

Opportunities and Advancement for Students with Intellectual Disabilities for Self-Determination (OASIS) is a one year program that is geared towards young adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. The program is not credit-granting, but teaches the students culinary skills and connection with peers. The program is at the Mercyhurst North East campus. The program includes a program facilitator, who is with the student in class, and a peer mentor. A 60 hour culinary mentorship is completed by each student after classroom instruction is finished.

--Application not required to Mercyhurst for application to the program
--\$1850 per year

Erie, PA

<http://northeast.mercyhurst.edu/academics/support-and-resources/oasis-program>

St. Joseph's
University: Kinney
Center ASPIRE
Program

Autism
specific
program

The program is available for students in their transition to college. It included crisis intervention and prevention, time management strategies, independent living and social skills training, and a supported work environment. The Kinney Center work with students to talk to faculty and residential life, provides academic support, and facilitates student mentoring. Applications are rolling and on a first come, first serve basis.

--Application to St. Joseph's University is required before application to the ASPIRE program.
--\$6000 per year after University tuition

Philadelphia, PA

<http://kinneyautism.sju.edu/s/1378/kinney/interior-hybrid.aspx?sid=1378&gid=56&pgid=2669>

Drexel University:
Drexel Autism
Support Program
(DASP)

Autism
specific
program

DASP is a peer mentoring program that provides applicants with mentors that are current Drexel students. Mentorship focuses on skills building in personal, social, academic, and professional domains. Support is on-on-one and typically provided 1-4 hours per week. The program also provides workshops to develop skills in learning strategies, self-advocacy, networking, leadership development, and transition to life after Drexel. The DASP program also hosts events including game nights, movie nights, and study jams.

--Application to Drexel University is required before application to the DASP program.
--No fee for participation

Philadelphia, PA

dasp@drexel.edu

<http://drexel.edu/provost/aard/resources-programs/autism-support/>

Arcadia University:
REAL Certificate

Raising Expectations for Academic Learning (REAL) Certificate is a two year program that allows the students with developmental disabilities to audit undergraduate university classes, and complete vocational and other real-world experiences. An individualized plan is developed for each student. The top priorities of the certificate program are employment, college course access, and social skills development.

--Application to Arcadia University is not required for application to the program
--\$12,000 per year

Glenside, PA

<http://www.arcadia.edu/continuing-studies/real-certificate/>

Temple University:
AAL

The Academy for Adult Learning (AAL) is a two year certificate program providing individuals with intellectual disabilities an authentic college experience while developing vocational skills and career aspirations. Each student is required to complete a semester long internship on Temple's main campus. Peer mentorship, weekly seminars, social activities, an internship, and academic courses are all part of the AAL program. The application deadline is in mid-April.
--Application to Temple University is not required for application to the program
--\$11,616 per year

Philadelphia, PA

<http://www.temple.edu/instituteondisabilities/programs/inclusive/aal.shtml>

Duquesne
University: St.
Anthony's Post-
Secondary Program

St. Anthony's Post-Secondary Program is based at Duquesne University and is an advanced vocational program within a university environment which gains the important opportunity to interact with university students. All learning is based in vocational training; the students do not participate in university classes. Vocational training includes housekeeping, maintenance, foodservice, childcare, mailing skills, and office work. Work study opportunities are also part of the program. Priority is given to students of St. Anthony School Programs, but additional slots are available.

Pittsburgh, PA

<http://stanthonyschoolprograms.com/postsecondary.php>



New Jersey

Fairleigh Dickinson
University:
COMPASS

Autism
specific
program

College-based Support for Students with Asperger's (COMPASS) is a program for student with Asperger's during the first two years of college. COMPASS provides individual supports in academic and social areas. The program is catered towards students with the ability to live in a semi-independent setting and with the intellectual, academic, and organizational capabilities to succeed at a college as a full time student. Each student receives two hours of individualized support, one hour of individual counseling, and one group therapy session per week. Application deadline is February 1.

--Application to Fairleigh Dickinson University is required before application to the COMPASS program

--\$6376 per year after University tuition

Hackensack, NJ

<http://view.fdu.edu/default.aspx?id=5051>

Rutgers University:
CSP



The College Support Program (CSP) offers individualized support to students on the autism spectrum. CSP offers a coordinator who meets with the student once a week; assistance with the identification of academic, social, organization, and life skills goals; trained peer mentors; social events; parent workshops; referrals to academic support services; and referrals for counseling.

--Application to Rutgers University is required before application to CSP.

--Fee per semester

New Brunswick, NJ

<http://rhscaps.rutgers.edu/services/autism-spectrum-college-support-program>

Georgian Court
University: TRIO-
SSS

The TRIO-Student Support Services (SSS) is a federally funded program that provides services in basic skills instruction, tutoring, academic counseling, financial literacy, study skills, writing lab, computer lab, advocacy, mentoring, motivation, and support. This program is available to students with disabilities. Students must first be enrolled in the University for application to the TRIO program.

--Application to Georgian Course University is required

--No fee for service this academic year

Lakewood, NJ

http://www.georgian.edu/student_support/index.htm

Camden County
Community College:
GSP Program

The Garden State Pathways Program (GSP) is designed for students with intellectual disabilities who are interested in learning a work-related skill and enhancing their independence with life skills. Students take classes in socialization, numeracy, literacy, and computers; and spend time developing work related skills to increase marketability for a career. Students receive a certificate of Post-Secondary Studies from Camden County College upon completion of the two year program. Students must have been eligible for IDEA funding in secondary school to meet requirement for this program.

--Application to Camden County Community College is not required for application to the program

--\$3000 per year

Blackwood, NJ

<http://www.camdencc.edu/specialsupportprograms/Garden-State-Pathways.cfm>

Mercer County
Community College:
DREAM Program

The Developing Real Expectations for Achieving Mastery (DREAM) Program is a two year program that is tailored to individual student needs. The program can focus on academic experiences, career-related experiences, independent living experiences, or socialization experiences. Support in the program includes peer mentors, seminars, and academic support services.

--Application to Mercer County Community College is not required for program application

--\$4000 per year

Trenton, NJ

http://www.mccc.edu/student_services_needs_dream.shtml

Bergen Community
College: Turning
Point Program

The Turning Point Program is a two year certificate program for students with intellectual disabilities. The program focus areas include academic enrichment, social and recreational opportunities, self-advocacy development, and integrated vocational opportunities and career skill development. Students who complete the program will receive a Certificate of Achievement through the Division of Continuing Education.

--Application to Bergen Community College is not required for application to the program

Paramus, NJ

<http://www.bergen.edu/turningpoint>

Gloucester County
College: ACT

The Adult Center for Transition (ACT) is a program for young adults with disabilities that focuses on educational opportunities, career enhancement, and socialization. Students can attend or audit classes, learn workplace skills, have supportive employment, learn social skills, have peer mentorship, and other opportunities.

--Application to Gloucester County College is not required

--\$275 per course per semester

Sewell, NJ

http://www.gcsssd.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=156352&type=d&termREC_ID=&pREC_ID=311219

Brookdale
Community College
and the Arc of
Monmouth: Kach

The Keep Achieving (Kach) Program is a collaboration between the Arc of Monmouth and Brookdale Community College that offers students with intellectual and developmental disabilities a three-year college experience. The program focuses on self-determination; employment or volunteer opportunities; post-secondary education and vocational training; and involvement in the community, including affairs.

--Application to Brookdale Community College is not required

--\$12000 per year

Tinton Falls, NJ

<http://www.arcofmonmouth.org/kach/>



New York

Pace University:
OASIS Program

The Ongoing Academic and Social Instructional Support (OASIS) Program provides comprehensive support to students with autism, Asperger's, learning disabilities, nonverbal learning differences, and related challenges. The program supports students, family, and faculty; and consists of academic coaches, vocational coordinators, academic advisors, counselors, campus life coordinator, and social coaches. Students learn among peers in academically rigorous courses. Accommodations in courses can be provided. The application deadline is May 15.

--Application to Pace University is required before application to the OASIS Program.

--Fee per semester

New York, NY

<http://www.pace.edu/school-of-education/centers/tara/oasis>

Rochester Institute
of Technology: SSP



The Spectrum Support Program (SSP) provides individualized and small group support to assist students with transition to life at the Rochester Institute of Technology and help ensure continued success through graduation. Supports include transition coaches, case management, seminar courses on skill development, executive functioning coaching, and social events. There are different levels of support based on student needs.
--Application to RIT is required prior to application to the SSP program
--\$800 - \$2400 per year

Rochester, NY

<http://www.rit.edu/studentaffairs/ssp/info.php#accordion-about>



University of
Delaware: CLSC

Delaware

The Career and Life Studies Certificate (CLSC) is a two year program for students with intellectual disabilities. The program was funded through a grant that aims to make statewide postsecondary education more available to students with intellectual disabilities. The program offers specialized career studies and life studies coursework. Upon completion, students graduate with a University of Delaware Certificate in Career and Life Studies. Each student has an individualized plan that included peer mentoring, staff coaching, and individualized supports. Applications are due in December, but are encouraged to be submitted early in the fall.

--Application to the University of Delaware is NOT required for the CLSC program
--\$25,000 per year with resources to offset costs

Newark, DE

<http://www.udel.edu/cds/initiatives-adults-clsc.html>

This list of schools may not be comprehensive of all the schools in this area. This list was compiled by the A.J. Drexel Autism Institute, but this list is not an endorsement of any particular school or program. For more information on any program, please contact the school with which the program is affiliated.



DREXEL UNIVERSITY

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