

DREXEL

**AUTISM
SUPPORT
PROGRAM**

WHAT IS DASP?

The Drexel Autism Support Program (DASP) is a student-centered program for new and current Drexel students with the goal of promoting academic and social competency, self-advocacy, interpersonal skills, independent living, and social integration. Our 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.

WHAT KIND OF SUPPORT DOES DASP OFFER?

In the program, we provide students with:

- A person-centered approach
- One-on-one individually matched peer mentoring and coaching
- Supplemental case management with professional staff as needed
- Workshops on employment skills, social development, and planning for academic and career success
- Planned social events that are structured and unstructured



WHAT TYPE OF STUDENT WOULD BENEFIT FROM DASP?

All matriculated Drexel University students who face challenges typical of those with a diagnosis of high-functioning autism, Asperger's Syndrome, PDD-NOS, or non-verbal learning disability are best supported by DASP. Students do not need a formal diagnosis to receive support from DASP. All neurodiverse students are welcome.

In order to be successful at Drexel and in DASP, students must be:

- Capable of doing college-level work
- Self-motivated to do well at a university
- Able to live semi-independently away from home in a dorm if they are not a commuter or online student

SOCIAL TRAINING AND COACHING

DASP students meet on a regular basis with a DASP staff member who assists them in navigating all aspects of college life in areas such as time management and organizational skills, among others. DASP students may also participate in weekly employment or social workshops designed to improve their social connections and communication skills that will help them navigate social situations on campus and in the workplace.

CAMPUS CONNECTIONS

DASP staff work closely and collaborate with partners across campus, including the A.J. Drexel Autism Institute, to:

- Ensure students are receiving the support necessary to succeed
 - Educate the campus on the benefits of neurodiversity
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THE DRAGON SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Incoming DASP students have the opportunity to be a part of the Dragon Scholars program. It is a five-week summer program for incoming first-year students dedicated to assisting with the transition from high school to college by providing higher-level academic skills and strong peer networks. DASP students will benefit from this diverse learning community program as it allows them more time to get acclimated to Drexel and college life.

For more information on Dragon Scholars, visit **drexel.edu/dragonscholars**.

NEURODRAGONS

DASP staff advise the Student Organization — Neurodragons. Neurodragons is a dedicated body of neurodivergent and neurotypical students committed to raising awareness of the value of neurodiversity within the Drexel learning community and beyond. DASP partners with Neurodragons and other student organizations on local day trips and events.

WHAT DOES DASP COST?

There is no cost for DASP. DASP is provided as a student support by Student Life. Just as the other supports in Student Life are offered to students at no cost, so is DASP. As a part of DASP, students also have access to all of the services within the Center for Learning and Academic Success Services (CLASS).

INTERESTED IN DONATING TO DASP?

Please visit **drexel.edu/studentlife/dasp** and select the “Make A Gift” button.





STEPS TO APPLY

After a student has been admitted to Drexel University and has confirmed their attendance, then they may apply as follows:

- Complete the DASP application at **drexel.edu/studentlife/dasp**.
- Include a letter confirming attendance and any supporting documentation or information.
- Schedule a meeting with the director of DASP.

While not required, it is highly recommended that a student visit Drexel University's Disability Resources prior to applying to DASP. Their website can be found at **drexel.edu/disability**.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit **drexel.edu/studentlife/dasp**.
- Contact Amy D. Edwards, Ed.D.
Director, Drexel Autism Support Program
dasp@drexel.edu.



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