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Educational Programs for Young Adults with Asperger Syndrome and High Functioning Autism

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These programs provide direct services to young adults and students with AS. Costs vary widely. Many charge for their services in addition to any tuition and fees charged by an affiliated college or university. Programs operated by universities and colleges may be both less expensive and less extensive than independent programs. I have grouped programs in two categories. Programs that do not neatly fit these categories are listed twice.

- [Programs for College/University Support](#). These coordinate with college or university credit and degree programs.
- [Programs for Life Skills Development](#). These focus primarily on developing life skills rather than academic advancement.

Other sites with online listings of such programs include:

- Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation www.djfiddlefoundation.org/links_college.cfm
- Asperger Foundation International www.aspfi.org/college/

Programs for College/University Support

Nationwide

College Autism Spectrum

(Resources for students, parents, campuses and professionals throughout the United States. CAS headquarters is in St. Paul, MN). www.collegeautismspectrum.com/. An independent organization of professionals whose purpose is to assist students with autism spectrum disorders, and their families. We help students with ASD explore and navigate college options before, during and through the college process. In addition, we provide campuses and professionals with the tools and training to work effectively with students on the spectrum and to understand the challenges as well as the talents they bring.

Regional

ACCLAIM: Autism College and Community Life Acclimation and Intervention Model (Pittsburgh, PA)

www.thewatsoninstitute.org/services.jsp?pageId=2161392240601236765358185

A program of the Watson Institute, www.thewatsoninstitute.org, Sewickley, PA. Phone 412-749-2895. Four week summer program operated summer 2009 on the campus of University of Pittsburgh and the Allegheny campus of Community College of Allegheny

County. Intended to acclimate academically capable candidates to campus life, reducing the anxiety associated with a major life transition, and developing the social and organizational skills that are requisites for success in college.

AHEADD: Achieving in Higher Education with Autism/Developmental Disabilities

www.aheadd.org/. (Headquartered in Pittsburgh with services in Albany, NY; Bakersfield, CA; Baltimore, MD; Boston, MA; College Park, MD; Dallas, TX; Long Island, NY; Miami, FL; Pittsburgh, PA; Washington, DC; special arrangements available for any location). Coaching, mentoring and personal advocacy for college students with: Asperger's Syndrome, Attention Deficit Disorder, High-Functioning Autism, Learning Disabilities, and Non-Verbal Learning Disability. Professional staff and peer mentors serve as liaisons, personal advocates, and coaches for students who are competitively admitted to the college of their choice.

Autism Support Program, Midwestern State University (Wichita Falls, Texas)

education.mwsu.edu/asp
news.mwsu.edu/iNews/view.asp?ID=1474

Designed to provide students with Autism Spectrum Disorders with a nurturing and protected college experience, at the heart of the program is the development of independent living and social skills through the assistance of trained peers supervised by faculty. Students live in a household with trained MSU graduate students who supervise their studies, advise them about social interactions with peers and professors, and serve as a guide to other independent living skills.

Beacon College (Leesburg, FL)

www.beaconcollege.edu

The mission of Beacon College is to offer academic degree programs to students with learning disabilities.

Bridges to Adelphi Program (Adelphi University, Garden City, NY)

students.adelphi.edu/sa/dss/bridges.php. The Bridges to Adelphi Project is designed to enhance college life for students with Asperger's Syndrome, autism, social anxiety disorders, and nonverbal learning disabilities. It offers cost-free, confidential individual and group counseling dealing with social, recreational, cultural, and vocational programs. It also provides help with crisis intervention, organizational skills, time management, independent living skills and social skills training.

College Internship Program (Bloomington, IN; Lee, MA; Melbourne, FL; Berkeley, CA)

www.collegeinternshipprogram.com/. Provides individualized, post-secondary academic, internship and independent living experiences for young adults with Asperger's Syndrome and non-verbal learning differences. Locations in four cities (above). Students attend nearby colleges and universities.

College Living Experience

(Austin, TX; Fort Lauderdale, FL, Denver, CO; Monterey, CA; Washington, DC).
www.cleinc.net/. College Living Experience assists students with special needs in

completing college and transitioning into independent adults. Academics, living skills, and social skills. Locations in five cities (above). Students attend nearby colleges and universities.

COMPASS (Farleigh Dickinson University, Madison, NJ)

view.fdu.edu/default.aspx?id=5051. COMPASS students have the intellectual, academic and organizational capabilities to succeed at college as a full-time matriculated student, the ability to live in a semi-independent setting, and readiness to face the challenge of exploring the social aspects of the residential college experience. COMPASS assists first and second year students with Asperger Syndrome to develop the enhanced self-advocacy, self-disclosure and self-monitoring capabilities with which they can recognize and address their own areas of difficulty, know how and when to request help, and confidently access support from the larger University community.

Gersh Experience (Melville, NY)

www.gershacademy.org/index.php/schools/the-gersh-experience. For individuals with neurobiological disorders. The Gersh Experience at Daemen College offers fully accredited, college-level courses leading to a bachelor's degree in a variety of majors

Kelly Autism Program (Bowling Green, KY)

kap.wku.edu/College_Students-KAP_Circle_of_Support.html

Provides services to adolescents and young adults diagnosed along the Autism Spectrum Continuum, as well as their families. KAP has programs for middle school, high school and post-secondary participants including higher education, vocational training, and job support. Students may enroll in either Western Kentucky University or community college. Contact: kellyautismprogram@wku.edu

Asperger Support Program at Mercyhurst College (Erie, PA)

www.mercyhurst.edu/news/news-releases/article/?article_id=1 Mercyhurst's program will offer an Asperger Advisory Group and Peer Mentoring Program assisted by Marriage and Family studies students and staff, priority for single rooms in the college's residence halls, mediation with faculty and staff when required, training on interpersonal skills, and a variety of social events.

Contact Dianne Rogers at (814) 824-2450.

Marshall University Model College Program (Huntington, West Virginia)

www.marshall.edu/coe/atc/modelcollege.htm

The Marshall program uses a positive behavior support approach to assist participating students. Social, communication, academic, leisure and personal living skills are assessed through person-centered planning. Personal goals are identified and strategies are developed based on the individual needs of each student. The program seeks to help students learn skills which will help them earn a college degree, work in their chosen field, and live a productive, independent, and quality life. Contact Marc Ellison, ellison13@marshall.edu, phone (304) 696-2332.

Millersville University (Millersville, PA)

www.millersville.edu Recommended as very accommodating to persons on the spectrum.

Spectrum Transition Program (Scottsdale, AZ)

www.spectrumcollegetransition.org/Home_Page.html

A supportive, residential, post-secondary program for young men with Asperger's Syndrome and High Functioning Autism, who need assistance academically, socially, and emotionally, ages 17-24. Students attend Gateway Academy or a local college, university or specialty program. Support services include: tutoring, group therapy, self-advocacy, organizational skills, career exploration, study skills, and interpreting social situations.

University of Connecticut: SEAD (Strategic Education for college students with Autism spectrum Disorders) (Storrs, CT)

www.csd.uconn.edu/sead_program.html Comprehensive academic and social skills training for students with Aspergers. SEAD is one of three tracks in the University of Connecticut's "Beyond Access" academic skills program. Any student who has an autism spectrum disorder and is admitted to the University is encouraged to apply.

University of Alabama ACTS program (Tuscaloosa, AL)

bama.ua.edu/~uaacts/UA-ACTS/. Academic and social transition and support services for University of Alabama students with ASD (including high-functioning autism and Asperger's syndrome). Students must meet admissions requirements and be admitted separately to The University of Alabama. UA-ACTS is a program of The University of Alabama Autism Spectrum Disorders Research Clinic.

Programs for Life Skills Development

Autism Living and Working (ALAW) (Philadelphia, PA)

www.autismlivingworking.org

ALAW's mission is to help adults with autism form and sustain households, hold jobs, and contribute to community life, through individual supports and accommodations. Target area: Pennsylvania.

Center for Adaptive Learning (Concord, CA)

www.centerforadaptivelearning.org/index.htm. The Center for Adaptive learning is a supported living program for adults with developmental neurological disorders. Clients work towards self-reliant living and learn to advocate for themselves.

Chapel Haven Asperger's Syndrome Adult Transition Program (New Haven, CT)

chapelhavenaspergerprogram.org/. The program begins as an individualized residential program that targets social competencies resulting in effective coping strategies, problem solving, independent (adaptive) life skills, and career experiences. The focus of the program is to assist adults in developing independent social competencies across all settings.

Chapel Haven West (Tucson, AZ)

chapelhavenwest.org/

Chapel Haven West in Tucson, Arizona, opened in June, 2008. Building on the success of 35 years as a leader in the field of teaching and supporting individuals with disabilities, Chapel Haven West serves those on the autism spectrum and those with mild developmental disabilities. The Residential Life Skills, Education, Employment and Recreation programs are the anchors of the two residential years, which are enhanced by a unique partnership with the University of Arizona.

College Internship Program (Bloomington, IN; Lee, MA; Melbourne, FL; Berkeley, CA)

www.collegeinternshipprogram.com/. Provides individualized, post-secondary academic, internship and independent living experiences for young adults with Asperger's Syndrome and non-verbal learning differences. Locations in four cities (above). Students attend nearby colleges and universities.

EvoLibri (Palo Alto, CA)

<http://www.evolibri.com/index.html>. EvoLibri is a holistic direct and referred counseling service located in Palo Alto, California, for a neurodiverse clientele, ages 14 and up. Individual, family, and group counseling includes career and vocational assessment and planning, post-secondary educational planning, transition and independence readiness assessment, planning, and training, job search training and coaching, social development planning and coaching, conflict and anxiety reduction strategies and interventions, etc.

Kelly Autism Program (Bowling Green, KY)

http://kap.wku.edu/College_Students-KAP_Circle_of_Support.html. KAP is designed to provide services to adolescents and young adults diagnosed along the Autism Spectrum Continuum, as well as their families. KAP has programs for middle school, high school and post-secondary participants including higher education, vocational training, and job support. Students may enroll in either Western Kentucky University or community college. Contact: kellyautismprogram@wku.edu

Minnesota Life College (Richfield, MN)

<https://www.minnesotalifecollege.org>. A not-for-profit, vocational and life skills training program. Since 1996, MLC has been dedicated to helping students make a successful transition to independent living and financial self-sufficiency. Students are involved in a challenging vocational and independent living curriculum with an emphasis on “*Real Skills for Real Life*.” For young adults ages 18-26 with a learning disability, attention difficulties, on the autism spectrum or other neurological conditions.