

Highlighting Autism-Friendly Colleges

[Autism-friendly colleges](#) play a vital role in providing support and accommodations to empower autistic students throughout their academic journey. In this section, we will highlight ten colleges that have demonstrated a commitment to creating an inclusive and supportive environment for autistic students.

1. **Marshall University** - Huntington, West Virginia

- **Overview:** The College Program for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a comprehensive program that provides individualized support to students with ASD.
- **Features:** Peer mentoring, social skills groups, specialized housing options, and academic coaching.

2. **University of Alabama** - Tuscaloosa, Alabama

- **Overview:** The Autism Spectrum Disorders College Support Program provides individualized support services to students with ASD to help them succeed academically and socially.
- **Features:** Peer mentoring, social skills groups, academic coaching, and specialized housing options.

3. **Adelphi University** - Garden City, New York

- **Overview:** The Bridges to Adelphi program offers a range of support services to students with ASD to promote academic success and social integration.
- **Features:** Peer mentoring, social skills groups, academic coaching, and specialized housing options.

4. **California State University Channel Islands** - Camarillo, California

- **Overview:** The Student Accessibility Services office provides support services and accommodations to students with disabilities, including those with ASD.
- **Features:** Assistive technology, alternative testing arrangements, note-taking services, and specialized housing options.

5. **Portland State University** - Portland, Oregon

- **Overview:** The Resource Center for Students with Children provides a variety of support services to students with disabilities, including those with ASD.
- **Features:** Childcare assistance, academic coaching, peer mentoring, and specialized housing options.

6. **Eastern Michigan University** - Ypsilanti, Michigan

- **Overview:** The Autism Collaborative Center provides support services to students with ASD, as well as research and training opportunities.
- **Features:** Social skills groups, individual therapy, academic coaching, and specialized housing options.

7. **Rutgers University** - New Brunswick, New Jersey

- **Overview:** The College Support Program for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder provides individualized support services to students with ASD.
- **Features:** Peer mentoring, social skills groups, academic coaching, and specialized housing options.

8. **Kent State University** - Kent, Ohio

- **Overview:** The Autism Initiative for Research, Education, and Outreach provides support services to students with ASD, as well as research and training opportunities.
- **Features:** Social skills groups, individual therapy, academic coaching, and specialized housing options.

9. **Rochester Institute of Technology** - Rochester, New York

- **Overview:** The Spectrum Support Program provides support services to students with ASD to help them succeed academically and socially.
- **Features:** Peer mentoring, social skills groups, academic coaching, and specialized housing options.

10. **University of Houston** - Houston, Texas

- **Overview:** The Disability Support Services office provides support services and accommodations to students with disabilities, including those with ASD.
- **Features:** Assistive technology, alternative testing arrangements, note-taking services, and specialized housing options.

Yellow Bus ABA

Examples of College Programs for Autistic Students

Several colleges across the United States have recognized the importance of providing specialized support and programs for autistic students. These programs aim to create an inclusive and supportive environment that meets the unique needs of these students. Here are a few notable examples of college programs for autistic students:

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

The University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa offers the Autism Spectrum Disorders College Transition and Support Program (UA-ACTS). This program is designed to provide comprehensive academic and behavioral support for students on the autism spectrum.

It focuses on assisting students in navigating the academic and social challenges of college life. The program offers individualized coaching, therapy services, academic support, and social skills training. The cost for this program is \$3000 per semester.

University of Arkansas - Autism Support Program

The University of Arkansas in Fayetteville offers the Autism Support Program, which is dedicated to providing intensive assistance and support to students with high-functioning autism, Asperger's syndrome, and related conditions. The program aims to help students develop the necessary skills for academic success and social integration. It offers individualized coaching, counseling, and academic support services to help students thrive in their college journey.

California State University, East Bay - The College Link Program (CLP)

California State University, East Bay in Hayward offers The College Link Program (CLP) to support students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in their transition to and success in higher education.

This program focuses on leveraging individual strengths to promote academic and social success. The College Link Program provides individualized coaching, academic support, social skills training, and peer mentoring. It aims to empower students with ASD to achieve their educational goals and foster independence.

University of Delaware - Spectrum Scholars Program

The University of Delaware in Newark offers the Spectrum Scholars program, which provides comprehensive college-to-career support for autistic students. The program offers individualized coaching, peer mentoring, and career development opportunities to help students navigate the challenges of college and transition successfully into the workforce.

Spectrum Scholars is a grant-funded program, meaning there are no additional costs for comprehensive services at present.

These examples demonstrate the commitment of colleges and universities to creating an inclusive and supportive environment for autistic students. By offering specialized programs and services, these institutions aim to ensure that autistic students have equal opportunities to succeed academically and socially in their college experience.

Scholarships for Autistic Students

For autistic students pursuing higher education, there are various scholarships available to support their academic journey. These scholarships not only provide financial assistance but also recognize and celebrate the achievements of individuals on the autism spectrum. Here are a few scholarships specifically tailored for autistic students:

Disability Awareness Scholarship

The Disability Awareness Scholarship offers a \$1,000 award to a prospective or current college student who has overcome a disability to accomplish something remarkable. This scholarship acknowledges the perseverance and determination of individuals with disabilities, including those on the autism spectrum.

Google Lime Scholarship

The Google Lime Scholarship is designed for undergraduate or graduate students pursuing a degree in computer science or IT. This scholarship provides a generous \$10,000 award to students who have demonstrated strong academic performance and have a visible or invisible disability, including autism spectrum disorder. The Google Lime Scholarship aims to support and empower students with disabilities in the field of technology.

Adults with Autism Scholarship

Autism Delaware offers the Adults with Autism Scholarship, which grants \$1,000 to eligible adults on the autism spectrum who aspire to pursue post-secondary education. This scholarship recognizes the unique challenges faced by adults with autism and aims to provide financial assistance to support their educational goals.

Avonte Oquendo Memorial Scholarship for Autism

The Avonte Oquendo Memorial Scholarship for Autism is open to high-achieving students who are either diagnosed with autism themselves or have a close family member with autism. This scholarship, worth \$1,000, is available to students who are currently enrolled or accepted into an accredited university or college. The Avonte Oquendo Memorial Scholarship recognizes the accomplishments of individuals impacted by autism and supports their pursuit of higher education.

The availability of scholarships dedicated to supporting autistic students in their college education is increasing. These scholarships can be utilized to cover various educational expenses such as tuition, fees, textbooks, and other related costs. They provide valuable opportunities for autistic students to pursue their academic aspirations and thrive in higher education.