

The College Success Program  
for Students with

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# AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

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# THE COLLEGE SUCCESS PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

Attending college is a significant, life-changing event for everyone. For young adults with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), it can seem prohibitively challenging, but there is a way to make it less daunting.

The College Success Program for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (CSP) is designed to help students maximize their potential for success as they live and learn within a caring Christian community at Eastern University.

Support is tailored to the challenges and strengths common to students on the spectrum, as well as to

the unique needs of the individual student. Help is offered in the setting where it is needed, including study sessions, residence halls, and social events on campus. Additionally, ASD-specific training and consultation are offered to Eastern University's faculty and staff. The CSP Coordinator also works cooperatively with Residence Life, Public Safety, and Career Development so that supportive strategies can be consistently and comprehensively applied.

With the right supports, attending college is more manageable than you might think.

## THE CSP MISSION

**The College Success Program for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder** provides targeted support, practical knowledge, and cultural awareness to students with Autism Spectrum Disorder and to the community of Eastern University.

The mission is confirmed and celebrated when students with Autism Spectrum Disorder have equal access to a college education in the university's undergraduate baccalaureate programs, can successfully participate in the academic, residential, and social realms of the university, and can fulfill the greater mission of Eastern University.

# THE CSP ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Prospective students must meet the following requirements to be considered eligible for acceptance to the CSP.

- ✓ Apply to and be admitted by Eastern University in a traditional undergraduate baccalaureate program on the St. Davids campus.
- ✓ Have a documented diagnosis of an Autism Spectrum Disorder.
- ✓ Enroll as a full-time student (12-18 credits) in a traditional baccalaureate program. *Note: Part-time students will be considered on a case-by-case basis.*
- ✓ Possess the ability and desire to interact with college-level material and engage in thoughtful academic dialogue.
- ✓ Have the capability to live in a semi-independent college environment.
- ✓ Possess the motivation to attend and participate in all scheduled classes, meetings, and activities; including those facilitated by the CSP.

## WHAT THE CSP OFFERS

### Academic Support

*College is a time to learn.*

The CSP assists students in developing a sense of academic responsibility. Support is provided in setting academic goals and planning methods to achieve them. Students learn study strategies, classroom etiquette, and academically-oriented communication skills. CSP staff work with students to develop individualized coping strategies when ASD and other symptoms interfere with the ability to learn. The CSP Coordinator serves as liaison to faculty, academic advisors, disability services, and traditional academic supports.

### Social Support

*College is a time to develop meaningful relationships.*

The CSP helps students to understand the complex and sometimes confusing world of social interaction. Strategies that enhance a student's ability to cope with campus life and understand social relationships are provided through small group meetings and individual coaching and mentoring. The CSP supports students in the application of learned social skills and strategies while engaging in activities on and off campus.

### Life Skills Support

*College is a time to grow in independence.*

The CSP teaches students the necessary skills to live as part of the intentionally supportive and caring Eastern University community. CSP staff work collaboratively with students and residence hall staff to provide support with daily living skills and strategies to live within a residence hall community. Students meet with CSP staff regularly to explore and discuss topics such as organization, time management, health and wellness, campus and community safety, and what life might be like after college.

### Cultural Support

*College is a time to broaden perspectives.*

The CSP provides students with opportunities to develop flexible thinking and to understand campus culture. Trained peer mentors accompany students as they attend campus events and explore the region surrounding Eastern University. The CSP Coordinator serves as liaison to the university community, providing training and consultation to develop and strengthen awareness and understanding of autism spectrum disorder.

**The College Success Program for Students  
with Autism Spectrum Disorder**

is offered through  
The Cushing Center for Counseling and Psychological Services

CAPS Director: **Lisa Hemlick, Ph.D**  
CSP Coordinator: **Sharon Thompson, Ph.D**

A program fee is associated with the CSP's services.  
*(This fee is not covered by Eastern University tuition remission.)*

For more information about the CSP, contact  
**Sharon Thompson, CSP Coordinator**  
610.341.5837 or sthompson@eastern.edu

For information about admission to Eastern University, contact  
**Claire Gowen, Director of Undergraduate Admissions**  
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