

With the Right Supports.... The Sky is the Limit

The College Program for Students with Asperger's Syndrome was developed in 2002 by the West Virginia Autism Training Center at Marshall University. The purpose of the program is to encourage qualified individuals to seek a higher education degree. The vision for the program is to offer the appropriate academic and social supports so that individuals with Asperger's syndrome may have a successful college experience and learn the necessary skills to enter a competitive workforce. Many individuals with Asperger's syndrome or high functioning autism can achieve great success, but most require individualized supports to reach their goals. This innovative program is structured to ensure the right supports are in place. And with the right supports, the sky is the limit for these very special students.



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Serving Persons with Autism Throughout West Virginia



The West Virginia
Autism Training
Center

THE COLLEGE PROGRAM

***For Students with
Asperger's Syndrome***



Marshall University

Huntington, West Virginia

The College Program for Students With Asperger's Syndrome



The College Program for Students with Asperger's Syndrome is a program developed by the West Virginia Autism Training Center to provide appropriate academic, social and life skills supports to participating individuals with Asperger's syndrome or high functioning autism who are attending Marshall University. The overall goal of the program is to develop strategies based on the student's individual needs which will assist him or her to successfully earn a college degree. Opportunities for social and life skills development are strategically integrated into the program. The ultimate goal is, as with any other student, to develop necessary skills to enter a preferred job market and live a productive, independent, and quality life.

Academic Supports

A university program to support students with Asperger's syndrome on campus requires careful planning which utilizes the learning strengths, abilities and interests of the student. Program staff and professors work together to determine the reasonable accommodations necessary for each student.

Social Supports

A variety of best practice strategies is identified, developed, and implemented. Selected supports are based on individual needs and a social support network is established based on the interests of the individual. Students participate in a broad variety of campus organizations, clubs, and extra-curricular activities.



The Drinko Library on the Main campus of Marshall University

Faculty, Staff and Peer Tutor Training

Faculty, staff, and tutors receive training related to Asperger's syndrome and specific information about the unique characteristics and learning style of the participating student.

A Positive Behavior Support Approach

A model of positive behavior support is utilized to meet the goals of this program. Each student and their family participate in person-centered planning activities well before the first semester. A PATH (Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope) or MAP (Making Action Plans) is conducted with a team of people who will be involved in the implementation of the student's support plan. These tools provide a framework for team planning for larger goals that may lead to competitive employment and independent living upon graduation. Students have assigned "check in" times to meet with program staff to review their schedules, discuss concerns, receive tutoring and celebrate successes. Supports are systematically faded as the student becomes more independent.