

The College Success Program for Students Living with Autism Spectrum Disorder

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Eastern University

- Co-educational Christian University located in St. Davids, PA
 - 115 acre campus
- Faith, Reason, and Justice
- College of Arts and Sciences (CAS)
 - Approximately 1600 undergraduate students (1200/400)
 - 34 majors and 35 minors
 - 13:1 student/faculty ratio
 - Tuition = \$35,000 including room and board
 - 99% of students receive university scholarships and grants
 - 98% of 2011 graduates were employed full-time, attending graduate school, or in voluntary service within six months of graduation

Fast Facts for The College Success Program for Students Living with ASD

- The CSP offers contextual support across campus and in the larger community
- Though designed to achieve college success, acquired skills are transferable to life after the student graduates
- Separate lines of admission for CAS, CSP, and disability accommodations
- Application process includes an in-person interview
- Accepts up to twelve students per academic year
- Individual goals are derived from the student interview, a review of the student's psychoeducational evaluation, and an assessment of executive functioning, adaptive skills, and sensory needs
- \$6,500.00 per semester program fee
- Students enroll in traditional CAS classes
- Supports focus on academic success, social development, adaptive functioning, and cultural understanding

Development of the CSP @ EU

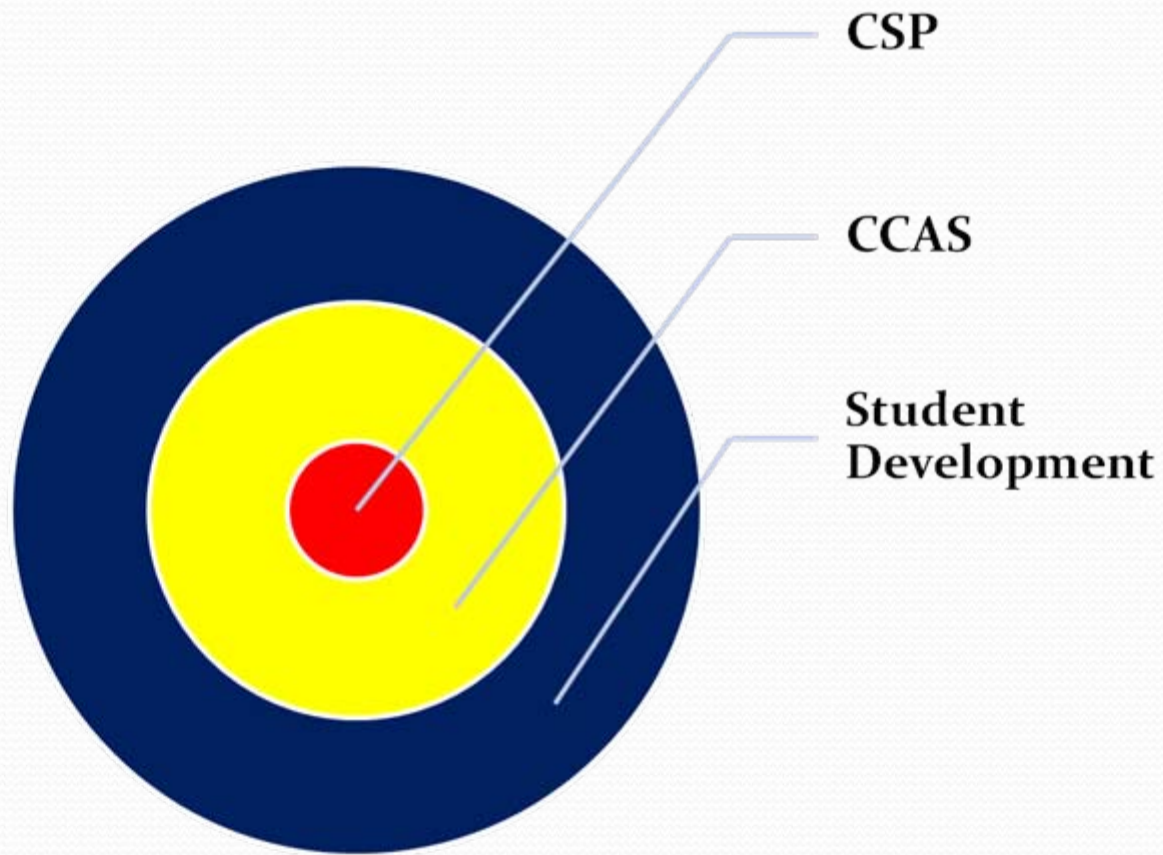
Late 1990's: Concept program for students living on the autism spectrum presented by President David Black

Early 2000's: Formation of an “advisory group” consisting of parents, professionals, and university faculty/staff to provide input, guidance, and structure

July 2011: CSP development and recruitment year began

August 22, 2012: The CSP will begin serving students living with ASD

Placement of the CSP @ EU



CSP Mission

The College Success Program for Students Living with Autism Spectrum Disorder provides targeted support, practical knowledge, and cultural awareness to students living with Asperger's Syndrome, Autism, and Pervasive Developmental Disorder, Not Otherwise Specified, and to the community of Eastern University.

The mission is confirmed and celebrated when students living with Autism Spectrum Disorder have equal access to an undergraduate education in the College of Arts and Sciences, can successfully participate in the academic, residential, and social realms of the university and can fulfill the greater mission of Eastern University.

CSP Eligibility Requirements

Prospective students must :

- Apply to and be accepted by Eastern University's College of Arts and Sciences
- Apply as a full-time, traditional first-year undergraduate student for the fall semester in a degree earning program
- Have a documented primary diagnosis of Asperger's Syndrome, Autistic Disorder, or Pervasive Developmental Disorder, Not Otherwise Specified
- Possess the ability to interact with college-level material and engage in thoughtful academic dialogue
- Have the capability to live in a semi-independent college environment (The CSP is specifically designed for residential students.)

CSP Application

- Students can simultaneously apply to both the CAS & CSP
- Required documentation:
 - CSP application
 - Comprehensive psychological, neuro-psych, or psychiatric evaluation
 - Psychoeducational evaluation documenting cognitive function, including IQ and achievement measures
 - Individual Education Plan or 504 Plan
- In-person interview (including parents) required
 - BAI and BDI-II completed during interview

CSP Services

For the Student

- Assessments completed before students arrive for fall semester
 - Vineland-II
 - BRIEF-A
 - Sensory Profile - Adolescent/Adult
- Early Arrival Orientation Program for first year students
- Individual goal statement (updated each semester or as necessary)
- Individual counseling (minimum of one time per week)
- Groups (weekly)
 - Skills group focusing on academic, social, life skill, and cultural support
 - Support group focusing on perceptions and feelings related to college life and being a college student
- Liaison support to faculty, academic advisors, staff, & university departments
- Mentor support:
 - Graduate Mentor
 - Live-in residence hall support
 - Structured study sessions
 - Undergraduate Peer Mentor
 - Navigate the campus and community
 - Navigate the culture of the university
 - Develop peer relationships
- Functional assessment of classroom/campus behavior (if deemed necessary)
- Support accessing the surrounding community

For the Eastern University Community

- ASD specific information, training, and consultation for faculty, staff, academic advisors, and university departments

CSP Outcomes

- The CSP has none!!
- We intend to review:
 - Retention and graduation rates
 - Feedback from students, parents, and faculty/university departments
 - Progress achieved toward individual goals
 - Post-graduation activity
 - Employment
 - Graduate school
 - Volunteer opportunities

Lessons Learned

- Encourage students to select a college because they are content with the college, not because it offers special support
- Proactively address your institution's response regarding an ASD support program on campus
 - Resistance
 - Linkages
 - Staff
- Support programs are not a recruitment tool
- If you have met one person with autism...
- Assess the motivation of prospective students
- College is not the time to “beat around the bush”
- Learn how to make lemonade out of lemons

Contact Information

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The CSP for Students Living With ASD

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484-654-2378

Thank you!!!