

United States College Programs for Autistic Students

College Autism Network

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College Autism Network
ADVOCACY | RESEARCH | TRAINING

Most recent version of PDF: Oct 4, 2019

PDF developed by Catherine Tobin McDermott and Brett Ranon Nachman

Contributions by McDermott, Nachman, Ann Hartlage, Brittany Jackson, and Anne-Marie Orlando

Why This Project Matters

While there are many helpful lists featuring various colleges/universities with programs (see additional resources slide), there is an absence of lists detailing college programs that *specifically serve* autistic college students.

How this helps particular groups

Students/families: Finding a college program that serves as a good fit

Higher ed professionals: Identify peer institutions from which to learn

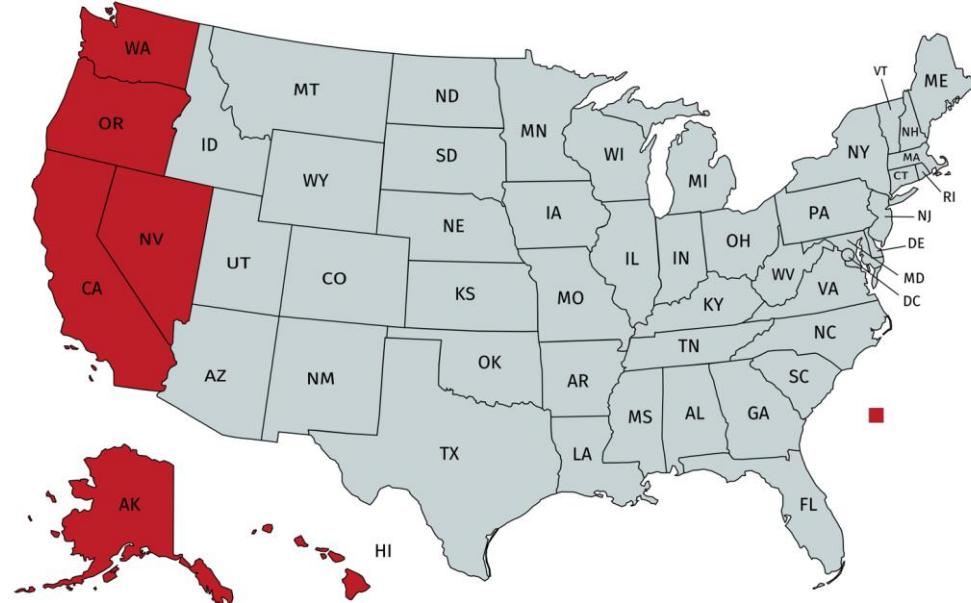
Researchers: Note potential sources of data and places to disseminate findings

Language and Notes

- We use identity-first language based on many individuals' preferences (e.g., Autism Self-Advocacy Network); College Autism Network also embraces this verbiage.
- As we draw from the 2015 Carnegie Classification, the total number of colleges and universities noted in each region may have changed due to openings/closures of colleges and universities since that time.
- This list is reflective of colleges and universities featured in our search, conducted from August 2018 – August 2019.

Far West

- Number of colleges/universities in region: 653
- Number of states: 6
- Number of programs: 6



Region: Far West

| College/University | Program with Link | City | State | Type | College Setting |
|---|--|-----------------|-------|--------|-----------------|
| Bellevue College | <u>Neurodiversity Navigators</u> | Bellevue | CA | Public | 2-year |
| California Lutheran University | <u>Autism and Communication Center</u> | Thousand Oaks | CA | Public | 4-year |
| California Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo | <u>Connections</u> | San Luis Obispo | CA | Public | 4-year |
| California State University-East Bay | <u>College Link Program</u> | Hayward | CA | Public | 4-year |

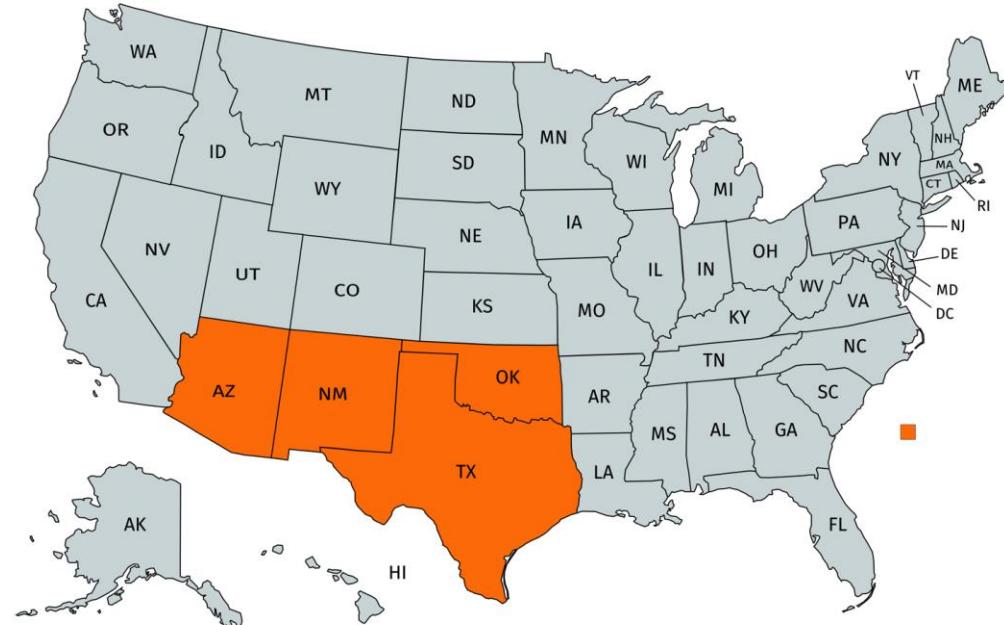


Region: Far West (cont.)

| College/University | Program with Link | City | State | Type | College Setting |
|-------------------------|---|------------------|-------|--------|-----------------|
| Golden West College | <u>Puzzle Piece</u> | Huntington Beach | CA | Public | 2-year |
| Seattle Central College | <u>Supported Academic and Independent Life Skills (SAILS)</u> | Seattle | WA | Public | 2-Year |

Southwest

- Number of colleges/universities in region: 452
- Number of states: 4
- Number of programs: 5



Region: Southwest

| College/University | Program with Link | City | State | Type | College Setting |
|---|---|-----------------|-------|--------|-----------------|
| Tarrant County College District | <u>Autism Spectrum Disorder Program</u> | Fort Worth | TX | Public | 2-year |
| Texas A & M University- College Station | <u>Spectrum Living Learning Community</u> | College Station | TX | Public | 4-year |
| Texas Tech University | <u>Connections for Academic Success and Employment (CASE)</u> | Lubbock | TX | Public | 4-year |



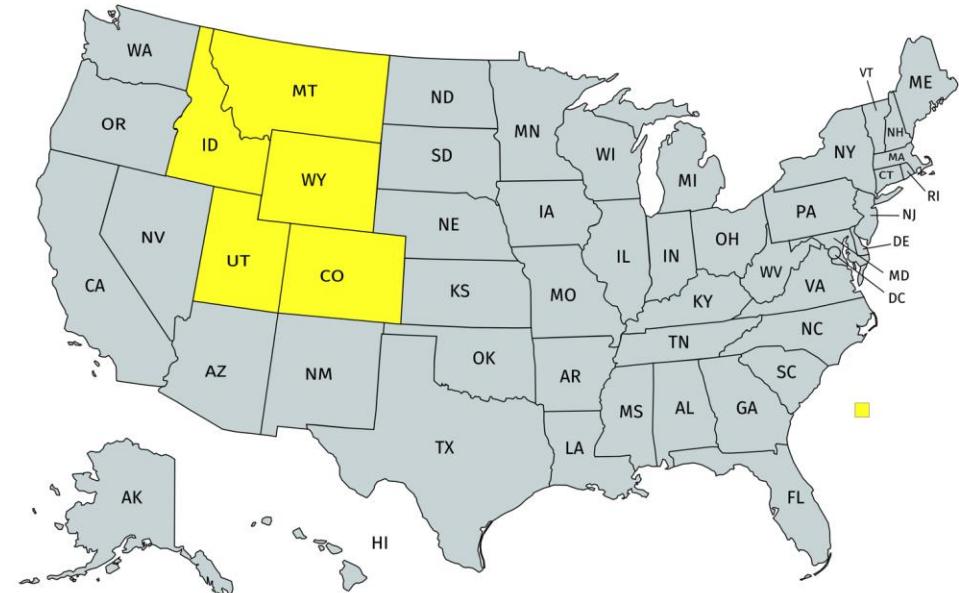
Region: Southwest (cont.)

| College/University | Program with Link | City | State | Type | College Setting |
|--|--|-----------|-------|--------|-----------------|
| University of Houston-Clear Lake | <u>Connecting to College (CtC)</u> | Houston | TX | Public | 4-year |
| University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma | <u>Neil-Wint Center for Neurodiversity</u> | Chickasha | OK | Public | 4-year |



Rocky Mountains

- Number of colleges/universities in region: 181
- Number of states: 5
- Number of programs: 2



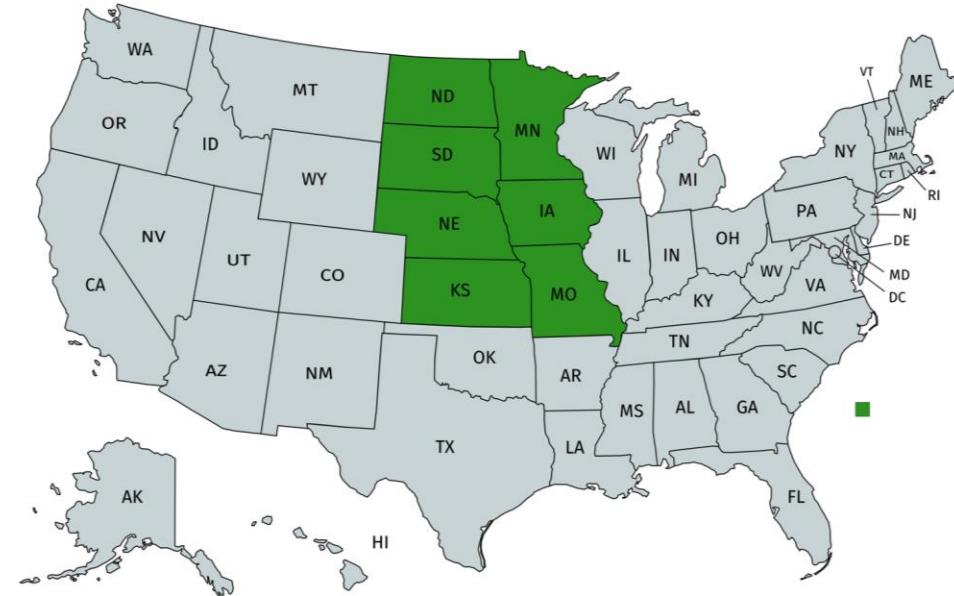
Region: Rocky Mountains

| College/University | Program with Link | City | State | Type | College Setting |
|-----------------------|--|----------|-------|--------|-----------------|
| University of Idaho | <u>Raven Scholars Program</u> | Moscow | ID | Public | 4-year |
| University of Montana | <u>Mentoring, Organization, Social Support for Autism/All Inclusion Campus (MOSSAIC)</u> | Missoula | MT | Public | 4-year |



Plains

- Number of colleges/universities in region: 455
- Number of states: 7
- Number of programs: 4



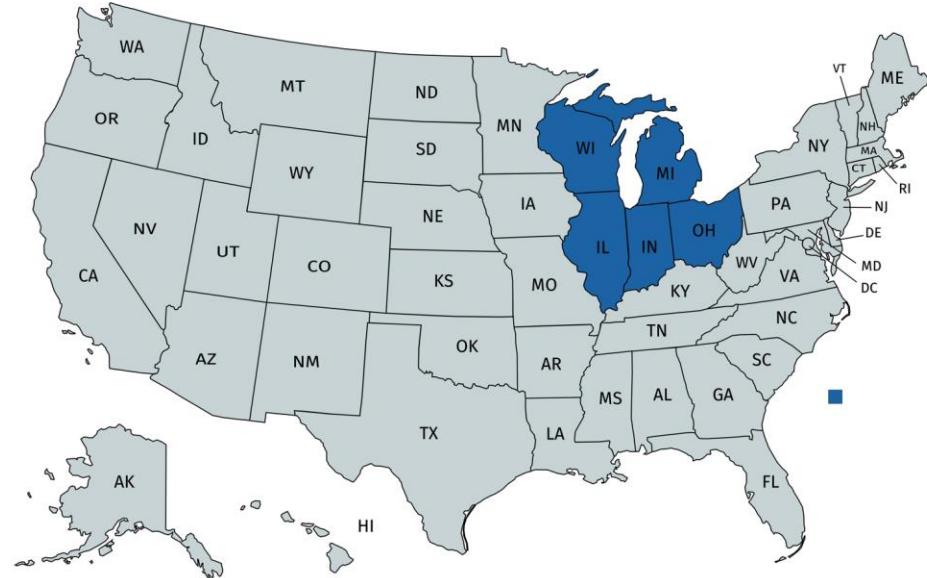
Region: Plains

| College/University | Program with Link | City | State | Type | College Setting |
|----------------------------|--|--------------|-------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Dakota State University | <u>STRONG</u> | Madison | SD | Public | 4-year |
| Kirkwood Community College | <u>ASK Program</u> | Cedar Rapids | IA | Public | 2-year |
| Loras College | <u>Autism Resources for Career and Higher Education (ARCH)</u> | Dubuque | IA | Private, Not-for-Profit | 4-year |
| Westminster College-Fulton | <u>College Transition Program (CTP)</u> | Fulton | MO | Private, Not-for-Profit | 2-year |



Great Lakes

- Number of colleges/universities in region: 674
- Number of states: 5
- Number of programs: 15



Region: Great Lakes

| College/University | Program with Link | City | State | Type | College Setting |
|--------------------------------|---|------------|-------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Ancilla College | <u>Autism Program at Ancilla College (APAC)</u> | Donaldson | IN | Private, Not-For- Profit | 2-year |
| Defiance College | <u>ASD Affinity Program</u> | Defiance | OH | Private, Not-For- Profit | 2-year |
| Eastern Illinois University | <u>Students with Autism Transitional Educational Program (STEP)</u> | Charleston | IL | Public | 4-year |



Region: Great Lakes (cont.)

| College/University | Program with Link | City | State | Type | College Setting |
|-------------------------------|---|-----------|-------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Eastern Michigan University | <u>College Supports Program</u> | Ypsilanti | MI | Public | 4-year |
| Kent State University at Kent | <u>Autism Initiatives</u> | Kent | OH | Public | 4-year |
| Marquette University | <u>On Your Marq</u> | Milwaukee | WI | Private, Not-for-Profit | 4-year |



Region: Great Lakes (cont.)

| College/University | Program with Link | City | State | Type | College Setting |
|------------------------------------|---|--------------|-------|--------|-----------------|
| Michigan State University | <u>Building Opportunities for Networking and Discovery (BOND)</u> | East Lansing | MI | Public | 4-year |
| Ohio State University- Main Campus | <u>Ace!</u> | Columbus | OH | Public | 4-year |
| Ohio University-Main Campus | <u>Autism Spectrum Peer Coaching Team (ASPeCT)</u> | Athens | OH | Public | 4-year |



Region: Great Lakes (cont.)

| College/University | Program with Link | City | State | Type | College Setting |
|---|---|-----------|-------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Saint Norbert College | <u>SNC ASD Support Program</u> | De Pere | WI | Private, Not-for-Profit | 4-year |
| Trinity International University-Illinois | <u>Access Program</u> | Deerfield | IL | Private, Not-for-Profit | 4-year |
| Western Michigan University | <u>Autism Services Center (ASC)</u> | Kalamazoo | MI | Public | 4-year |

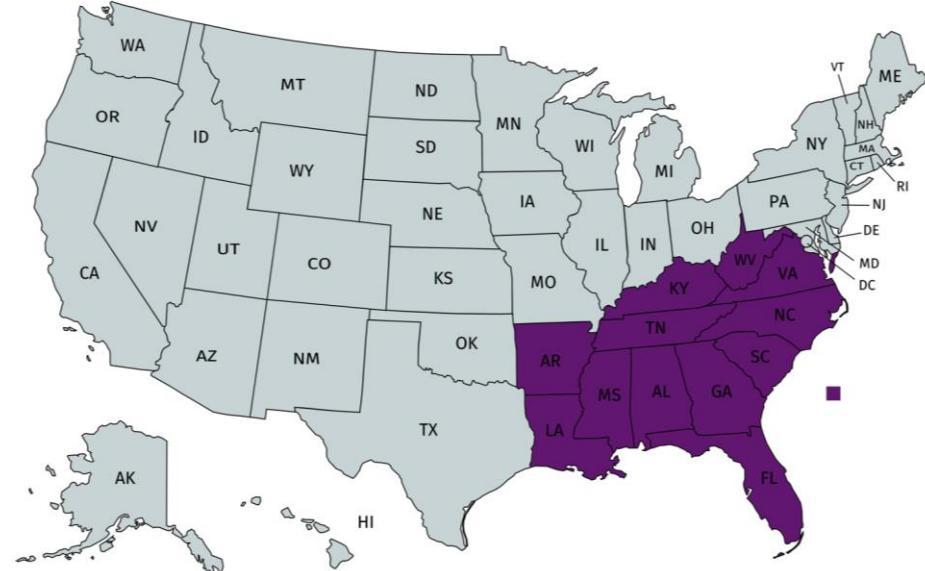


Region: Great Lakes (cont.)

| College/University | Program with Link | City | State | Type | College Setting |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------|-------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| William Rainey Harper College | <u>Transition Autism Program (TAP)</u> | Palatine | IL | Public | 2-year |
| Wright State University- Main Campus | <u>RASE Transition Coach Program</u> | Dayton | OH | Public | 4-year |
| Xavier University | <u>X-Path Programs</u> | Cincinnati | OH | Private, Not-for-Profit | 4-year |

Southeast

- Number of colleges/universities in region: 1166
- Number of states: 12
- Number of programs: 20



Region: Southeast

| College/University | Program with Link | City | State | Type | College Setting |
|------------------------------|--|-------------|-------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Austin Peay State University | <u>Full Spectrum Learning (FSL)</u> | Clarksville | TN | Public | 4-year |
| Central Baptist College | <u>Autism Spectrum Assistance Program (ASAP)</u> | Conway | AR | Private, Not-for-Profit | 4-year |
| Clemson University | <u>Spectrum Program</u> | Clemson | SC | Public | 4-year |
| Concord University | <u>The College Program</u> | Athens | WV | Public | 4-year |

Region: Southeast (cont.)

| College/University | Program with Link | City | State | Type | College Setting |
|---------------------------|---|------------|-------|--------|-----------------|
| George Mason University | <u>Mason Autism Support Initiative (MASI)</u> | Fairfax | VA | Public | 4-year |
| Marshall University | <u>The College Program for Students With Autism Spectrum Disorder</u> | Huntington | WV | Public | 4-year |
| Nicholls State University | <u>Bridge to Independence</u> | Thibodaux | LA | Public | 4-year |



Region: Southeast (cont.)

| College/University | Program with Link | City | State | Type | College Setting |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------|-------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Nova Southeastern University | <u>Access Plus</u> | Fort Lauderdale | FL | Private, Not-for-Profit | 4-year |
| Reinhardt University | <u>Strategic Education for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (S.E.A.D)</u> | Waleska | GA | Private, Not-for-Profit | 4-year |
| Santa Fe College | <u>Spectrum of Success</u> | Gainesville | FL | Public | 2-year |
| Seminole State College of Florida | <u>Full Spectrum Support (FSS)</u> | Sanford | FL | Public | 4-year |



Region: Southeast (cont.)

| College/University | Program with Link | City | State | Type | College Setting |
|--------------------------------|--|--------------|-------|--------|-----------------|
| University of Alabama | <u>The University of Alabama, ASD College Transition and Support Program (UA-ACTS)</u> | Tuscaloosa | AL | Public | 2-year |
| University of Arkansas | <u>Autism Support Program</u> | Fayetteville | AR | Public | 4-year |
| University of Central Arkansas | <u>Autism Advocacy Program</u> | Conway | AR | Public | 4-year |
| University of Florida | <u>Social Gators</u> | Gainesville | FL | Public | 4-year |



Region: Southeast (cont.)

| College/University | Program with Link | City | State | Type | College Setting |
|-------------------------------------|--|--------------|-------|--------|-----------------|
| University of North Florida | <u>Transition to Health, Resources, Independence, Viable careers, and Education (THRIVE)</u> | Jacksonville | FL | Public | 4-year |
| University of Tennessee-Chattanooga | <u>MOSAIC</u> | Chattanooga | TN | Public | 4-year |
| University of Tennessee-Knoxville | <u>Postsecondary Autism Support Services (PASS)</u> | Knoxville | TN | Public | 4-year |



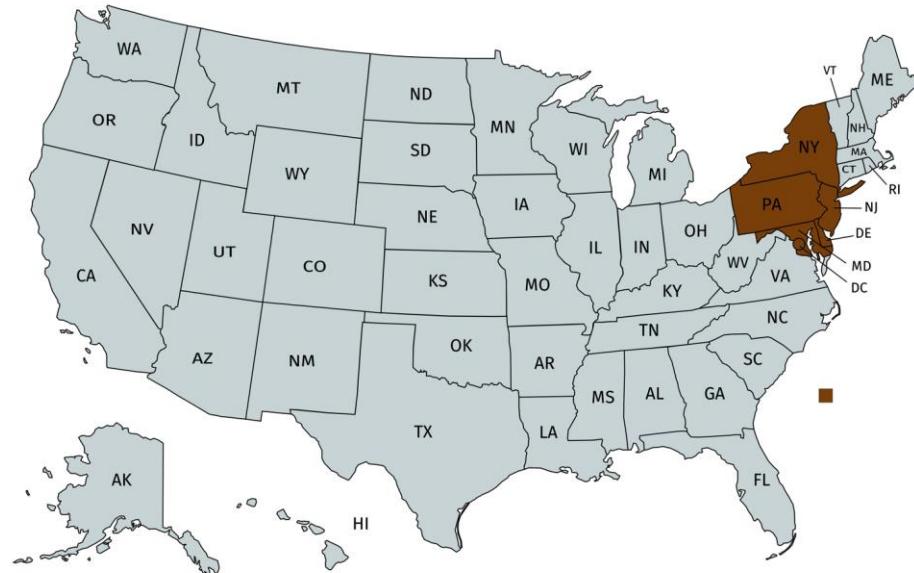
Region: Southeast (cont.)

| College/University | Program with Link | City | State | Type | College Setting |
|-----------------------------|---|---------------|-------|--------|-----------------|
| University of West Florida | <u>Argos for Autism (AAP)</u> | Pensacola | FL | Public | 4-year |
| Western Kentucky University | <u>Kelly Autism Program (KAP) Circle of Support</u> | Bowling Green | KY | Public | 4-year |



Mid East

- Number of colleges/universities in region: 722
- Number of states: 5 + D.C.
- Number of programs: 24



Region: Mid East

| College/University | Program with Link | City | State | Type | College Setting |
|-------------------------------|--|---------------|-------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Adelphi University | <u>Bridges to Adelphi</u> | Garden City | NY | Private, Not-for-profit | 4-year |
| CUNY Brooklyn College | <u>Project REACH: Resources and Education on Autism as CUNY's Hallmark</u> | Brooklyn | NY | Public | 4-year |
| CUNY College of Staten Island | <u>Project REACH: Resources and Education on Autism as CUNY's Hallmark</u> | Staten Island | NY | Public | 4-year |



Region: Mid East (cont.)

| College/University | Program with Link | City | State | Type | College Setting |
|----------------------------------|--|------------------|-------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| CUNY LaGuardia Community College | <u>Project REACH: Resources and Education on Autism as CUNY's Hallmark</u> | Long Island City | NY | Public | 2-year |
| Daemen College | <u>College Autism Transition Support (CATS)</u> | Amherst | NY | Private, Not-for-Profit | 4-year |
| Drexel University | <u>Drexel Autism Support Program (DASP)</u> | Philadelphia | PA | Private, Not-for-Profit | 4-year |



Region: Mid East (cont.)

| College/University | Program with Link | City | State | Type | College Setting |
|---|---|--------------|-------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Eastern University | <u>The College Success Program (CSP)</u> | Saint Davids | PA | Private, Not-for-Profit | 4-year |
| Edinboro University of Pennsylvania | <u>The Boro Autism Support Initiative for Success (BASIS)</u> | Edinboro | PA | Public | 4-year |
| Fairleigh Dickinson University-College at Florham | <u>The Compass Program</u> | Madison | NJ | Private, Not-for-Profit | 4-year |

Region: Mid East (cont.)

| College/University | Program with Link | City | State | Type | College Setting |
|--|---|----------|-------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Fairleigh Dickinson University-Metropolitan Campus | <u>The Compass Program</u> | Teaneck | NJ | Private, Not-for-Profit | 4-year |
| Indiana University of Pennsylvania-Main Campus | <u>Labyrinth</u> | Indiana | PA | Public | 4-year |
| Kutztown University of Pennsylvania | <u>My Place</u> | Kutztown | PA | Public | 4-year |
| Manhattanville College | <u>Pathways and Connections Program (PAC)</u> | Purchase | NY | Private, Not-for-Profit | 4-year |



Region: Mid East (cont.)

| College/University | Program with Link | City | State | Type | College Setting |
|-----------------------------------|--|-----------|-------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Mercyhurst University | <u>Autism Initiative at Mercyhurst (AIM)</u> | Erie | PA | Private, Not-for-Profit | 4-year |
| Pace University-New York | <u>OASIS</u> | New York | NY | Private, Not-for-Profit | 4-year |
| Ramapo College of New Jersey | <u>ENHANCE</u> | Mahwah | NJ | Public | 4-year |
| Rochester Institute of Technology | <u>Spectrum Support Program</u> | Rochester | NY | Private, Not-for-Profit | 4-year |



Region: Mid East (cont.)

| College/University | Program with Link | City | State | Type | College Setting |
|--|--|---------------|-------|--------|-----------------|
| Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania | <u>Autism Transitions for Learning Achievement and Support (ATLAS)</u> | Slippery Rock | PA | Public | 4-year |
| SUNY at Purchase College | <u>Cornerstone</u> | Purchase | NY | Public | 4-year |
| Towson University | <u>College Autism Peer Support (CAPS)</u> | Towson | MD | Public | 4-year |

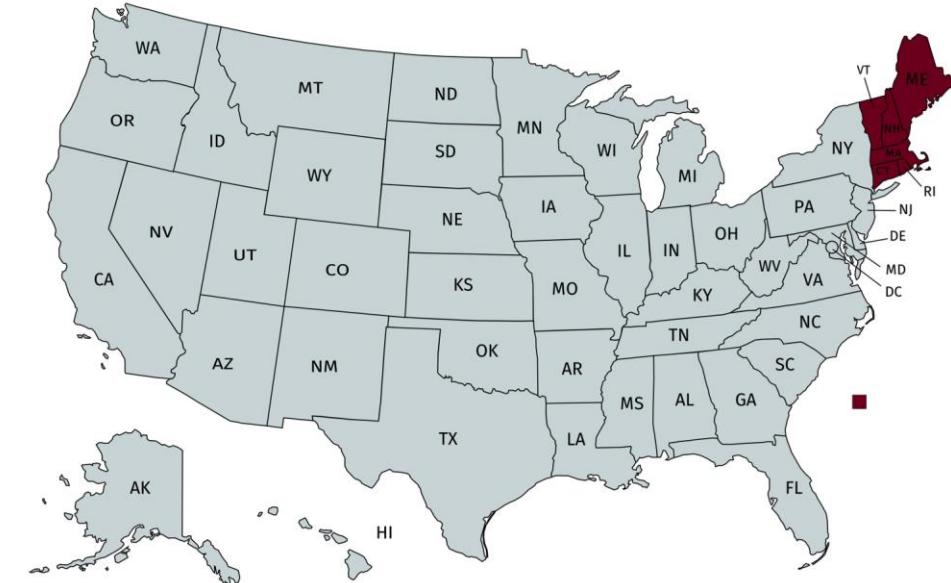
Region: Mid East (cont.)

| College/University | Program with Link | City | State | Type | College Setting |
|---|---|--------------|-------|--------|-----------------|
| University of Delaware | <u>Spectrum Scholars</u> | Newark | DE | Public | 4-year |
| West Chester University of Pennsylvania | <u>Dub-C Autism Program (D-CAP)</u> | West Chester | PA | Public | 4-year |



New England

- Number of colleges/universities in region: 260
- Number of states: 6
- Number of programs: 0



Methodology: Design

1. **Drew from The Carnegie Classification of Institutions 2015** to pull an Excel spreadsheet of all colleges and universities in the United States ($n= 4,567$)
2. **Divided states into regions** (per Carnegie Classification), with each team member assigned to colleges and universities in one or more regions
3. **Created a Google Sheets spreadsheet** featuring the following columns, inputting information related to the following points later:
 1. College name
 2. City
 3. State
 4. Institution type (private, public)
 5. Level (2-year, 4-year)
 6. Region
 1. Features a program for autistic college students (yes/no/unsure)
 2. Notes
 3. Reviewer initials
 4. Date collected

Note: Later we added columns to allow for interrater reliability (inputting the second reviewer who reviewed info, date modified, notes, and a program link)

Though 4,567 institutions were reviewed, many colleges and universities have since closed.



Methodology: Design (cont.)

4. **Determined that we would use two keywords in tandem – *autism* and *program* – to search for the existence of programs specifically for autistic college students at these colleges and universities. We searched for these terms on the homepages of these college websites.**
5. **Reviewed colleges, occasionally meeting to discuss preliminary findings.** During the search we were very intentional in determining that the college program featured messaging that indicated it exclusively catered to autistic college students (or primarily catered to them).
6. **Engaged in a second review of colleges when complete** (featuring different reviewers), paying particular attention to colleges marked as “unsure” (regarding having autism programs) and also tracking both false negatives and false positives.
7. **Discussed lingering questions and concerns about programs** to ensure we were on the same page about all included programs meeting criteria.
8. **Sent emails to 5 colleges** that were unclear in their messaging about *whom* they serve.
9. **Translated information about college autism programs into this PDF.**



Methodology: Inclusion Criteria

To be included in our list, the program had to meet these criteria:

- Centers on a college-offered *program* catered exclusively to (or primarily serving) autistic college students currently enrolled at a college or university; if unclear, we emailed the contact point representing the particular program
- Features a webpage about the program
- Currently active (e.g., not closed or under development)



Contact Us

Was your program not listed? If your program primarily or exclusively serves autistic college students, please contact list@collegeautismnetwork.org to have it added in a future iteration of this PDF.



Additional Resources

CollegeAutismNetwork.org

CollegeAutismSpectrum.com

ThinkCollege.com

TopCollegeConsultants.com



About the Authors

Catherine Tobin McDermott

Catherine Tobin McDermott graduated from Boston College with a BA and Masters Degree in Moderate Special Needs Education. She studied under Dr. Rich Simpson at the University of Kansas and earned a Masters degree in Special Education, Autism Spectrum Disorders. Her research with Dr. Simpson is published in *Teaching Exceptional Children*. She is currently working as a Transition Coordinator at the Shrub Oak International School, focusing on transition to college and college success for autistic young adults.

Brett Ranon Nachman

Brett, a member of the autism community himself, is a doctoral student in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he primarily conducts research on the depictions and experiences of autistic college students, as well as the pathways and teaching/learning experiences of community college students. He contributes to College Autism Network as a graduate student researcher and leads a network of researchers and practitioners who study/work with autistic college students.

