

# 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



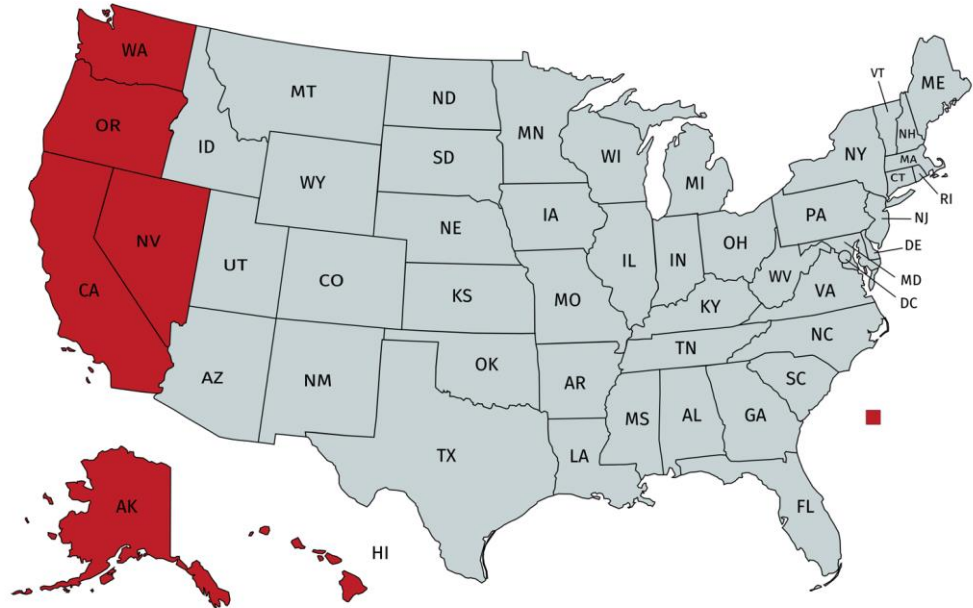
# Language and Notes

- 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  | <a href="#"><u>Neurodiversity Navigators</u></a>       | Bellevue        | CA    | Public | 2-year          |
| California Lutheran University                          | <a href="#"><u>Autism and Communication Center</u></a> | Thousand Oaks   | CA    | Public | 4-year          |
| California Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo | <a href="#"><u>Connections</u></a>                     | San Luis Obispo | CA    | Public | 4-year          |
| California State University-East Bay                    | <a href="#"><u>College Link Program</u></a>            | Hayward         | CA    | Public | 4-year          |



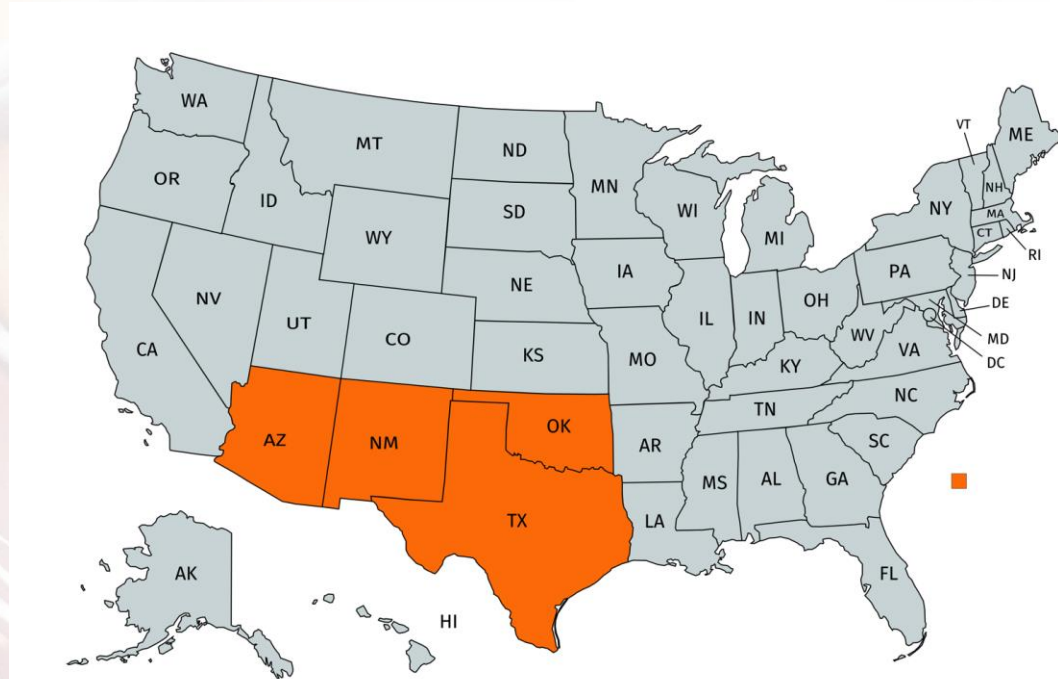
# Region: Far West (cont.)

| College/University      | Program with Link   | City             | State | Type   | College Setting |
|-------------------------|---|------------------|-------|--------|-----------------|
| Golden West College     | <a href="#"><u>Puzzle Piece</u></a>   | Huntington Beach | CA    | Public | 2-year          |
| Seattle Central College | <a href="#"><u>Supported Academic and Independent Life Skills (SAILS)</u></a> | 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        | <a href="#"><u>Autism Spectrum Disorder Program</u></a>                       | Fort Worth      | TX    | Public | 2-year          |
| Texas A & M University-College Station | <a href="#"><u>Spectrum Living Learning Community</u></a>                     | College Station | TX    | Public | 4-year          |
| Texas Tech University                  | <a href="#"><u>Connections for Academic Success and Employment (CASE)</u></a> | Lubbock         | TX    | Public | 4-year          |





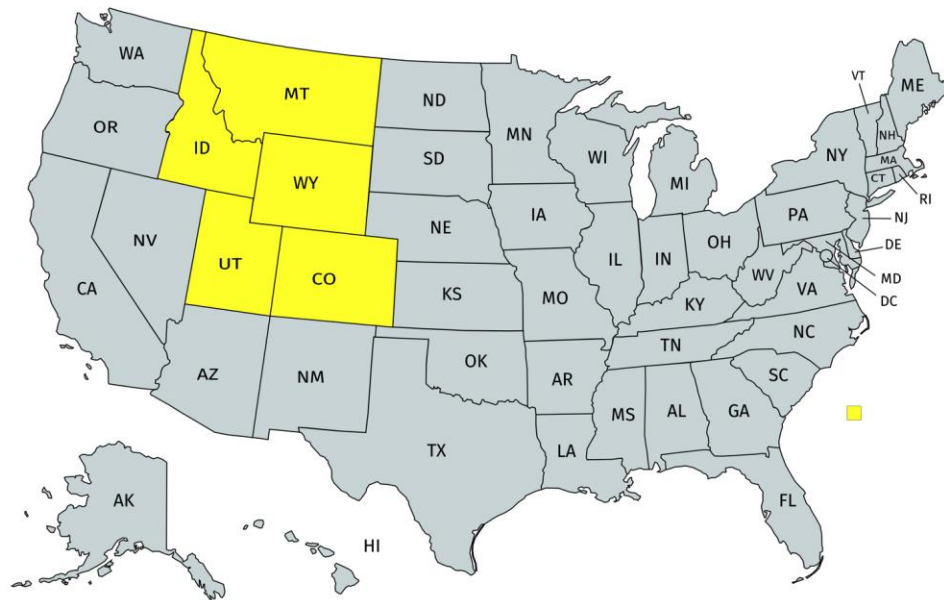
# Region: Southwest (cont.)

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



# Rocky Mountains

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



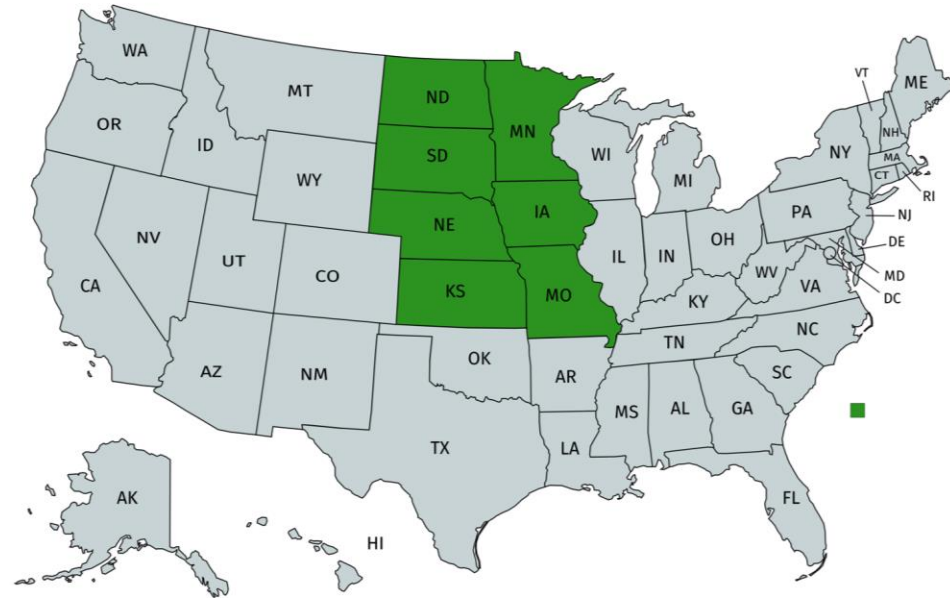
# Region: Rocky Mountains

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



# Plains

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



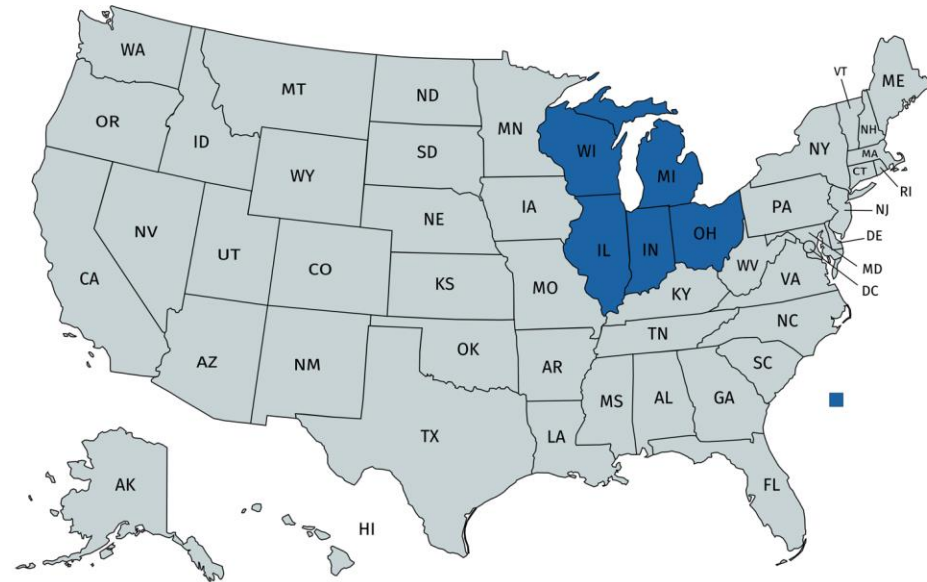
# Region: Plains

| College/University         | Program with Link  | City         | State | Type                    | College Setting |
|----------------------------|--|--------------|-------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Dakota State University    | <a href="#"><u>STRONG</u></a>  | Madison      | SD    | Public                  | 4-year          |
| Kirkwood Community College | <a href="#"><u>ASK Program</u></a>   | Cedar Rapids | IA    | Public                  | 2-year          |
| Loras College              | <a href="#"><u>Autism Resources for Career and Higher Education (ARCH)</u></a> | Dubuque      | IA    | Private, Not-for-Profit | 4-year          |
| Westminster College-Fulton | <a href="#"><u>College Transition Program (CTP)</u></a>                        | 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             | <a href="#"><u>Autism Program at Ancilla College (APAC)</u></a>                     | Donaldson  | IN    | Private, Not-For-Profit | 2-year          |
| Defiance College            | <a href="#"><u>ASD Affinity Program</u></a>   | Defiance   | OH    | Private, Not-For-Profit | 2-year          |
| Eastern Illinois University | <a href="#"><u>Students with Autism Transitional Educational Program (STEP)</u></a> | Charleston | IL    | Public                  | 4-year          |



# Region: Great Lakes (cont.)

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





# Region: Great Lakes (cont.)

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



# Region: Great Lakes (cont.)

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



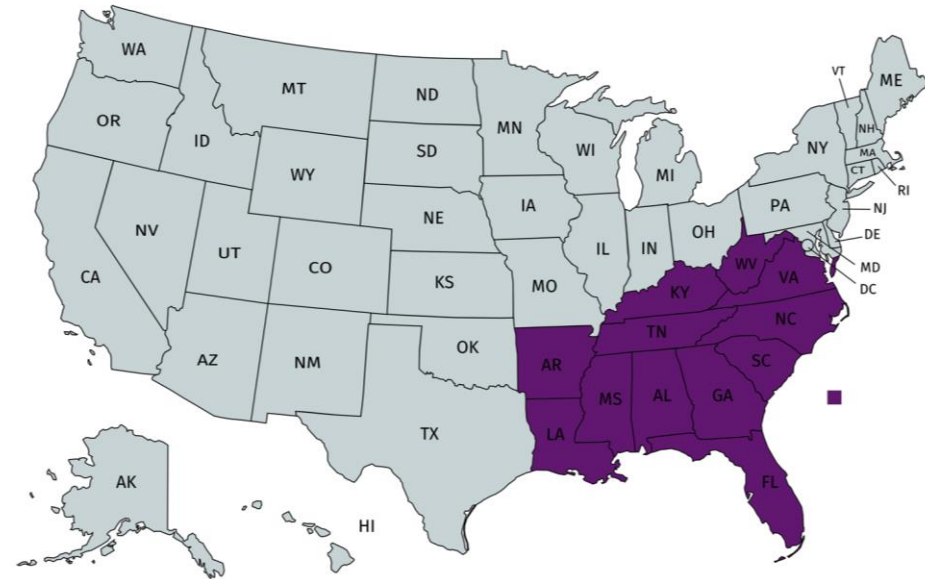
# Region: Great Lakes (cont.)

| College/University                      | Program with Link                                      | City       | State | Type                       | College Setting |
|---|--|------------|-------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| William Rainey Harper College           | <a href="#"><u>Transition Autism Program (TAP)</u></a> | Palatine   | IL    | Public                     | 2-year          |
| Wright State University-<br>Main Campus | <a href="#"><u>RASE Transition Coach Program</u></a>   | Dayton     | OH    | Public                     | 4-year          |
| Xavier University                       | <a href="#"><u>X-Path Programs</u></a>                 | Cincinnati | OH    | Private,<br>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 | <a href="#"><u>Full Spectrum Learning (FSL)</u></a>              | Clarksville | TN    | Public                  | 4-year          |
| Central Baptist College      | <a href="#"><u>Autism Spectrum Assistance Program (ASAP)</u></a> | Conway      | AR    | Private, Not-for-Profit | 4-year          |
| Clemson University           | <a href="#"><u>Spectrum Program</u></a>                          | Clemson     | SC    | Public                  | 4-year          |
| Concord University           | <a href="#"><u>The College Program</u></a>                       | Athens      | WV    | Public                  | 4-year          |



# Region: Southeast (cont.)

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



# Region: Southeast (cont.)

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



# Region: Southeast (cont.)

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





# Region: Southeast (cont.)

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



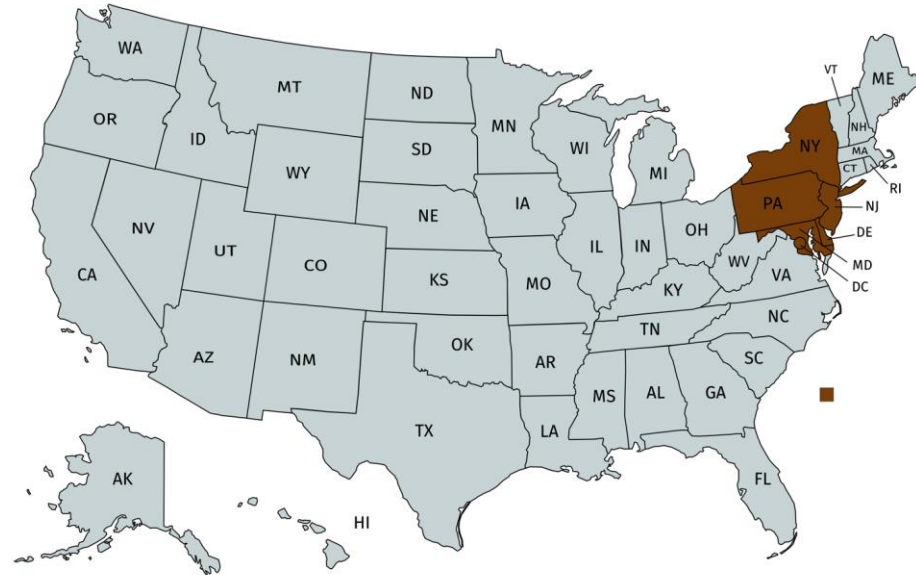
# Region: Southeast (cont.)

| College/University          | Program with Link   | City          | State | Type   | College Setting |
|-----------------------------|---|---------------|-------|--------|-----------------|
| University of West Florida  | <a href="#"><u>Argos for Autism (AAP)</u></a>                       | Pensacola     | FL    | Public | 4-year          |
| Western Kentucky University | <a href="#"><u>Kelly Autism Program (KAP) Circle of Support</u></a> | 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            | <a href="#"><u>Bridges to Adelphi</u></a>  | Garden City   | NY    | Private,<br>Not-for-profit | 4-year          |
| CUNY Brooklyn College         | <a href="#"><u>Project REACH:<br/>Resources and<br/>Education on Autism<br/>as CUNY's Hallmark</u></a> | Brooklyn      | NY    | Public                     | 4-year          |
| CUNY College of Staten Island | <a href="#"><u>Project REACH:<br/>Resources and<br/>Education on Autism<br/>as CUNY's Hallmark</u></a> | Staten Island | NY    | Public                     | 4-year          |



# Region: Mid East (cont.)

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



# Region: Mid East (cont.)

| College/University                                | Program with Link   | City         | State | Type                    | College Setting |
|---|---|--------------|-------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Eastern University                                | <a href="#"><u>The College Success Program (CSP)</u></a>                      | Saint Davids | PA    | Private, Not-for-Profit | 4-year          |
| Edinboro University of Pennsylvania               | <a href="#"><u>The Boro Autism Support Initiative for Success (BASIS)</u></a> | Edinboro     | PA    | Public                  | 4-year          |
| Fairleigh Dickinson University-College at Florham | <a href="#"><u>The Compass Program</u></a>                                    | 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 | <a href="#"><u>The Compass Program</u></a>                    | Teaneck  | NJ    | Private, Not-for-Profit | 4-year          |
| Indiana University of Pennsylvania-Main Campus     | <a href="#"><u>Labyrinth</u></a>                              | Indiana  | PA    | Public                  | 4-year          |
| Kutztown University of Pennsylvania                | <a href="#"><u>My Place</u></a>                               | Kutztown | PA    | Public                  | 4-year          |
| Manhattanville College                             | <a href="#"><u>Pathways and Connections Program (PAC)</u></a> | Purchase | NY    | Private, Not-for-Profit | 4-year          |



# Region: Mid East (cont.)

| College/University                | Program with Link                                     | City      | State | Type                    | College Setting |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------|-------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Mercyhurst University             | <a href="#">Autism Initiative at Mercyhurst (AIM)</a> | Erie      | PA    | Private, Not-for-Profit | 4-year          |
| Pace University-New York          | <a href="#">OASIS</a>                                 | New York  | NY    | Private, Not-for-Profit | 4-year          |
| Ramapo College of New Jersey      | <a href="#">ENHANCE</a>                               | Mahwah    | NJ    | Public                  | 4-year          |
| Rochester Institute of Technology | <a href="#">Spectrum Support Program</a>              | 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 | <a href="#"><u>Autism Transitions for Learning Achievement and Support (ATLAS)</u></a> | Slippery Rock | PA    | Public | 4-year          |
| SUNY at Purchase College                 | <a href="#"><u>Cornerstone</u></a>   | Purchase      | NY    | Public | 4-year          |
| Towson University                        | <a href="#"><u>College Autism Peer Support (CAPS)</u></a>                              | Towson        | MC    | Public | 4-year          |



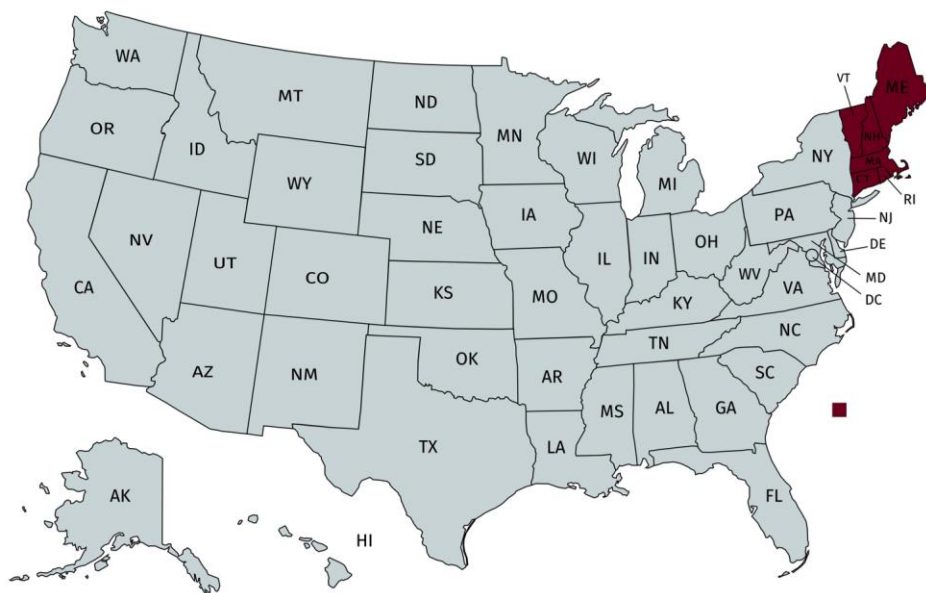
# Region: Mid East (cont.)

| College/University                      | Program with Link                                   | City         | State | Type   | College Setting |
|---|---|--------------|-------|--------|-----------------|
| University of Delaware                  | <a href="#"><u>Spectrum Scholars</u></a>            | Newark       | DE    | Public | 4-year          |
| West Chester University of Pennsylvania | <a href="#"><u>Dub-C Autism Program (D-CAP)</u></a> | 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](mailto:list@collegeautismnetwork.org) to have it added in a future iteration of this PDF.



# Additional Resources

[CollegeAutismNetwork.org](http://CollegeAutismNetwork.org)

[CollegeAutismSpectrum.com](http://CollegeAutismSpectrum.com)

[ThinkCollege.com](http://ThinkCollege.com)

[TopCollegeConsultants.com](http://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.

