
Autism Spectrum and the Implications in the College Setting

Within the past ten years, the numbers of students on the autism spectrum attending postsecondary education has increased dramatically. In addition to living away from home, the transition from high school to college can be difficult in changing daily routines and social interactions. While many students are intellectually adept, they may struggle in their new academic arena.

In the past, accommodations and services at the higher education level to address the needs of students with autism spectrum disorders were not effective. *SEAD is a program that was developed by Jane Thierfeld-Brown, Ed.D. and Lorraine Wolf, Ph.D.* In implementing the SEAD program at the University of Connecticut, a support system will be available to facilitate growth and development within students, allowing improved access to education at the postsecondary level. Our goal is for students to be able to complete their college education, graduate and lead independent lives as successful adults.

Center for Students with Disabilities



S.E.A.D.

Strategic Education for students
with Autism spectrum Disorders

University of Connecticut

Wilbur Cross Building, Room 201
233 Glenbrook Road, Unit 4174
Storrs, CT 06269-4174
(860) 486-2020 Voice
(860) 486-2077 TDD
(860) 486-4412 FAX

<http://www.csd.uconn.edu>

What is the SEAD program?

The SEAD program focuses on assisting students on the autism spectrum with understanding, achieving and developing a pathway to success.

Participants in the program will meet with a Graduate Assistant on a weekly basis to assist in social and interpersonal skills, understanding how their disability can affect their transition to college, and to provide campus support while promoting autonomy of each student. As this program goes beyond the legislative mandates, in order to provide the necessary materials and resources, participation in this program includes a rate of \$3,000 per semester.

How can I apply?

- ◆ Any admitted student who has an autism spectrum disorder and is admitted to the University is encouraged to apply.
- ◆ An application is available at the Center for Students with Disabilities.
- ◆ Once the application is completed and returned, a SEAD review board will meet to review all applications. Due to the highly individualized nature of this program, students will be selected based on specific need.

Goals of the SEAD Program

The main goal of this program is to provide the support needed to the student and their family in order to facilitate a smooth transition to the postsecondary environment. In accomplishing this goal, students will also learn more about themselves, their disability, and how to be autonomous individuals.

By participating in the SEAD program, it is our goal that students will:

- Have a smooth transition into the college atmosphere.
- Increase awareness of strategies and skills for application in the social college atmosphere.
- Make connections with both students and staff to maintain support throughout their college experience.
- Have the self-determination needed to advocate for themselves on campus.

As a part of the SEAD program, our goal is also to:

- Increase awareness and training of faculty and staff regarding Autism Spectrum disorders.
- Facilitate a positive environment for academics
- Improve coordination of accommodations and services.
- Respond to the individualized needs of the students.



SEAD Information Request

Name: _____

Current School: _____ Last Grade Completed: High school: Senior Junior
College: Freshman Sophomore

Yes, I am interested in making an appointment to learn more about the SEAD program
I can be best contacted at:
Phone number: _____ Email: _____

Yes, please send me an application
Mailing Address _____
Street

City/Town _____

State _____

Zip Code _____