



Postsecondary Support for Hispanic/Latino Students with ASD AT FLORIDA'S UNIVERSITIES, STATE COLLEGES, AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES

If your dream is to complete a certificate or degree program, but you need help for an autism spectrum disorder, consider these programs with extra resources for you.



University of West Florida
Argos for Autism

University of North Florida
THRIVE

Santa Fe College
The Spectrum of Success

University of Florida
Social GATORS

Seminole State College
Full Spectrum Supports

Nova Southeastern University
Access Plus

Some students with ASD may be able to get other supports including state and federal scholarships, through programs listed at the Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities website: https://fcsua.org/E_postsecondary.php

DID YOU KNOW

There are many ways to cover costs of your education? Support may be available from:

- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Bright Futures Scholarships
- Florida Prepaid College Plans
- Federal Pell Grants
- Scholarships at each college or university
- ABLE Accounts
- Johnson Scholarship Foundation
- Federal Work-Study Programs
- ROTC programs
- SSI Plan for Achieving Self-Support (PASS)
- Series EE and I Savings Bonds

For more information on these and other resources, visit <http://cfl.ucf-card.org/PSE>

THINGS TO CONSIDER TO PREPARE FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

There are things you can do in high school and earlier to prepare you for postsecondary education after high school.

- If you have an Individual Educational Plan (IEP), you should speak up in your IEP meetings to make sure your plan includes the help you need to succeed in school. By age 16, your plan should include your needs, preferences, and interests and list goals for employment, education/training, and independent living, as appropriate, for life after high school. The plan should address how these goals will be met and list any help you need to meet those goals.
- Consider taking career and technical education (CTE) courses in middle and high school to explore different career options, learn skills for a specific job, or earn industry certification in one of 17 career clusters.
- Consider taking dual-enrollment academic or CTE courses or other courses to earn college credit and cut college costs. Go to <http://www.fldoe.org/policy/articulation> for more information.
- You may choose to defer (put off) graduation and continue your high school education up to age 22, if you are enrolled in certain classes and this is noted in your IEP. See *Family Guide for Secondary Transition Planning for Students with Disabilities* at <http://project10.info/DPage.php?ID=322> to learn more.



WHAT IS POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION?

Postsecondary education is education or training after high school. It may be studying for a degree at a university or state college. You can also enroll in an apprenticeship or a career and technical education program at a state college or technical college to earn a certificate, industry certification, a license, or degree for a career such as car mechanic or web designer. You may want to consider both private and public postsecondary education options.

THINGS TO CONSIDER:

There are supports already available for many different needs of students with ASD in our state university, state college and technical college systems. The key to getting help is knowing what you need and where to go. Here are two tips for getting off to a good start.

- During orientation or before beginning your classes, register with the office that helps students with disabilities at your university, college, or technical college. Let them know about your disability to set up any accommodations needed. Accommodations like extra testing time, note-taking, or noise-cancelling headphones should be set up before your classes start. This office can help you if instructors need help understanding your accommodations, and they can also help tell you about resources to help you manage your time, your studies, and stress. Your program may also have free tutoring, mentoring or counseling services.
- Reach out to the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) in your area (<http://florida-card.org>) to find other assistance.

Helpful Resources:

- 🔗 **Project 10: Transition Education Network** — information for students and families planning for post-secondary education. Check out their transition road map and family guide. <http://project10.info/DPage.php?ID=322>
- 🔗 **My Next Step/Mi Próximo Paso** — information on skills, abilities, education and training needed for different careers. <https://www.mynextmove.org/> or <https://www.miproximopaso.org/> (Spanish)
- 🔗 **Florida Department of Education Career and Technical Education** page — information on career and technical education organized into 17 career clusters. <http://fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/career-tech-edu/>
- 🔗 **Vocational Rehabilitation** — services for both high school and post-secondary students, including help making career choices, paying for education and getting and keeping a job. <http://rehabworks.org/docs/flyers/TransitionYouth.pdf>
- 🔗 **Career Cruiser** — is a resource to assist students considering career goals. Available in English and Spanish. <http://fldoe.org/academics/college-career-planning/k-12-schools/career-resources.stml>