Indiana University of Pennsylvania

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UNIVERSITY RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM

It can be difficult to know where to start with disability support at IUP when you are a student on the autism spectrum. This info guide is designed to help you to understand the services and accommodations that are available to you through IUP's Disability Access and Advising (D^2A^2) as well as the recommended support program that is offered by the Labyrinth Center for Autism Spectrum Support.

First, you need to register for accommodations through the Disability Access and Advising (D^2A^2), which is the officially designated university department for providing services for IUP students with disabilities and verifying and keeping documentation of disability. After registering with D^2A^2, we encourage you to register for the ASD support program offered by the Labyrinth Center.

Disability Access and Advising (D^2A^2)

As a part of the University College at IUP, the Disability Access and Advising is here for you, the student, assisting you in your college experience by ensuring educational access and accommodations. We will assign you a D^2A^2 adviser from within our department; while we are aware of academic courses of study, this adviser is not to take the place of your academic adviser. Accommodations determined by D^2A^2, based on documentation and functional limitations, may include, but are not limited to:

- "Dear Professor Memos" verifying the need for accommodations
- Accommodated testing for in-class and online exams and quizzes - extended time, read or transcribed, including graduate exams
- Braille and alternate format texts and handouts
- Captioned audio-visual materials
- Liaison/advocacy with faculty and other departments
- Note-taking services
- Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) referrals
- Regular advising meetings with an
- assigned D^2A^2 advisor
- Screen magnification
- Sign language interpreters

We recommend that you register early with D^2A^2, identify the need for possible accommodations for each semester, and discuss your planned use of accommodations with your professors each semester to ensure that you have a right to accommodations.

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Labyrinth Center for Autism Spectrum Support

The Labyrinth Center provides a comprehensive and holistic approach to support IUP students with Autism Spectrum Diagnosis as they build relationships, gain independence, experience academic success, and graduate from IUP with the professional and personal skills needed to embark on a fulfilling life and career. The IUP Labyrinth model is based upon best practices in college programs for students with Autism Spectrum Diagnosis and is committed to providing consistent and comprehensive services led by experienced faculty and staff. The IUP Labyrinth model includes:

Credit Bearing Curriculum: You will take a required one-credit course each semester that you are registered at IUP that is dedicated to the skill sets necessary for building relationships, increasing independence, academic success, and professional and personal growth.

Academic and Life Coaching: You will meet weekly with an academic and life coach, who will help you with your current academic standing, course requirements, time management, residential concerns, communication issues, procedural questions, and any other related academic or social concerns.

Supervised Study Sessions: You will attend four hours of study in the Labyrinth Center per week that will be supervised by coaches and staff to provide support related to good study habits and productive use of designated study time.

Peer and Faculty Mentoring: You will initially be assigned a trained peer mentor to facilitate social understanding on the college campus. You will meet with your peer mentor for a minimum of one hour weekly. When you reach your junior year, a faculty mentor will be identified to support your career-specific need.

Labyrinth Center for Autism Spectrum Support
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