

CUNY Disability Support Services



CUNY Center for Teaching & Learning Accessibility at CUNY

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January 11, 2018



Fast Facts

- CUNY educates approximately 20% of all students with disabilities in New York State
- Since 2012, CUNY's population of neurodiverse students registered with Disability Services has increased by over 150%
- CUNY students with disabilities at the university have included a valedictorian, salutatorians, elected student officials and athletes and are represented in numerous majors across the university in both undergraduate & graduate programs
- CUNY LEADS, started as a grant program, will be celebrating its 10th year in 2018
- Project REACH was highlighted in Huffington Post as an exemplary program that 'helps to get students on the spectrum to succeed'
- As the result of the success of CUNY LEADS, CUNY has been awarded a grant to develop CUNY LEADS Plus, expanding services for students who require more intensive support in order to reach their potential.



Central Office of Student Affairs Services for Students with Disabilities

- Serves over 10,000 students with disabilities
- Serves 600+ students identified on the autism spectrum
- Office of Disability Services on every campus coordinates the provision of reasonable accommodations and support services for students
- Accommodations may include:
 - Alternative Testing Arrangements
 - Note Takers
 - Assistive Technology
 - Sign Language Interpreter
 - Counseling & Referrals
 - Priority Registration



Disability / Accessibility Services

Students: Getting Started

- Understand the 'Differences Between High School and College'.
- It is the student's responsibility to self-identify and register for services.
- In college we work with the student, not the parents.
- Set up appointment with campus disability/accessibility office.
- Bring recent evaluation with documentation supporting current accommodation needs (IEP alone is not sufficient).
- Discuss accommodation needs with campus accommodation specialist/advisor and maintain contact.
- Understand campus process for course and testing accommodations.



Faculty Information & Resources

- Accommodations are authorized only by the campus office of Accessibility/Disability Services
- If you have questions or concerns about the accommodations, contact the campus director
- All assistive technology services are arranged through the accessibility office
- Please include a disability statement on syllabus: *“Students in need of academic accommodations for a disability may consult with the office of Students with Disabilities Services to arrange appropriate accommodations. Students are required to give reasonable notice prior to requesting an accommodation.”*
- **CUNY Assistive Technology Services (CATS)** Faculty Resources on Accommodations and technology resources <http://cats.cuny.edu/>



Signature Initiatives

CUNY LEADS

Linking Employment, Academics
& Disability Services



Project REACH

Resources and Education on
Autism as CUNY's Hallmark



CUNY Unlimited

Program for Students with
Intellectual Disabilities



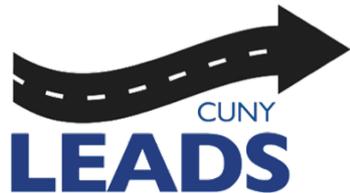
CUNY LEADS

Know where you're going. We'll help you get there.

CUNY LEADS is a program established to facilitate successful career outcomes for students with disabilities enrolled in CUNY programs.

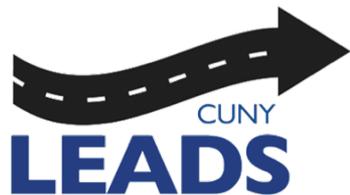
Each campus has a LEADS Advisor who provides individualized, career related guidance and services to support students as they prepare to enter the workforce.

LEADS advisors collaborate with campus departments, agencies and businesses in order to identify opportunities and ensure that each student's academic path aligns with their career goals.



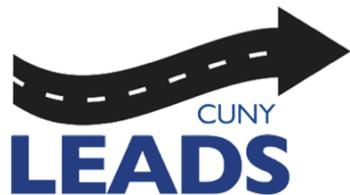
CUNY LEADS Services

- Academic advisement
- Career counseling
- Interview preparation
- Resume & cover letter assistance
- Internship & job-seeking assistance
- Self-advocacy skills & professional communication
- Workplace accommodations & disclosure training
- Referral assistance for ACCES-VR, NYSCB, and other agencies



CUNY LEADS: Getting Started

- Students should set up appointment with their LEADS Advisor
- They will work together focusing on career plans, internships and future goals
- All services are individualized according the needs and goals of each student
- While registering with Disability Services is recommended, it is not required to participate in CUNY LEADS



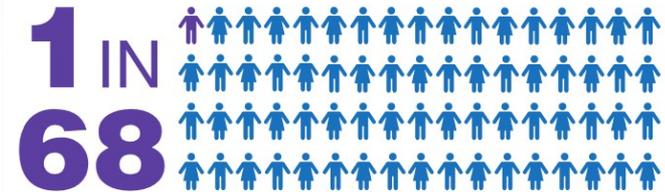
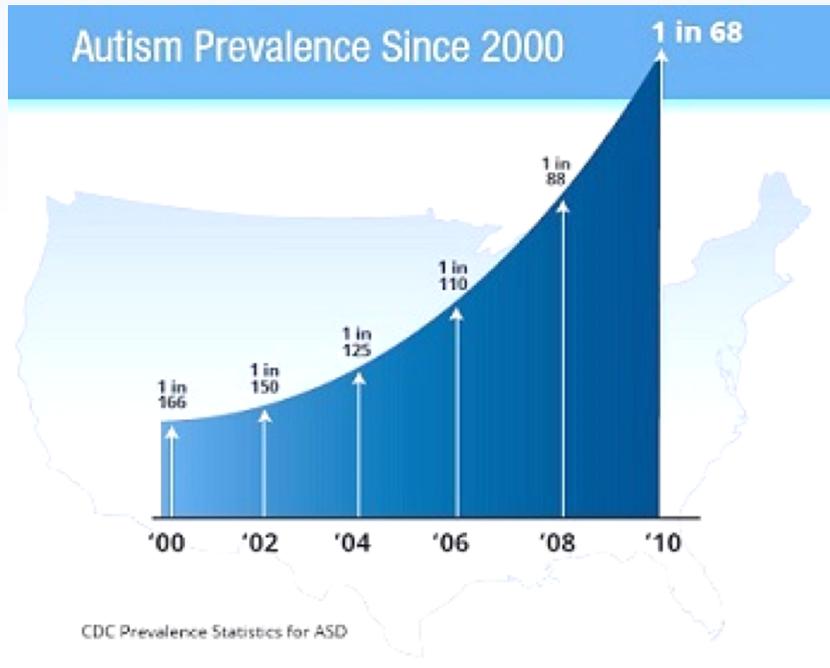
Resources and Education on Autism as CUNY's Hallmark

Project REACH is a university-wide project funded by the FAR Fund created to enhance CUNY's capacity to support its growing population of college students with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and to educate faculty and staff about students with ASD.

At the core of CUNY's mission is to provide affordable and accessible higher education opportunities to all students, especially those who have historically not had access to higher education opportunities -- like students on the autism spectrum.



Increasing Prevalence of Autism



Data from the CDC's Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network



Autism at CUNY

Totals from all campuses

School Year	Number of Reported Students	Percentage Increase Each Year
2012	229	
2013	360	57%
2014	409	14%
2015	504	23%
2016	589	17%
5-year Total Increase: 157%		

- For every student identified, there may be three times as many enrolled
- Actual population may be approximately 1,767



Goals of Project REACH

- Design and implement replicable programs that enhance supports and services at CUNY for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).
- Improve the quality of the college experience for students with ASD.
- Increase the graduation rate of CUNY students with ASD.
- Affect the University's culture through education on the needs of this student population.
- Facilitate the development of best practices in job placement and career readiness skills to enable successful career transition after students achieve their academic goals.



Project REACH Campus Programs



Kingsborough Community College - *Transition to College Support*

Provides a combination of direct and consultative services, which are more specialized and extensive services than might otherwise be available.

College of Staten Island - *Building Bridges Initiative*

Provides academic, professional, social skills and self-advocacy training to autistic students through a carefully assessed mentorship program. Provides autism training to students and faculty to increase knowledge and decrease stigma in the campus community.

LaGuardia Community College - *Academic and Social Student Integration for Success Team*

Provides resources and support to the growing population of students on the autism spectrum and integrates students in school activities.

Brooklyn College - *Collaborative Autism Spectrum Program*

Assesses and meets the demand of greater support services for students on the spectrum and the faculty and staff that interact with them.

Borough of Manhattan Community College - *Progressing Autism Spectrum Services*

Improves the chances of success for students on the spectrum by providing specialized services and supports, as well as working with faculty to make their syllabi more accessible.

CUNY Unlimited

Transition and Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities (TPSID)

Credential program in development through a federal TPSID grant to create a comprehensive transition program for students with intellectual disabilities at CUNY; in partnership with the Institute for Innovative Transition at the University of Rochester, AHRC NYC, and the NYC Department of Education District 75



Melissa Riggio Program @ BMCC
Established 2015 · AHRC NYC



Melissa Riggio Program @ CSI
Established 2008 · AHRC NYC



Melissa Riggio Program @ KBCC
Established 2008 · AHRC NYC



Melissa Riggio Program @ Hostos
Established 2015 · AHRC NYC



Inclusion Program @ Queens College
Established 2001 · NYC DOE



Challenges & Looking Ahead

- Sustainable funding is needed for disability services
 - The number of students that have disclosed a disability has increased consistently however, funding has remained the unchanged
- Retrofitting policies and programs is time consuming and cumbersome, “work-arounds” can be costly
 - Universal Design should be considered

Thank you for your participation

Questions?

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