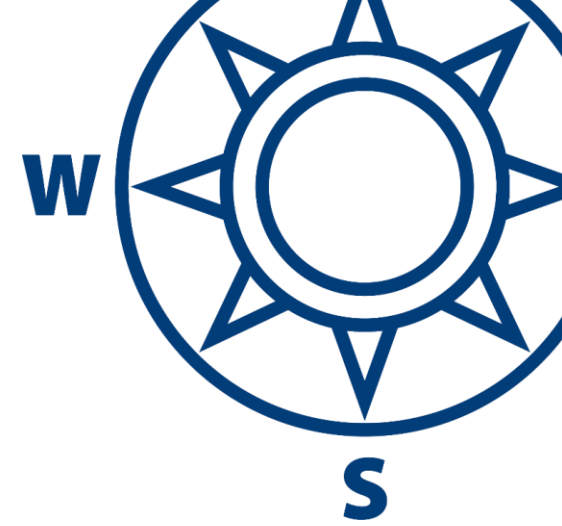




BELLEVUE
COLLEGE

Neurodiversity
Navigators



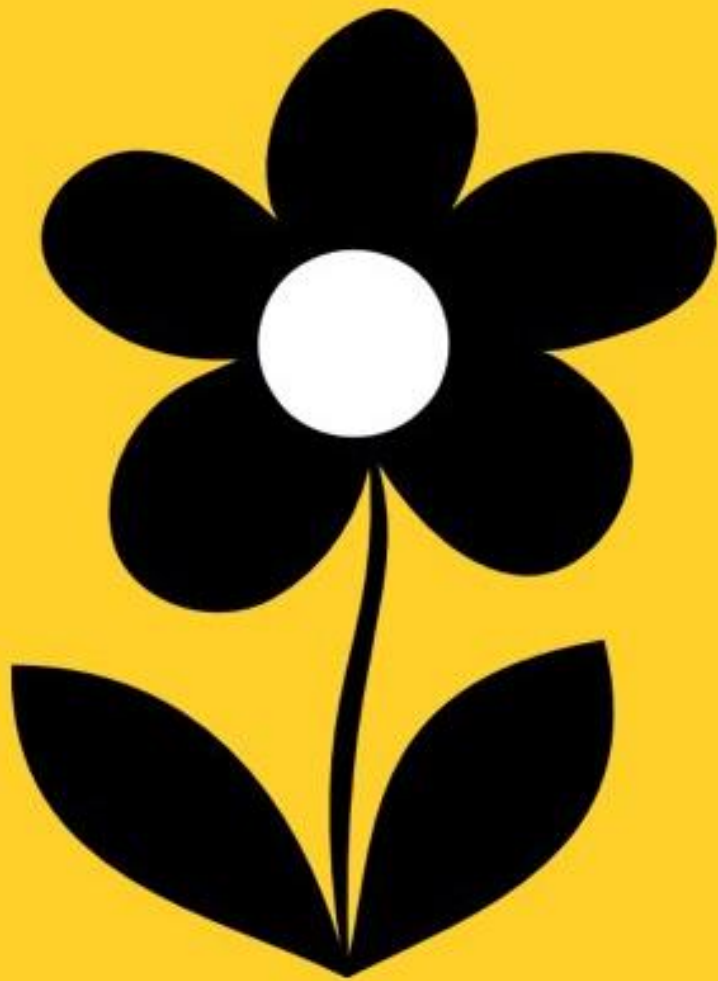
Is College Prepared for You?
What to do NOW

February 2020

Agenda

- What does Research Say?
- Deciding What You Want
- Deciding What You Need
- What Can Colleges Provide?
- Exploring Options





"WHEN A FLOWER
DOESN'T BLOOM YOU FIX
THE ENVIRONMENT IN
WHICH IT GROWS, NOT
THE FLOWER."

Alexander den Heijer

Let's consider:

Is the college prepared for the student?

Instead of:

Is the student prepared for college?



Research Says: What Students Want

- ✓ Connection with other autistic and neurodivergent students
- ✓ Advocacy with instructors
- ✓ Instructors who are educated about autism and disability
- ✓ Clearly organized assignments & syllabi
- ✓ Clear communication
- ✓ Organizational support



Research Says: What Parents Want

- ✓ Campus awareness about Autism
- ✓ Support for:
 - Communicating with peers
 - Mentoring
 - Orientation & Transitioning
 - Trained Specialists
 - Parental Involvement



Research Says: What Works

- ✓ Starting at Community College
- ✓ Living at Home
- ✓ Transition or Orientation at Start
- ✓ Peer Mentoring
- ✓ Cohorts
- ✓ Education and Support in Self-Advocacy
- ✓ Parent Support

Why Community College?

- Typically “open admission” - no SAT or ACT, high school grades don’t matter
- Articulation agreements with many universities: transfer more easily
- Close to home, may or may not have residence halls
- Smaller class size
- Reduced course load available
- Lower tuition cost
- Comprehensive support services
- Provides scaffolding



We've Found Students Need Support With

1

Academics,
including
organization
and study
habits

2

Appointments,
making,
preparing for,
and keeping

3

Self-regulation

4

Communication
with others,
including self-
advocacy

5

Social
involvement

We've Found Students Need Education In

1

Executive
Functioning

2

Self-Advocacy

3

Self-regulation

4

Social Interaction
(not Social Skills)

Deciding What You Want: PATH

EXPLORING?

- Most students fit this category
- Do you want to find out more about different options?
- Are you unsure of your passions or how they fit into a career?
- Are your academic strengths uneven or are you uncertain of your strengths?
- Are you open to attending different college options?

CAREER PATH DECIDED?

- Are you already taking career classes?
- Do you know for sure what career YOU want to pursue?
- Do you have a passion you want to follow, and know how it will fit into a career?
- Do you have a particular academic strength or overall strengths?
- Are you committed to attending a specific college?

Deciding What You Want: RESPONSIBILITY

ACADEMICS

By the time you go to college, will you be:

- Following a study schedule?
- Communicating with instructors?
- Completing assignments on time?
- Working with other students in class?
- Able to determine how much time you need to spend on assignments?
- Driving or using the bus?

LIVING ON CAMPUS

By the time you go to college, will you be:

- Waking up by yourself? Getting enough sleep without reminders?
- Getting your meals for yourself?
- Doing your own laundry?
- Cleaning the bathroom, dusting, vacuuming, mopping, taking out the trash?
- Making your own doctor appointments?
- Making social plans & staying connected



Deciding What You Need

ACADEMICS

Do you need support with:

- Following a study schedule?
- Communicating with instructors?
- Completing assignments on time?
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What Can Colleges Provide?

DISABILITY SERVICES

- Classroom and testing accommodations
- Technology accommodations
- Advocacy with faculty
- Campus disability education

ADDITIONAL SUPPORTS

- Counseling Center
- Tutoring: drop-in, individual, online
- Library
- Internet Technology Services
- Multi-Cultural Services
- LGBTQIA Center or Club
- Autism or Neurodiversity Program

Exploring Options

➤ Make your lists!

- Spreadsheet?
- Negotiables, non-negotiables
- Questions to ask
 - Be very specific



➤ Create a schedule

- Make appointments
- Go to Information Sessions
- Campus Tours
- Personal interviews

➤ Take Notes

➤ Decide – Pros and Cons list?

➤ Apply to college!



Find us on Facebook

If you “like” our page, you will see updates and other fun and educational information. Be sure to share it with friends and family, too!

Neurodiversity Navigators:

www.facebook.com/ASNavigators



Resources

Neurodiversity Navigators, email: asn@bellevuecollege.edu

web: www.bellevuecollege.edu/autismspectrumnavigators/about/information-sessions/

Videos and Articles (not only STEM!) <https://www.stairwaytostem.org/>

Accommodations and Support Facts <https://collegeautismnetwork.org/fastfact7/>

Alliance for Autism College to Employment Programs (for Institutions only)

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Reexamining the Community College Mission

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