

SPARK360

SPARK360° is an Autism Support Program under the umbrella of the Zarrow Institute on Transition & Self-Determination. Launched in Fall 2023, the program is designed to support autistic students seeking an undergraduate degree as they navigate the hidden college curriculum. The program provides full-circle support for participating students through academic planning, transition support, employment skills, independent living, and social development.



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THE FULL CIRCLE APPROACH

TRANSITION SUPPORT

Individualized plans reinforced with weekly meetings to facilitate goal setting and attainment.

ACADEMIC COACHING

Focus on executive functioning skills such as note taking, time management, strategies, and organization.



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Facilitating common social connections through program activities, student organizations, campus events, and dedicated program space.

INDEPENDENT LIVING

Supports for adapting to living alone or with a roommate and managing life skills such as hygiene and domestic responsibilities.

EMPLOYMENT SKILLS

Assistance with employment-centered campus resources including resume building, interview skills, and opportunities for employment.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

DIAGNOSIS

Students who have been formally diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder.

ADMIT STATUS

Students who have met all University admission and academic standards and have been fully and formally admitted.

CLASSIFICATION

Priority is given to 1st and 2nd year students, but anyone may apply and will be accepted as space allows

ENROLLMENT

Students must have full-time status, either through credit hours or an accommodation.

APPLICATION Process

DOCUMENTATION

Documentation from the student's provider that indicates an autism diagnosis

GENERAL APPLICATION

Completed by the student & their parent/guardian(s)

PERSONAL STATEMENT

A brief essay on their interest in the program, how it will benefit them, & what they hope to get out of it.

PARTICIPANT EXPECTATIONS

GRADE POINT AVERAGE

Participants are expected to maintain a 2.7 semester GPA

STUDY HOURS

Monitored study hall sessions will be held throughout the week at the library and the Zarrow Institute. Freshmen and sophomores are expected to complete an average of at least four hours/week; juniors and seniors may be eligible to do three.

CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT

Participants are encouraged to join and actively participate in at least one university organization

SOCIAL EVENTS

The program will host several social events for participants throughout the semester and it is expected that participants will attend all activities as their course schedules allow

MENTORING/COACHING

Participants will meet 1:1 with their designated SPARK360 coach for at least one hour each week

WORKSHOPS

The program conducts several workshops on relevant topics such as money management, career skills, interpersonal relationships, study skills, etc. Students are expected to attend a minimum number throughout the semester.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

FEES

SPARK360 is a fee-for-service program; fees for the following academic year are determined in the Spring, and will be kept as low as possible

PARTICIPANTS

The number of participants is determined based on our coaches' capacity

ACCOMMODATIONS

Students needing housing and/or academic accommodations will need to register with the Accessibility and Disability Resource Center

PRIORITY ENROLLMENT

Program participants will receive priority course enrollment

OPTIONAL SUMMER SUPPORT

Program participants taking classes at any institution in any format may be eligible to receive summer support for an additional fee

APPLICATION DEADLINES

- **FALL SEMESTER: SEPTEMBER 1ST**
 - Qualifying applications submitted after this date will be deferred to the Spring semester and accepted or waitlisted as space allows
- **SPRING SEMESTER: FEBRUARY 1ST**
 - Qualifying applications submitted after this date will be deferred to the Fall semester and accepted or waitlisted as space allows

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