

ENHANCE

THE ENHANCE PROGRAM AT RAMAPO COLLEGE



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www.ramapo.edu/enhance



The **ENHANCE** program is a therapeutic support program which takes a holistic approach and focuses on social, emotional, and organizational growth to assist those students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in adapting and flourishing in college and beyond. **ENHANCE** offers additional services and resources to support our students over and above what is required under current disability law.

Ramapo has long been at the forefront of supporting students with learning differences and the **ENHANCE** program is an exciting opportunity intended to help new students transition from high school to college and keep current students academically and socially engaged in order to maximize their college experience.

The **ENHANCE** program consists of the following components:

- Individualized weekly appointments with counselor
- Weekly group meetings for peer support
- Students to be paired with trained Peer Mentors
- Social Events
- Parent Consultations

Through these components, the **ENHANCE** program strives to provide students with individually tailored supports to identify their own personal goals to address and enrich:

- Academic performance
- Social interaction with peers
- Interaction with campus personnel
- Organization and time management
- Self-advocacy

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the admissions process for the program?

Once accepted to Ramapo College of New Jersey, a student can apply to the **ENHANCE** program. Students may inquire and receive information about **ENHANCE** at any time.

Is ENHANCE open to commuters as well as resident students?

Yes, the **ENHANCE** program is open to both commuter and resident students. We recognize that not all students are ready to live on campus and **ENHANCE** provides peer mentors and social events to assist students in feeling more connected to campus and helping them make a smooth transition to college.

Will people on campus know if a student is in the ENHANCE program?

Confidentiality is an important component of the **ENHANCE** program and no one will know of a student's participation in the **ENHANCE** program without a signed consent form.

Will Resident Assistants be trained to understand the characteristics of ASD?

Residence Life Staff receives training to recognize behaviors and characteristics of students with ASD to better serve this population.

Does the ENHANCE program offer assistance for parents coping with their student's transition to college?

Yes, we understand and respect the challenges that can occur when parenting a child with ASD and intend to offer as much support as possible.

How can students get academic accommodations?

Academic accommodations are provided through the Office of Specialized Services (OSS) at Ramapo College of New Jersey. OSS provides comprehensive services to students with a documented disability.

Does ENHANCE help foster social integration on campus?

ENHANCE offers regularly scheduled social events which our students are encouraged to attend. We assist our students individually, in groups and through Peer Mentoring to join clubs and attend campus events.

Will ENHANCE students have an earlier move-in date?

ENHANCE students have the opportunity to participate in "Drop and Go" where they can move their belongings into their rooms prior to the move-in date.

Is there a separate orientation process for students in the ENHANCE program?

Yes, we will offer a reception for our **ENHANCE** students and provide introductions to the **ENHANCE** staff, Counseling and Health Services staff and other relevant staff. We will tour the campus and show students where their classrooms are located. The Orientation process is designed to provide introductions to other **ENHANCE** students and to reduce anxiety about transitioning to campus life.

If a student needs help in an interaction with a professor, will you step in?

Yes, there are different ways in which we can assist. We can strategize together in ways to approach professors, help construct emails, and attend meetings with a student, if necessary. We will assist students with methods to achieve self-advocacy.

Is there a fee for this program?

Yes, there is a separate fee for this program. Students can use loans and aid to help pay for this program. New Jersey residents may also contact New Jersey Division of Vocational Rehabilitation for assistance in paying for a disability-related need.

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