

Nothing about us without us!

***Please save to your computer before filling out this application.***

If this application is hard for you to understand or fill out for any reason, please let us know and we can help you. Email Dean Strauss at [dstrauss@autisticadvocacy.org](mailto:dstrauss@autisticadvocacy.org) if you need help, or if you want to answer the application questions over the phone or Zoom instead of writing them.

To apply for Autism Campus Inclusion (ACI), you **must**:

- *Be autistic.* You do not have to have an official autism diagnosis to apply.
- *Be a student at a college or university with at least one year left before you graduate.* Students in TPSID programs (Transition and Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities), 2-year community colleges, 4-year colleges, and graduate school are eligible to apply.
- *Live in the United States or Canada.* This includes all 50 states, all US territories, and all provinces and territories of Canada. (Please note: the policy sections of our program will focus on the United States) You do not have to be a citizen of either the US or Canada.

People applying for ACI should be interested in making the world a better place for people with disabilities, and want to learn how to make their own self-advocacy and leadership skills better.

ACI students will attend ACI between **July 10<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023**. This year's program will be held in person, if it is safe to do so. If we cannot have ACI in person, we will hold it virtually.

ACI students will learn skills that they can use when they go back to school. They will make goals to make their schools and communities better for people with disabilities. When ACI is over, ASAN will help ACI students meet their goals by keeping in touch with them during the school year. If you are interested in ACI and think it is a good fit for you, please fill out the application below.

**Applications are due by the end of the day (midnight) on Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> of March.** Finished applications should be sent to **Dean Strauss** with the subject line "2023 ACI Application" at [dstrauss@autisticadvocacy.org](mailto:dstrauss@autisticadvocacy.org).

**Before sending your application, save your application as [Last Name] ACI 2023 (ex. Sanchez ACI 2023)**

***ACI is made possible thanks to the generous support of Nicole Cliffe***

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## Application Form

### Contact Information

First Name:	Last Name:
Street Address:	Apt/Suite:
City:	State:
Zip Code:	Phone:
E-mail:	

### Background Questions

What college or university do you go to?
What year are you at school (1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , etc.)
What is your major in school?
Are you autistic or on the autism spectrum (Yes or No)?
Are you 18 years old or older (Yes or No)?

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### Optional Questions

1. What is your age?

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2. What pronouns would you like us to use for you (examples: she, he, they, xe)?

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3. How did you hear about ACI?

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4. We want to make sure that ACI is as diverse as possible. We are especially looking for students who are:

- People of color
- People from religious minorities
- People with intellectual disabilities
- People with other disabilities in addition to autism
- Nonspeaking people
- LGBT+ people
- People from low-income backgrounds

You can help us make sure we have a diverse group of students! You can tell us these things about yourself. You can tell us about some of these things, all of them, or just one. You do not have to tell us any of this -- only tell us if you want to.

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You can write as much or as little as you like for each question, but **around a paragraph for each question is a good amount to aim for**. You can also put your answers on a separate sheet if you think you need more space.

**1. Is it important to you to have an autistic community? If it is important to you, why? Do you connect with other autistic people (in class, online, in your community, or some other way)? If you do, tell us about it. If you do not, do you want to?**

**2. Why are you interested in advocacy for yourself and for other autistic people?**

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**3. What do you know about the disability rights movement? What do you know about other civil rights movements? What does autistic advocacy have to do with civil rights?**

**4. Who are your advocacy role models? These can be any people who make change by speaking up for themselves and others: people you know, activists in civil rights movements, self-advocates, etc. What do you like about the way your role models do advocacy?**

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**5. There are a lot of topics about autism that people don't always agree about. We want to know what you think about some of these topics. It is okay to say that you don't know or need to think more about it.**

**a. Do you think autism should be cured?**

**b. Do you think vaccines cause autism?**

**c. How do you feel about calling people high-functioning and low-functioning?**

**d. How do you feel about therapies that force autistic kids to act "normal"? Or therapies that involve punishing autistic kids or keeping them separate from other people?**

**6. What problems facing people with disabilities matter most to you as an advocate?**

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7. What do you know about ASAN? Take a look at our [website](#). If you need easy-to-read formats, you can find them in the “Easy Read” section of [this page](#). Do any of our issues, resources or campaigns look interesting to you? Which ones? What do you like? What do you want to know more about?

8. What advocacy goals do you have to make your campus a better place for autistic and other disabled students?

9. What's your plan to achieve those goals? Give as much detail as you can.

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**10. What do you want to learn that would help you achieve your advocacy goals? How would you share what you learn with other self-advocates at your school?**

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