

Nothing about us without us!

Please save this file to your computer before filling out the application.

About Autism Campus Inclusion (ACI)

You should apply for ACI if you want to make the world better for people with disabilities. You should apply for ACI if you want to improve your self-advocacy and leadership skills. Self-advocacy means taking control of our own lives. It can mean making choices about how we live, like picking what we do at school. It can also mean working together to change things for all people with disabilities.

ACI students will do ACI for seven days. ACI will be from July 14th to July 20th, 2025. ACI will be virtual this year. That means you will go to ACI on your computer and meet other students online. Because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, ACI has been virtual since 2020.

You will learn skills that you can use when you go back to school. You will also come up with goals to make your school and community better for people with disabilities. When ACI is over, ASAN will help you meet your goals. We will keep in touch with you during the school year.

We can do ACI because of Nicole Cliffe's generous support.

About this application

If this application is hard for you to understand or fill out, let us know. We can help you. Email Dean Strauss at dstrauss@autisticadvocacy.org if you:

- **Have questions about the application; or**
- **Need help filling out the application; or**
- **Want to answer the 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.
 - You can be self-diagnosed as autistic.
- ***Be a student at a college or university with at least one year left before you graduate.***
 - Students in TPSID (Transition and Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities) programs can apply.
 - Students in 2-year community colleges can apply.
 - Students in 4-year colleges can apply.
 - Students in graduate school can apply.
- ***Live in the United States, Canada, or Mexico.***

- You do not have to be a citizen of the US, Canada, or Mexico, you only need to live there.
- The US here means all 50 states and all US territories.
- Canada here means all provinces and all Canadian territories.
- Mexico here means all states and all Mexican territories.
- (Please note: ACI is presented entirely in English and the policy sections of ACI will only talk about the United States)

If you want to do ACI and think it would be good for you, please fill out the application below.

Before sending your application, save your application as [Last Name]_ACI 2025 (ex. Sanchez_ACI 2025).

After you finish your application you should send it to Dean Strauss at dstrauss@autisticadvocacy.org. For the subject line, write "2025 ACI Application".

Applications are due by 11:59 pm Eastern Time on Sunday, March 9th, 2025.

Application Form

Contact Information

First Name	
Last Name	
Street Address	
Apartment/Suite	
City	
State	
Zip Code	
Phone Number	
Email Address	

Background Questions

What college or university do you go to?	
What year are you at school (1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd , 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)?	

Optional Questions

What is your age?	
What pronouns should we use for you? (For example: she, he, they, xe)	
How did you hear about ACI?	
<p>We want to make sure that ACI is as diverse as possible. 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.</p> <p>We are especially looking for students who are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● People of color ● People from religious minorities, like Muslim or Jewish people ● People with intellectual disabilities ● People with other disabilities in addition to autism ● Nonspeaking people ● LGBT+ people 	

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• People from low-income backgrounds | |
|--|--|

Are you part of any of these groups?

Questions

You can write as much or as little as you like for each question. Writing a paragraph for each question is a good amount to aim for. You can also write your answers on a separate sheet if you need more space. We ask these questions to understand what you know about the autistic community, our history, and some topics that we talk about at ACI, like vaccines and functioning labels.

1. Is it important to you to have an autistic community?

a. If it is important to you, why? If it is not important to you, why not?

b. Do you connect with other autistic people (in class, online, in your community, or some other way)?

c. If you do, tell us about it. If you do not, do you want to?

2. Why do you want to learn about advocacy for yourself and for other autistic people?

3. What do you know about these movements:

a. What do you know about the disability rights movement?

b. What do you know about other civil rights movements?

c. What does autistic advocacy have to do with civil rights?

4. Who are your advocacy role models?

Your advocacy role models can be any people who make change by speaking up for themselves and others. Your advocacy role models could be people you know, activists in civil rights movements, self-advocates, or anyone.

Who are your advocacy role models?

What do you like about the way your role models do advocacy?

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 people should cure autism?

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”;
- Punish autistic kids;
- Or keep autistic kids apart from other people?

6. What problems that people with disabilities deal with matter most to you?

7. What do you know about ASAN?

Take a look at our [website](#).

If you need easy-to-read resources, you can find them in the “Easy Read” part of [this page](#).

a. Which of our issues, resources or campaigns look interesting to you?

b. What do you like?

c. 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?

It's okay if you're still figuring out your goals! It's better to tell us part of an idea than to not tell us any goals. We can help make your goals stronger, but we want to make sure you have some ideas on where to start.

9. What's your plan to achieve those goals?

Give as much detail as you can.

10. What do you want to learn that would help you achieve your advocacy goals?

11. How would you share what you learn with other self-advocates at your school?

