



LEADERSHIP · INNOVATION · IMPACT

PREPARING AN AUTISM-INCLUSIVE WORKFORCE

Discover how GSAPP is transforming education, services, and employment for people with autism across New Jersey and beyond.



THE NEED FOR ACTION



Once a relatively rare diagnosis, autism is now one of the most common neurodevelopmental conditions in the world. Today, more than ever, there is a growing need for:

- ✓ Skilled clinicians and behavior analysts
- ✓ Autism-informed professionals across all industries
- ✓ Inclusive employment and postsecondary support

CSAPP is preparing an interdisciplinary workforce to meet that need across the lifespan and systems.



OUR MISSION

Rutgers University's **Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology (GSAPP)** has been shaping the future of mental and behavioral health since 1974. Recognized as the "**Gold Standard**" in professional psychology education, GSAPP empowers students to become exceptional practitioners and bold leaders—ready to elevate the field and make a lasting impact.



GSAPP'S BOLD COMMITMENT

- ✓ Home to one of the nation's highest quality graduate programs for training Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)-certified professionals
- ✓ Founded in 1972, the Douglass Developmental Disabilities Center (DDDC) was the first university-based program to provide on-campus K-12 education
- ✓ The Rutgers Center for Adult Autism Services (RCAAS) was established as a pioneering model for campus- and community-based services that are individually transformative and family-preserving
- ✓ Developed and continues to expand the College Support Program to provide intensive, individualized support for neurodivergent Rutgers students
- ✓ Established the nation's first endowed faculty chair in adult autism to advance research and innovation in the field



THE RUTGERS ADVANTAGE

Rutgers is unique in its comprehensive commitment to service delivery, education, and research in the field of autism and developmental disabilities. This commitment is reflected in its robust network of centers and diverse range of educational offerings. These include a Master's program, a new PhD program, a planned undergraduate degree, and extensive collaboration with the Office of Professional Development and Continuing Education. Coupled with a strong emphasis on experiential learning and clinically focused research, this integration of service, education, and research forms the foundation for both client and student success while driving continued progress in the field.



SYSTEMIC CHANGE STATEWIDE REACH

Our work extends well beyond GSAPP's classrooms and clinics by:

- ✓ Consulting with state agencies and other higher education institutions
- ✓ Shaping inclusive public policy
- ✓ Helping employers design accessible hiring, training, and workplace strategies
- ✓ Creating autism-informed workforce pipelines in healthcare, education, and government
- ✓ Providing support services for neurodivergent individuals navigating the workplace



BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

With your support, GSAPP can:

- ✓ Expand its training pipeline to meet workforce needs
- ✓ Increase access to autism services across NJ and beyond
- ✓ Advance cutting-edge research and community outreach
- ✓ Serve as a national model of integrated autism support

Together, we can build a future where ALL individuals with autism thrive—in school, at work, and in society.

To learn more or support this initiative:



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