Bridges to Adelphi Program

World-Class Academics. Personalized Learning.

Your Path to a Rewarding College Experience

ADELPHI UNIVERSITY

NEW YORK

Winner of a Gold Award and Bronze Award for its work with students with autism spectrum disorder, from Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education
How can Adelphi help me achieve my goals?

The goal of the Bridges to Adelphi program is that, upon graduation, every student enrolled in the program will have an opportunity to get a job in the area they studied, where they receive competitive wages so that they can live independent and successful lives.
College is a big adjustment for anyone. But if you have autism spectrum disorder, or a nonverbal or neurosocial disorder, making the move from high school to higher education can seem especially challenging.

The Bridges to Adelphi program is designed specifically to ease that transition, offering one-on-one academic, social and vocational support services. Because Adelphi prides itself on being inclusive, the Bridges program also promotes awareness and understanding of neurosocial disorders throughout the campus community, through education, training and collaboration with University faculty, staff and students.

Bridges is a program unlike any other, and it has made Adelphi a prominent destination for students like you from all over the United States. Its personalized approach provides you with the tools to advocate for yourself, achieve academically, make new friends and embark on a career—putting you on the road to success.

How does Adelphi compare?

Adelphi ranked seventh highest nationwide by OnlineCollegePlan.com for programs for students with autism.

The three-year average retention rate for Bridges students is 86%.
What kind of skills will I be learning?

While college is an exciting and transformative time, it’s also a giant step into the unknown. You’ll have more academic work, meaning you’ll need to develop solid time management and organizational skills. Each semester, you’ll have to adjust to a schedule that changes every day. You’ll also have to keep on top of exams, short- and long-term assignments, meetings and appointments.

Envision yourself building a whole new social life, too, meeting new people and discovering new activities. For many, college will be your first time away from home. You’ll be making your own choices about what to eat and how much you sleep. But whether you’re living on campus or at home, it’s a different level of independence.

“All students are individuals and part of our jobs as educators is to determine their learning styles. With the technology and know-how we have today, the potential for people having special needs leading productive and fulfilling lives can become the rule rather than the exception.”

—Stephen Shore, Ed.D., clinical assistant professor of special education, who has autism spectrum disorder
Bridges to Adelphi can help smooth your path. We offer individual and group services that address your anxieties and cover your concerns, so you'll never feel like you’re doing it all alone. These services include:

- Academic coaching
- Learning assistance
- Problem-solving guidance
- Behavioral modeling
- Peer mentoring
- Career counseling
- Social opportunities
- Time management strategies

The supportive Bridges to Adelphi staff is dedicated to helping you learn the skills you need to do well on campus, in a career and in life.

Earlier this year, Bridges to Adelphi, in collaboration with the nonprofit organization KultureCity, opened an innovative Sensory Room—a calming refuge for students and others in the campus community with autism spectrum disorder or other sensory special needs. It is the first of its kind on a college or university campus.

Pictured above: Student reading in the Sensory Room in a beanbag chair by the bubble wall.
“My Bridges Team”—who are they?

Your Adelphi experience will be as unique as you are. We help by offering personalized support designed to meet your individual needs.

Each Bridges student is assigned a team—an academic coach, a learning strategist, a peer mentor and a vocational coach—who will provide one-on-one feedback to keep you on track and moving forward.

With your written consent, Bridges staff members will also be able to keep University professors and staff, and your parents, in the loop about your progress and concerns.

“Investment in people on the autism spectrum and with other disorders isn’t a waste of time and isn’t just made to push them up to be a standard, average person. These are people who can truly succeed when given the right opportunities.”

—Bridges student Sean Culkin ’17, biology major, currently a disease researcher at Northwell Health
What can I expect?

ACADEMIC GUIDANCE
You’ll meet at least twice a week with both your academic coach and your learning strategist, who will work with you to develop a personal plan with step-by-step directions on how to meet the challenges of college life. These professionals will monitor academic growth and provide ongoing planning and guidance. Depending on your goals, meetings with your academic coach and your learning strategist can focus on:

- Reviewing the syllabus for each of your courses
- Time management strategies
- Building executive functioning skills
- Completing assignments on time
- Study skills
- Research and library skills
- Problem-solving techniques
- Anxiety reduction
- Interpersonal skills and social group meetings
- Communication skills

SOCIAL SUPPORT
You’ll have the opportunity to meet every week with a student peer mentor who can help you refine your interpersonal skills, build a trusted peer relationship and get more involved with campus life. Peer mentors are usually student leaders who volunteer their time to work with Bridges to Adelphi students. You’ll also be able to:

- Attend twice-weekly, open group social skills and support meetings with your fellow Bridges students.
- Enjoy twice-monthly group social outings, both on and off campus, which include community service opportunities.

Drawing and designing are easy for me. But making friends and managing my time are more difficult. The Bridges to Adelphi program is able to help me organize and take care of more difficult work, while at the same time, outside of academics, it helps me to socialize with my friends.”

—Ryan Serchuk, senior, communications major with minor in graphic design; Bridges to Adelphi student

I have career goals.

I have career goals. Can you help me get there?

VOCATIONAL SKILLS
Bridges is ahead of the curve in helping students like you find meaningful employment, with recent graduates landing full-time positions at companies including Northwell Health and Enterprise Rent-A-Car. Your vocational coach can help you identify areas of interest and pinpoint your strengths to establish a direction for your future career. You’ll also have access to:

- On-campus job opportunities to gain work experience
- Résumé writing and job interview skills
- Vocational testing assessments to further guide you toward careers and majors
- Paid summer internship opportunities
- Additional help from the Center for Career and Professional Development

Can you help me get there?
You can enroll in Bridges to Adelphi as soon as you have been formally accepted to the University. To apply to Adelphi, visit adelphi.edu/apply.

After receiving your acceptance, go to bridges.adelphi.edu/inquire. Fill out the online interest form to schedule an in-person meeting between you, your parent or guardian, and the program director.

The cost of the program is in addition to the costs of tuition, room, board and books, as well as other University fees. To find out more, visit financial-aid.adelphi.edu/tuition/fees or contact the Office of Student Financial Services at 516.877.3080.

Contact bridges@adelphi.edu for further information about the Bridges to Adelphi program.

We look forward to welcoming you into our community.

“[After two brain hemorrhages], the doctors said I would be in hospital for a long time. Bridges to Adelphi director Mitch Nagler, M.A. ’06, was my mentor for five years. He understood my needs. Now I’m graduating college. It’s a big deal for me!”
—Bridges student Charlotte Champigny ’18, biology major
I was always curious about what’s happening around the world and current events. Most of all, I like learning about different cultures. [At Adelphi] I have learned about what’s expected of me in the future and the career path that I wish to take.”

—Bridges student Pedro Izquierdo ’17, international studies major
SAFETY FIRST

Colleges and universities are required under federal law to publish and make available an annual campus security report, which includes, among other information, statistics on campus crime. The crime statistics for all colleges and universities required to comply with this law are available from the United States Department of Education.

Adelphi University’s annual security report includes statistics for the previous three years concerning reported crimes that occurred on campus; in certain off-campus buildings or property owned or controlled by Adelphi University; and on public property within, or immediately adjacent to and accessible from, the campus.

The report also includes institutional policies concerning campus security, such as policies concerning alcohol and drug use, crime prevention, the reporting of crimes, sexual assault, emergency response plan, timely warnings, fire statistics, missing students and other matters. The advisory committee on campus safety will provide upon request all campus crime statistics as reported to the United States Department of Education. You may obtain a copy of this report by contacting the Department of Public Safety and Transportation, Levermore Hall, lower level, 516.877.3500 or by accessing administration.adelphi.edu/publicsafety.

The United States Department of Education’s website for campus crime statistics is ope.ed.gov/security.

As a reminder, the back of any Adelphi University ID card provides you with weather advisory and alert numbers to obtain information on any possible delayed openings or school closings. To register for the University Mass Notification System, log on to eCampus (ecampus.adelphi.edu) and click on University Mass Notification System.

ACCREDITATION

Adelphi University, an independent, comprehensive institution, is chartered by the University of the State of New York, and is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, 3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-2680, 215.684.5000; the New York State Education Department, 89 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12234, 518.474.3852; the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 530, Washington, D.C. 20036, 202.887.6791; the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), 2010 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20036-1023, 202.466.7490; and AACSB International—The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, 777 South Harbor Island Blvd., Suite 750, Tampa, FL 33602-5730, 813.769.6500.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Adelphi University is committed to extending equal opportunity in employment and educational programs and activities to all qualified individuals and does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, age, color, creed, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, ethnicity, national origin, disability, genetic predisposition or carrier status, veteran status, status as a disabled or Vietnam-era veteran, gender expression, or any other basis protected by applicable local, state or federal laws. Adelphi University does not discriminate on the basis of sex or gender in any education program or activity it operates as required by Title IX. All questions regarding Title IX should be referred to Title IX Coordinator and Director of Equity and Compliance Renae Frierson, Room 207, Levermore Hall, 516.877.4819, titleix@adelphi.edu. The discrimination coordinator for student concerns pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is Rosemary Garsabedian, Director of the Student Access Office, Post Hall, 516.877.3145, sao@adelphi.edu; the discrimination coordinator for employee concerns pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is Jane Fisher, Director of Employment, Employee and Labor Relations, Room 203, Levermore Hall, 516.877.3222; the coordinator of Title VII and the affirmative action officer is Cindy Donnelly, Chief Human Resources Officer, Room 203, Levermore Hall, 518.877.3268.
“The students that I work with have been judged by their diagnosis for their whole lives, and they’re far more than that.”

—Mitch Nagler, M.A. ’06, LMHC, director of the Bridges to Adelphi program