



MERRIMACK COLLEGE

THE ACTIVATE PROGRAM

Accessibility Services Office



1 TO 1 COACHING

Weekly meetings with an ASO staff member provides students a point person for questions and help in navigating the nuances of college life.



ACTIVATE MENTORS

Paid positions are offered to returning Activate students to mentor new Activate students, providing a rich, welcoming and safe first-job experience.



GWNN GROUP

GWNN, a self-named student group, meets weekly to play board games and socialize as a group to foster belonging and relationships amongst members.



FYE COURSE

Each fall, there is a section of the First-Year Experience course specifically for neurodiverse students in Activate taught by an ASO staff member and a Peer Mentor.



SOCIAL EVENTS

Throughout the year, the Activate Peer Mentors host a number of social events including movie nights, paint nights and other social outings for other Activate students.

A PLACE FOR CONNECTION

Our goal is to create an evolving program where our neurodiverse students belong, have a space to build their own identity and network of community, and feel they have pride in themselves and their diversity.

AUTISM AS NEURODIVERSITY

“If you have met one person on the autism spectrum, you have met one person on the autism spectrum.” This is a wonderful saying that captures the array or spectrum of our students. Autism is more like a trend of similarities noticed in the world’s neurodiversity than a fixed set of features. Given certain environments or situations, an individual on the autism spectrum may exhibit a variety of behaviors. However, there is such a vast array of how this plays out in someone’s life.

Thus, a program for autistic students must be dynamic and adaptive, involving the students themselves in the development process and must grow to support the students’ changing needs. And as it is a loose trend, some students without an autism diagnosis but who may exhibit similar behaviors may also benefit from Activate.



QUESTIONS?

Email us at Activate@Merrimack.edu

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