

The mission of the Academic Success Program

(ASP) is to provide all university students with LD and ADHD with programs and services to help them develop and enhance the skills, strategies and personal confidence necessary to meet their academic goals and to participate successfully in university life.

To accomplish this mission, the program provides the following accommodations and services when appropriate for students with diagnosed learning and attentional disabilities:

- coaching to help students set and achieve goals
- instruction to help students improve learning strategies
- self-advocacy and disability awareness
- access to lecture notes, assistive reading technology, test-taking modifications and registration

The program also serves as a resource to the Carolina community, providing:

- consultations with professors and UNC-Chapel Hill staff on issues related to students with LD/ADHD
- collaborations with other professionals in the field
- assistance to parents as their teenager transitions to college life at UNC-Chapel Hill
- workshops and seminars for students, faculty and staff, parents and professionals

The Academic Success Program for Students with LD and ADHD

A LEARNING CENTER PROGRAM

Helping
Students
Discover
their Gifts

When Rachel Reyes transferred to Carolina, she was afraid to seek out resources to help her manage her ADHD because she didn't want to be labeled as less intelligent. Even though she studied hard and knew the material, she failed her first exam. Knowing she should have done better, Rachel turned to the Academic Success Program. On her next exam, she made the highest grade in the class.

"My confidence has improved tremendously since I started working with my life coach and saw my grades improve. What I love is that the resources the program provides are not passive but they actively help students learn new skills. I feel like I finally found my place at Carolina."

"My vision for the Academic Success Program is for it to be just as new and cutting-edge as it is now for new generations of Carolina students. Learning services, I believe, will be a growing, changing field in the years to come and I look forward to seeing the program and its resources evolve with it."

Rachel Reyes '10
Psychology

"Without the Academic Success Program, part of me doubts I would have been able to graduate from UNC-Chapel Hill," says Kyle Slough, of Charlotte, N.C., who earned his psychology degree in December 2008.

"Without resources like the text to speech readers, the low-distraction testing environments and the coaching and support the specialists provide, it's hard for me to say if I would have been successful or not."

Kyle participated in the program during his entire career at Carolina. He is now pursuing a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling and vocational evaluation at East Carolina University's College of Allied Health Sciences. He hopes to someday work with others who have learning disabilities.

Kyle Slough '08
Psychology



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL



The Academic Success Program (ASP) was created in the mid-1980s as Learning Disabilities Services in an effort to provide services to Carolina students with learning disabilities. Since then, more than 2,400 students have benefited from the services offered. In academic year 2008-09, more than 400 students were served by the program, an increase of nearly 1,500 percent from 1985 when it assisted just 32 students.

Estimates suggest that 2–10 percent of college students have learning and attentional disabilities, and students with learning disabilities (LD) and Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) now make up the largest percentage of the disabled population on college campuses.



Yet as the number of students with documented learning disabilities is rising, support for the Academic Success Program is declining. Recent university-wide budget cuts have reduced the program's funding by almost 10 percent at a time when its services are needed more than ever. Private support is critical to helping the program remain a national leader in assisting students with documented LD and ADHD.

Your gift will help the Academic Success Program:

- Develop services for first-year students, including summer transition programs, coaching groups, skill-based workshops and mentorship programs.
- Purchase state-of-the-art technology for students and enable staff to research and support the technology.
- Sponsor faculty and staff discussion groups and training designed to increase awareness and help them adapt to students' learning differences.
- Provide professional development opportunities for program staff to research and implement innovations and best practices in the field.

As a student-athlete at Carolina in the late 1990s, Fuquay-Varina native Kenneth Cox experienced success both on the track and in the classroom, thanks to the Academic Success Program.



"They really just took me in," Kenneth says of the program. "I wasn't far from home, but having depended so much on my counselors and mentors in high school, I wanted to be in an environment that would continue to help me grow and not use my learning difference as a crutch.

"They weren't allowing me to depend on them as much as they were trying to build me up. I believe it's the reason I was able to be successful throughout my time at UNC."

It was Kenneth's goal to graduate in four years; and he did just that, completing his bachelor's degree in communication studies in May 1999. He is now head coach of cross country and track and field at Birmingham-Southern College.

"My experience was unparalleled. There's nothing I wasn't able to do because of my difference. I'll be an advocate for the program forever. I owe them so much."

Kenneth Cox '99
Communication Studies

Catherine Schenck, of Charlotte, N.C., knew she wanted to attend a school that offered support for her dyslexia. She was thrilled when she learned about the Academic Success Program.

"Attending Carolina was my lifelong goal, but I didn't know if it could meet my requirement of providing accommodations for learning disabilities. The Program is helping me achieve my goal."

The coaching offered by the program eased Catherine's transition to college, and accommodations such as extended test-taking times and distraction-free testing areas have helped her live up to her academic potential.

"I would not be in the position I'm in now without the Academic Success Program," Catherine says. "The people you work with are amazing—they're always easily accessible whenever you have a problem. There's always someone to talk to, and they'll do anything they can to help and make sure you succeed."

Catherine Schenck '11
History
(pictured right)

"Carolina's mission is, in part, 'to provide high quality undergraduate instruction to students within a community engaged in original inquiry and creative expression.' This includes students who experience challenges due to documented learning-based disabilities, and the Academic Success Program is dedicated to providing them with the tools they need to be successful."

Bobbi Owen
Michael R. McVaugh Distinguished Professor of Dramatic Art and Senior Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education



For more information about supporting the Academic Success Program (ASP) for Students with LD and ADHD, contact:

The Arts and Sciences Foundation
134 E. Franklin St., CB# 6115
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-6115
919/962-0108

Help students discover their gifts.

Your support is vital to ensuring that the Academic Success Program can help Carolina students with learning disabilities and ADHD get the help they need to succeed.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Telephone: _____
E-mail: _____

\$ _____ + \$ _____ = \$ _____
Personal Gift Company Match Total*

**Matching gifts can double or triple your gift. If you or your spouse works for a matching gift company, please ask the personnel officer for a matching gift form. Enclose the form with your gift.*

Method of Payment:

- Pledge** \$ _____ payable over _____ years
- Check** (payable to the Arts and Sciences Foundation, note "Academic Success Program, #1528")
- Charge** my contribution of \$ _____ to
 - MasterCard
 - VISA
 - American Express
 Card # _____
Expiration date: _____

- **Stock** (Contact the Arts and Sciences Foundation at 919-962-0108)
- **Online** gift (www.college.unc.edu/foundation)

Signature: _____
Date: _____

Annual gifts of \$1,500 or more qualify donors for membership in the **Arts and Sciences Dean's Circle**.

Return Completed Form to:

UNC-CH Arts and Sciences Foundation
134 E. Franklin St., CB# 6115
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-6115
or use the enclosed business reply envelope

Thank You!