

ENHANCE

THE ENHANCE PROGRAM AT RAMAPO COLLEGE



www.ramapo.edu/enhance



The **ENHANCE** Program is a therapeutic support program that takes a holistic approach and focuses on social, emotional, and organizational growth to assist autistic students in adapting and flourishing in college. **ENHANCE** offers additional services and resources to support our students over and above what is required under current disability law.

Ramapo College of New Jersey has long been at the forefront of supporting students with learning differences and the **ENHANCE** Program is an exciting opportunity intended to help new students transition from high school to college and keep current students academically and socially engaged in order to maximize their college experience.

The **ENHANCE** Program consists of the following components:

- Individualized appointments with counselor
- Group meetings for peer support
- Students to be paired with trained Peer Mentors
- Social Events
- Academic Workshops

Through these components, the **ENHANCE** Program strives to provide students with individually tailored supports to identify their own personal goals to address and enrich:

- Academic performance
- Social interaction with peers
- Interaction with campus personnel
- Organization and time management
- Self-advocacy

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the admissions process for the ENHANCE Program?

Once accepted to Ramapo College of New Jersey, a student can apply to the **ENHANCE** Program. Students may inquire and receive information about the **ENHANCE** Program at any time.

Is the ENHANCE Program open to commuters as well as resident students?

Yes, the **ENHANCE** Program is open to both commuter and resident students. We recognize that not all students are ready to live on campus and the **ENHANCE** Program provides peer mentors and social events to assist students in feeling more connected to campus and helping them make a smooth transition to college.

Will people on campus know if a student is in the ENHANCE Program?

Confidentiality is an important component of the **ENHANCE** Program and no one will know of a student's participation in the **ENHANCE** Program without a signed consent form.

Will Resident Assistants be trained to understand the characteristics of autism/autism spectrum disorder (ASD)?

Residence Life Staff receives training to recognize behaviors and characteristics of autism to better serve this population.

Does the ENHANCE Program offer any assistance for parents coping with their student's transition to college?

Yes, we intend to offer as much support as possible to parents and families.

How can students get academic accommodations?

Academic accommodations are provided through the Office of Specialized Services (OSS) at Ramapo College of New Jersey. OSS provides comprehensive services to students with a documented disability

Does the ENHANCE Program help foster social integration on campus?

ENHANCE offers regularly scheduled social events, which our students are encouraged to attend. We assist our students individually, in groups and through Peer Mentoring, to join clubs and attend campus events.

Will students in the ENHANCE Program have an earlier move-in date?

Students in the **ENHANCE** Program have the opportunity to participate in “Drop and Go”, during which they can move their belongings into their rooms prior to the move-in date.

Is there a separate orientation process for students in the ENHANCE Program?

Yes, we offer a reception for new students in the **ENHANCE** Program and their families. We provide introductions and important information from the **ENHANCE** Program, Counseling and Health Services, Office of Specialized Services, and the Center for Student Success. Peer mentors tour the campus and show students where their classrooms are located. The orientation process is designed to provide introductions to other **ENHANCE** students and to reduce anxiety about transitioning to campus life.

If a student needs help in an interaction with a professor, will you step in?

Yes, there are different ways in which we can assist. We can strategize together in ways to approach professors, help construct emails, and attend meetings with a student, if necessary. We will support students with methods to achieve self-advocacy.

Is there a fee for the ENHANCE Program?

Yes, there is a separate fee for the **ENHANCE** Program. Students can use loans and aid to help pay for the **ENHANCE** Program. New Jersey residents may also contact New Jersey Division of Vocational Rehabilitation for assistance in paying for a disability – related need.



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