

Testimonials

"Transition is going well for *(my Student)*! His grades are very good so far this semester. We as parents are very pleased how well the transition has been for *(him)*. *(He)* doesn't seem to have any issues or any frustrations with his classes..."

Parent of a Project TAP participant

"*(My student)* transitioned very well with everyone's help. The check-ins and meetings are very helpful and he is really enjoying his first year at Harper!!"

Parent of a Project TAP participant

"...I'm happy to say that they *(Project TAP mentees)* are both doing phenomenally well, and I couldn't be more blessed to have been their mentor this year!"

Lauren V, Mentor

"*(He)* is a truly impressive student. His thoughtful contributions to class discussions really were an asset to our learning environment in ENG...He is also a conscientious and invested student..."

Amy L, English Instructor



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Project TAP

Transition Autism Program

Unique to community colleges in Illinois and the United States, Harper College's **Transition Autism Program**

utilizes an intensive case management system with skillful, caring, experienced professionals, mutually beneficial peer mentoring, a parental involvement component, and multiple other exceptional resources offered by Harper.

This dynamic combination creates the opportunity for the most successful transition from high school to college for students on the autism spectrum.

Project TAP supports students on the Spectrum with the transition from high school to college.

Through a unique multilayered approach to academics and degree/certificate completion, interpersonal relationships, and job/career preparedness, we are structuring the college experience for our students:

- We bolster success in academics by direct support from professional Counseling staff in Access and Disability Services, keeping the students on track, encouraging use of Harper's free campus resources, including tutoring, with the goal of ultimate credit completion at Harper College.
- We employ a mutually beneficial peer mentoring program to improve interpersonal relationships, and help develop the freshman's campus, cultural and social awareness.
- In addition to the Job Readiness workshops (highlighting résumé writing, interview skills and job search strategies), we also encourage the students to attend social skill/social thinking-based workshops with their mentors. *The ADS Office has also employed several students on the Spectrum as student aides, providing them with hands-on office/business experience.*

- Another component of Project TAP is the parent support program with opportunities for parents supporting parents and social activities, etc.
- The counseling team of Michele DeCanio and Stacey Watson have more than 25 years of therapeutic counseling, academic and career advising between them, in both private practice, and here at Harper College.

Activities TAP students and Mentors engaged in/attended at Harper and in the community:

- Coffee with the Counselors
- Kick-off Dinner (with parents)
- Hullabaloo
- "Feed My Starving Children" Volunteer Night
- Improv Workshop for adults facing social challenges
- Résumé Workshop
- Interviewing Workshop
- Job Search Workshop
- Healthy Relationships 101
- Disability Awareness Week events
- "Comfort Dogs Come to Harper"
- Autism Awareness Day
- Robotics Workshop
- Other Community Social Groups/Outings
- End of Semester Pizza Party

Prospective Students

To apply for TAP, you can download the application from our web page, www.harpercollege.edu/ads, click on the Transition Autism Program link in the left sidebar for access to the application link. Applications for the next Fall semester are available after November. Print out the application, complete it with your information, then either scan/email to:

projecttap@harpercollege.edu,

or fax the application to **847.925.6267**, or mail it to:

**Project TAP/Access & Disability Svcs
1200 W. Algonquin Road
Palatine, IL 60067-7398**

An application to the TAP program is considered complete and will only be accepted if it includes:

- Must be graduating/accepting diploma, or graduated high school prior to attending Harper
- Completed the Harper College application and received an acceptance letter for the Fall term
- Applied for ADS services and completed an Intake interview with the Access and Disabilities Office
- Uploaded or delivered to ADS a Psychological evaluation showing an Autism Spectrum diagnosis or the most recent IEP or 504 plan with autism diagnosis
- Completed the Project TAP application
- ACT scores on file with the Harper application, or Harper College Placement Tests Scores
- Transcript from High School; must have 2.75 out of 4.0 GPA
- Parent portion of Application