

**MISERICORDIA
INTEGRATED STUDIES FOR
STUDENTS WITH AUTISM**



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UNIVERSITY.**

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Misericordia University offers a new, inclusive, post-secondary certificate program designed specifically for students with moderate Autism, with or without co-morbid disorders, and Intellectual Disability. The certificate program, Integrated Studies is a fulltime, college-based, 2-year program specifically designed for students between the ages of 18–26 and gives prospective students access to a fulltime inclusive and supported program of study.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE AND OUTCOMES

Students will participate in college courses and experiences that will allow them to work towards living an independent life. The program will provide meaningful courses and seminars that will support their transition, education, and social skills development.

A choice of several pathways will be made available for the students to select including liberal arts, early childhood education, and vocational/employment opportunity exploration. The program aims to prepare each student for gainful employment.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The program will require 40–60 credit hours that are a mixture of inclusive courses, including the first-year experience, audited courses, and internship and job shadowing opportunities. Additional seminars will be provided to support college life and socialization. Students are enrolled as full-time, non-degree seeking students, with all the rights and responsibilities of a degree seeking student.

Students in the program have access to institutional facilities, consistent with other students, which supports the achievement of their goals. This program is designed to provide excellent opportunities in education, career development, and social participation within an inclusive academic setting. The program is based on *Think College* standards and created with support from the PA Inclusive Higher Education Consortium and other successful programs.

CURRICULUM

All students will take a required 3-5 liberal arts courses (9–15 credits).

Individuals may also select a full pathway of liberal arts courses:

Early childhood pathway:

- **TED 100** Education Seminar
- **TED 190** Education Seminar Field
- **ECE 110** Introduction to Early childhood
- **TED 131** Cultural Awareness
- **TED 191** Freshman Field

Exploration of Art and careers/vocational Pathway:

- **COM 102** Intro to Mass communications
- **HPE 128** Intro to Exercise Science
- **ENG 120** Theater production
- **FA 103** Fundamentals of Drawing and Composition
- **FA 124** Fundamentals of Painting
- **FA 133** Fine Art Photography
- **CPS 101** introduction to programming
- **MTH 115** Basic Statistics

All students will take courses on campus. Student will have the opportunity to audit courses with Misericordia students without disabilities. An academic policy will be created by the post-secondary certificate program and will confer with the faculty of such courses to work in collaboration with course instructors/chairs to modify the course syllabi and assignments so that no additional burden is placed on the faculty.

Students will have the option of taking courses for credit. Satisfactory academic progress will be determined by the professor in accordance with Misericordia policy. Students seeking this path will need to fill out a part time admissions application once enrolled in the Misericordia Integrated Studies program.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

All students will have completed high school with either a diploma or with a certificate and will need to have a demonstrated interest in exploring additional academic and/or vocational skills development as well as being exposed to a liberal arts education.

[misericordia.edu/integratedstudies](https://www.misericordia.edu/integratedstudies)

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

All students admitted to the Misericordia Integrated Studies Program must:

- Be between the ages of 18–26 at the start of the program.
- Have a documented diagnosis of ASD and may have an additional comorbid diagnosis.
- Demonstrate interest in pursuing higher education at Misericordia University.
- Demonstrate interest in preparing for and desiring meaningful employment.
- Successfully completed high school or secondary institution with a diploma, GED, special education diploma, and/or certificate.
- Have either received or would have been eligible to receive services under IDEA (i.e., had an IEP/504).
- Demonstrate sufficient emotional stability, safety, and independent living skills to participate with minimal support in all aspects of the Misericordia Integrated Studies coursework and campus environment.
- Have functional literacy skills and basic computer literacy to comprehend basic safety signage, complete assignments with supports, and navigate the campus independently.
- Have the potential to successfully achieve individual and course goals with minimal support.
- Be able to appropriately participate in 75-minute classes with necessary accommodations in place to function independently in social situations.
- Be able to accept and follow campus rules and policies and behave respectfully towards others without supervision.
- Have and be responsible for their own cell phone.
- Highly desired: enrolled in county supports coordination/OVR/waiver at the start of the program.

ADMISSION PROCESS

Misericordia's Integrated Studies Program will be accepting two to six students each Fall and Spring Semester. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

In addition to a completed application form for admission students will be required to submit a personal statement to include:

- Describe the world you come from — for example, your family, community or school, and tell us how your world has shaped your dreams and aspirations.
- Tell us about a personal quality, talent, accomplishment, or contribution that is important to you. What about this quality or accomplishment makes you proud and how does it relate to the person you are?

PLEASE NOTE: Personal statements can be submitted in a word document, audio or video format.

Prospective students must also include documentation of disability

- Most recent Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- Psychological-Educational or Neuropsychological Evaluation (by a licensed professional and dated within 2 years of your application date)

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

- Resume or summary of work/volunteer history.
- Official high school transcripts and most recent IEP/504 and (if applicable) IEP and summary of performance.
- Completed Student Interest Questionnaire on the application, or email your response as a video or PowerPoint attachment.
- Two recommendation letters from current/former teacher or employer and/or member of community (coach, mentor etc.).
- One family member recommendation.

ONCE ACCEPTED

A person-centered planning meeting will take place prior to the start of the semester involving the student, parents/guardians, program staff and support team.

NOTE: Due to space limitations, it is possible that not all applicants who meet criteria for admission will be accepted into the Integrated Studies Program. A wait list will be available.

FINANCIAL AID

Misericordia Integrated Studies is a Comprehensive Transition Program (CTP). Students should complete the FAFSA during their admissions process to determine if they are eligible for Federal Pell Grants, Supplemental Education Grants or Federal Work-Study.

Students may apply funds from PA Medicaid waiver funding toward tuition and educational support; and/or apply funds from OVR.

Additional scholarships may be available through:

- Ruby's Rainbow
- O'Neill Tabani Enrichment Fund
- Other local, community-based organizations

Think College has a helpful resource on paying for college, and program staff is available to advise on this process to ensure that the program is financially accessible for any accepted student.

For more program and admission information or to schedule a campus tour please call (570) 674-8200.



It starts at the
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