



Are you about to graduate from high school
and consider yourself a **neurodivergent student**?

This information is for you!

Autism Spectrum

Neurodiversity is an umbrella term which includes conditions such as: dyspraxia, dyslexia, dyscalculia, attention deficit with hyperactivity, Tourette's Syndrome and autism spectrum, currently considered as forms of human diversity that require the adoption of alternative perspectives to promote inclusion and exploit creative potential (Clouder *et al.*, 2020).

Autism spectrum (ASD) is a neurobiological condition in which the development of skills for social interaction and communication is compromised, it is also identified by the presence of repetitive, stereotypical motor behaviors and unusual interests.

Some signs for you to recognize if a person has an autism spectrum condition are (NIH, 2018):

- Difficulty expressing feelings (they may seem insensitive or distant).
- Difficulty understanding other people's feelings.
- Difficulty understanding social messages (they may have some difficulty understanding body language or facial expressions).
- Difficulty handling sensory information (loud noises, bright lights, or crowds may bother them).
- Difficulty handling a new routine.
- Making little or inconsistent eye contact.
- Having a tendency not to see or hear people.
- Not responding or being slow to respond when their name is called.
- Having difficulty following conversations.
- Frequently talking for a long time about a topic they prefer, not allowing others a chance to respond or not noticing when others react indifferently.
- Repeating certain behaviors or engaging in unusual behaviors, such as repeating words or phrases.
- Show intense and prolonged interest in certain topics, such as numbers, details, or data.

Some suggestions to facilitate your academic journey are:

- Establish good communication with your parent(s) and share with them what college environment you would like to be in.
- Explore the University's website and identify the types of services and programs for neurodivergent individuals.
- Identify the support networks that the institution can provide to accompany and support you in your academic difficulties.
- Recognize your competencies and their compatibility with the career of your interest.

Neurodivergent students, including those with ASD, think and learn differently, so they require the use of differential and inclusive educational strategies, in addition to entering areas of knowledge with similar schemes to their ways of thinking.

Clouder L.; Karakus M.; Cinotti, A.; Ferreyra, M. V.; Fierros, G. A.; Rojo, P. (2020). Neurodiversity in higher education: a narrative synthesis. *Higher Education* 80(3): 757–778.

National Institute of Mental Health. (2018). *Autism Spectrum Disorders*. National Institutes of Health, (19). Available at: <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/-publications/espanol/trastornos-del-espectro-autista/>

Some areas of study recommended for students with autism are:

Areas and Majors

Areas	Major
Business and Administration	Public Accountant Bachelor in Public Administration and Political Science Bachelor in Finance Bachelor in Tourism Management Bachelor in Marketing
Agronomy and Veterinary	Agricultural Engineer Veterinary Zootechnician
Arts and Humanities	Bachelor in Visual Arts Bachelor in Industrial Design Bachelor in Hispanic American Literature Bachelor in Linguistics Bachelor in Music
Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and Statistics	Bachelor in Biology Bachelor in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Bachelor in Physics Bachelor in Mathematics Pharmaceutical Chemistry and Biology
Education	Bachelor in Special Education Bachelor in Mathematics Teaching
Engineering, Manufacturing, and Construction	Architecture Mechatronics Engineering Electronic Systems and Telecommunications Engineering Electronic Technologies Engineering Oceanic Engineering Mechanical and Electrical Engineer Chemical Metallurgical Engineer Geomatics Surveyor Engineer
Information and Communication Technologies	Software Engineering Intelligent Computing Engineering
Services	Bachelor in Gastronomy

General Directorate of Educational and Vocational Counseling

☎ 312 316 11 15, extension 35301 (Monday to Friday)

✉ orienta@ucol.mx

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