



PROJECT CASE

Project CASE (Connections for Academic Success and Employment) is a college transition program that supports students with complex disabilities, including autism, to successfully integrate into college. With the support of Project CASE, these students have the opportunity to pursue an academic degree or certification in a field of their choice. Project CASE faculty and staff serve as the liaison between the enrolled student and the college/university system, helping them navigate the academic and social complexities that are fundamental to college life.

PROJECT CASE WILL:

- Assess student's strengths, needs and potential stressors
- Serve as the liaison with the Texas Tech Student Disability Services office
- Prepare individualized monthly written reviews addressing progress, goals, challenges, etc.
- Serve as an open line of communication with each student
- Address areas college will not: hygiene, social norms, friendships, etc.
- Provide coaching, supported education and strategic education targeting
- Serve as a campus point person for parents
- Explore possible career paths through internships related to the student's field of study
- Develop interview skills, resume writing, and application procedures for internships and jobs
- And much more....



Dr. DeAnn Lechtenberger serves as the Project CASE Director and leads this collaboration between the Burkhart Center for Autism Education and Research, Texas Tech University and the Texas Department of Assisstive and Rehabilitation Services (DARS). These entities work closely with campus and community employers to offer a wide array of individualized, coordinated supports and services for CASE students.



The Burkhart Center Faculty and Staff



TEXAS COUNCIL *for*
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

1. Students must first meet the developmental disability criteria according to the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities.

• www.todd.texas.gov/resources/what-is-developmental-disability

2. Apply and be accepted to Texas Tech University or South Plains College

3. Register with the Student Disability Services Office on the campus of their choice.

NOTE: Students applying to Project CASE should be able to do college level work and be willing to participate in volunteer internships, social activities, and data collection surveys throughout the academic year.



Financial support for Project CASE: Connections for Academic Success and Employment is provided by the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities, with Federal funds made available by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Federal funds \$222,924 (75%) Nonfederal match funds \$74,308 (25%).

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:



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PROJECT CASE

CONNECTIONS for
ACADEMIC
SUCCESS and
EMPLOYMENT

Project CASE assists students with developmental disabilities to navigate college in order to reach their academic goals and to find competitive employment.



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
The Burkhart Center for Autism
Education & Research



The Burkhart Center for Autism Education and Research developed a college transition program entitled Project CASE through a grant from the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities (TCDD).

Project CASE links resources from the Burkhart Center at Texas Tech, South Plains College, the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS), and local business partners to offer a wider array of coordinated support services than are typically provided in higher education for students with disabilities. The goal of this program is to assist students in navigating college to live a fulfilling, independent life and to earn an academic degree or technical certificate that will lead to competitive employment.

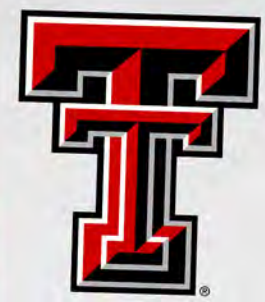


Upon acceptance into the CASE program, each student is assigned a Learning Specialist.

LEARNING SPECIALISTS

WORK WITH EACH STUDENT TO:

- Identify the student's strengths, interests, values, and career goals
- Coordinate support services to meet individualized needs of each student
- Guide a student in making informed decisions and being proactive
- Provide strategies to develop skills in time management, organization, and planning
- Facilitate weekly student check-ins and monthly Wraparound Team meetings
- Connect student with community and campus internships to build valuable job skills



HOW TO APPLY:

- Apply and be accepted into Texas Tech University or South Plains College.
- Complete and submit the Project CASE application with two reference letters.
- Applications can be obtained by contacting the Project CASE Director, Dr. DeAnn Lechtenberger at deann.lechtenberger@ttu.edu.
- Project CASE staff will contact students with completed applications for a personal interview.
- For additional information on Project CASE or the Burkhart Center go to www.burkhartcenter.org.

