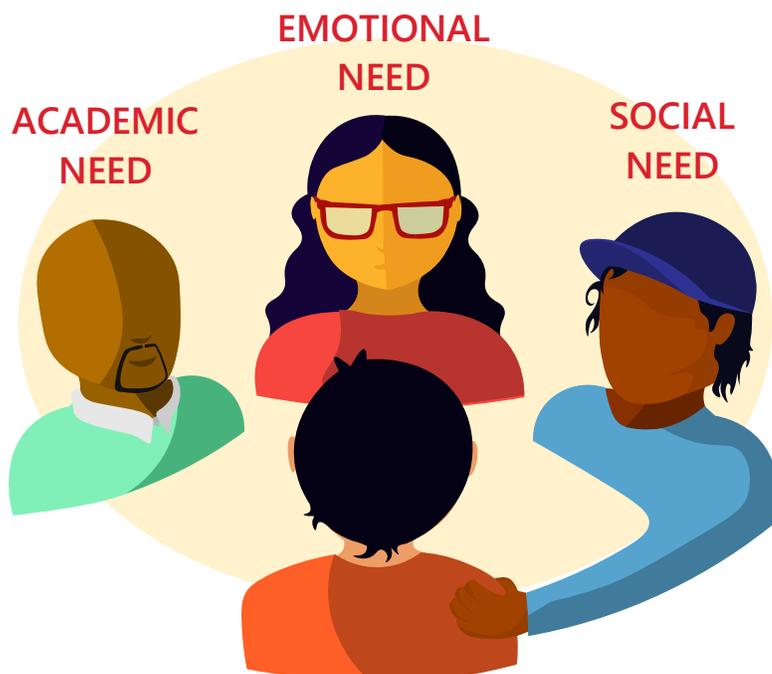


Students suggest the need for mentors providing academic, social, and emotional support



Typical accommodations for students with autism in higher education focus on academic issues. But students with autism might also benefit from mentors focused on social and emotional needs.

Such guidance would be especially important for students just beginning their college experience.

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Sarrett, J. C. (2017). Autism and Accommodations in Higher Education: Insights from the Autism Community. *Journal of autism and developmental disorders*, 1-15.

Mentoring can be more than academic.

Notes:

- Research by Tobin et al. (2014) suggests that elements of both formal and informal social support groups can have a positive impact on autistic students' quality of life.
- Peer mentors may be a particularly valuable mechanism for autistic student socialization. A peer mentor is a fellow student who has a designated role as a support person. Generally, they facilitate social interaction and can help teach social skills.

Support materials:

- **Types of support**
- **Mentoring activities**
- **Faculty mentors:**
Faculty mentors function like a peer mentor in guiding the student through various concerns on campus, but they usually cover more career based or academic issues than peer mentors.