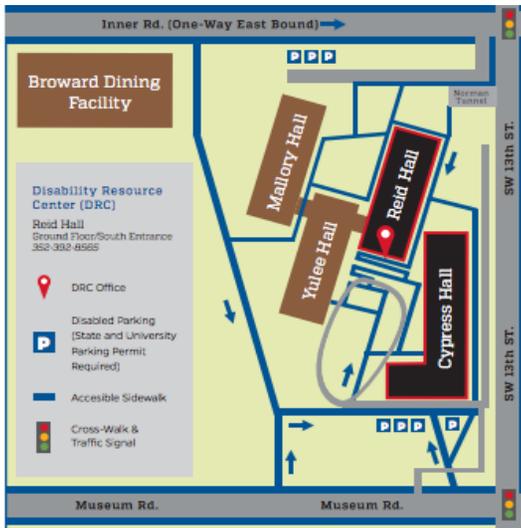


SOCIAL Gators are students, mentors, and professionals who are interested in supporting students with autism spectrum disorder. Professional staff has backgrounds in counseling, communication, transition, and accommodations.

Email SOCIAL Gators for more information at: socialgators@dso.ufl.edu

Location of DRC:



UF | Center for Autism
and Related Disabilities
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

2046 NE Waldo Road, Suite 3200
Gainesville, FL 32609
Phone: (352) 273-0581
Fax: (352) 846-3703

UF 1 Counseling and
Wellness Center

3190 Radio Road, PO Box 112662
Gainesville, FL 32611-2662
Phone: (352) 392-1575
Fax: (352) 273-4738



001 Reid Hall
PO Box 114085
Gainesville, FL 32611
Phone: (352) 392-8565
Fax: (352) 392-8570

UF | UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA

SOCIAL Gators

Student
Opportunities for
Career,
Independent, and
Academic
Life - a support
program for students with
autism spectrum disorder

UF

SOCIAL

Gators

Purpose

SOCIAL Gators (Student Opportunities for Career, Independent, and Academic Life) is a program for UF students who want to enhance their skills for a more enriching college experience. A collaborative effort between the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD), the Counseling and Wellness Center (CWC), and the Disabilities Resource Center (DRC), we focus on developing skills in social interaction, independent living, career seeking, and academics

through the provision of four services:

Mentors

Degree-seeking students with autism spectrum disorder are paired with peer mentors in an effort to increase engagement in university life. The peer-mentors provide support in navigating social aspects of university life such as participating in campus life events, interacting with instructors, classmates, and roommates, and networking with research mentors and potential employers. Mentors and mentees meet monthly to set goals and reflect on progress.

Weekly Group Meetings

SOCIAL Gators meet weekly to review on their experiences both in and outside of the classroom. In addition, monthly discussion topics include presentations on: health and wellness, using social media, coping skills, managing anxiety, career seeking, and law enforcement.

Meetings are designed to help individuals lead lives that are more independent.

Academic Coaching

Participants can receive educational learning and success strategies as well as support in the management of disability impact on academic performance. Weekly meetings with the Disability Resource Center learning specialists can keep students organized on the right track toward completion of goals.

First-year Florida Course

SOCIAL Gators is offered through a section of the first-year Florida course. The course is designed to help students develop skills that support a fulfilling college experience at UF.

