THE ACTIVATE PROGRAM
Accessibility Services Office
Moriah John, M.Ed.
Accessibility Services Specialist

A PLACE FOR CONNECTION
Our goal is to create a program where our neurodiverse students belong, have a space to build their own identity and network of community, and feel they have pride in themselves and their diversity.

AUTISM AS NEURODIVERSITY
“If you have met one person on the autism spectrum, you have met one person on the autism spectrum.” This is a wonderful saying that captures the array or spectrum of our students. Autism is more like a trend of similarities noticed in the world’s neurodiversity than a fixed set of features. Given certain environments or situations, an individual on the autism spectrum may exhibit a variety of behaviors. However, there is such a vast array of how this plays out in someone’s life.

Thus, a program for autistic students must be dynamic and adaptive, involving the students themselves in the development process and must grow to support the students’ changing needs. And as it is a loose trend, some students without an autism diagnosis but who may exhibit similar behaviors may also benefit from Activate.

1 TO 1 COACHING
Weekly meetings with an ASO staff member provides students a point person for questions & help in navigating the nuances of college life.

ACTIVATE MENTORS
Paid positions are offered to returning Activate students to mentor new Activate students, providing a rich, welcoming, and safe first-job experience.

GWNN GROUP
GWNN, a self-named student group, meets weekly to play board games and socialize as a group to foster belonging and relationships amongst members.

LUNCH TABLE
To help tackle the challenge of where to sit in the cafeteria, an Activate Mentor hosts a designated lunch table in the Sak each day of the week.

SNACKS & CHATS
ASO staff + Activate mentor hold weekly discussions around college transition subjects like time management or communication with peers and faculty.