

## ACE at the Thompson Center for Autism & Neurodevelopment

### Application for Admissions Criteria

In order to be ensure that ACE is the best match for applicants, we require that **the application be completed by each participant**. It is expected that ACE participants will be able to demonstrate proficient literacy skills in reading and writing. Applicants **must** have a strong desire to be independent and gain employment.

#### Application Checklist:

- Complete online application and submit (paper applications available upon request)
- Sign and provide a release of information
- Email or mail the following item:
  - Copy of your most recent medical or educational evaluation documenting your autism diagnosis or another diagnosis with similar deficits. If you received your diagnosis at the Thompson Center or a doctor will be submitting the report, you will need to complete the [Authorization for Release of Medical Records](#) to have this evaluation released to ACE. Contact the ACE office at 573-884-0545 if you have questions concerning this document. You do not need to submit the Authorization for Release if you or a parent are submitting the report.

#### Application Selection Process

A limited number of applicants are admitted into the program each year. Applying early is strongly recommended. The application deadline for the 2024-2025 program year is August 1, 2024.

*Completed application packets will be reviewed by ACE staff and selected applicants will be contacted for an interview. An interview does not guarantee admission into the program.*

After your interview, you will receive a phone call and letter letting you know of your admission status. The decision to offer or deny admission to ACE will be made according to the screening committee's best judgement and with the best interest of the applicant in mind.

**Admission is based on the following criteria:**

- Applicant must demonstrate the desire to attend programming offered through ACE and have the potential to achieve goals within the context of ACE
- Applicant must be between the ages of 18-30 years old at the start of the program  
*(exceptions to this must be approved by ACE Staff)*
- Applicant must no longer be enrolled in high school
- Applicant must have an IQ score (verbal & non-verbal) of 75-80 or above and additional testing may be completed at the time of the interview
- Applicant must have a documented (medical or educational) autism diagnosis or another diagnosis with similar symptoms
- Applicant must have sufficient emotional and independent stability to participate in all aspects of ACE including navigating a job site and participating in direct instruction, work experience, and peer mentorship
- Applicant must demonstrate ability to accept and follow reasonable rules and behave respectfully towards each other. ACE does not have the personnel to supervise participants with challenging behaviors or dispense medications.
- Applicants selected must be able to attend ACE orientation.

Due to space limitations, not all applicants who complete the application and meet the criteria for admission may be accommodated in the ACE program. If you are not accepted, you are welcome to re-apply in the future.

**Questions?**

Email Jennifer DeLaporte, Program Coordinator at [delaportej@health.missouri.edu](mailto:delaportej@health.missouri.edu)

Please send all admission materials to the email address above or mail to:

ACE  
Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders  
Attn: Jennifer DeLaporte  
205 Portland St.  
Columbia, MO 65211