

## STRIVE at the University of Missouri

### Application for Admissions Checklist

In order to be ensure that STRIVE is the best match for applicants, we require that **the application packet be completed by each participant**. It is expected that STRIVE 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)
- Email or mail the following item:
  - Copy of your most recent medical or educational evaluation documenting your autism diagnosis or another similar diagnosis. 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 STRIVE. Contact the STRIVE office at 573-882-2077 if need this document. You do not need to submit the Authorization for Release if you or a parent are submitting the report.
- You acknowledge that STRIVE participants will be learning and working on the University of Missouri campus, but acceptance into STRIVE is **not** considered acceptance into the University of Missouri. Participants are not eligible for university credits through STRIVE.

#### 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 program is August 1.

Completed application packets will be reviewed by STRIVE 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 STRIVE 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 STRIVE and have the potential to achieve goals within the context of STRIVE
- Applicant must be between the ages of 18-30 years old at the start of the program  
(*exceptions to this must be approved by STRIVE Staff*)
- Applicant must no longer be enrolled in high school

- Applicant must have an IQ score (verbal & non-verbal) of 85 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 emotional and independent stability to participate in all aspects of STRIVE including navigating the MU campus, and participating in direct instruction, work experience, and peer mentorship
- Applicant must demonstrate the ability to accept and follow reasonable rules and behave respectfully towards each other. STRIVE cannot supervise participants with challenging behaviors or dispense medications
- Applicants selected must be able to attend STRIVE orientation in mid August.

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

### Questions?

Email Jaclyn Benigno, Program Coordinator at [benignoj@health.missouri.edu](mailto:benignoj@health.missouri.edu)

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

STRIVE  
Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment  
Attn: Jaclyn Benigno  
205 Portland St.  
Columbia, MO 65201