

### Bridge to Independence- Degree Program Admission Procedure

The Bridge to Independence Degree program at Nicholls State University is an optional academic and support service for degree seeking students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

### **Initial Criteria**

- · Student has been accepted to Nicholls through the regular admissions process
- Student has a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder(ASD) as indicated on a current (within three years) psychological evaluation
- Personal motivation for success
- Personal accountability
- · Openness to receive support

#### **STEP #1**

#### **Initial Criteria**

If the **initial criteria** are met, the applicant may apply directly to Bridge. The application instructions and forms can be accessed online at

https://www.nicholls.edu/education/support-programs/bridge-to-independence/ or by emailing: bridge.inquiry@nicholls.edu

### The Application Packet includes:

- Program Information (pages 1-3)
- Applicant and Family Background Information (pages 4-9)
- Personal Statement (page 10)
- Case Management (pages 11-14 to be completed by case manager, if applicable)
- Authorization to Release Academic and Medical Information Form (page 15)
- Applicant's Skill Inventory (pages 16-19)
- Student Readiness Scale (pages 20-21)
- Scope of Services (pages 22-23)
- Authorization to Release Academic Information for Bridge Staff Form (page 24)

Along with the application, applicants must send in:

- recent 5" X 7" photograph
- Current 1508 special education evaluation or evaluation from private provider with full
  assessment data and exit IEP from High School if student attended public school. The assessment
  must reflect a diagnosis of Autism or ASD.



\*All materials listed above must be submitted in one packet and thoroughly completed. Incomplete applications will not be processed.

Completed packets can be brought to Bridge to Independence or mailed to:

Bridge to Independence at Nicholls State University
Attention: Dr. Mary Breaud, Ed.D
College of Education and
P.O. Box 2035
Thibodaux, LA 70310

### **STEP #2**

### **Program Tour:**

The applicant and family are encouraged to attend a Campus Tour with a visit to Bridge to Independence. During the visit to Bridge, all aspects and goals of the program will be reviewed and discussed with an opportunity for questions and answers by the staff. The tours are scheduled throughout the year and attending is not mandatory before being considered for the Bridge Program. Call the Nicholls Admissions Office at 985-448-4507 to schedule a tour. The completed application is recommended to be turned in to Bridge Staff at this time.

### Step #3

### **Scheduling /Orientation:**

The applicant should attend an Orientation (scheduled through admissions). During the orientation, the applicant must meet with their academic advisor and be advised before being able to schedule classes. This procedure is to ensure that students are enrolled in the correct classes. Once students are accepted to the university, an email will be sent out to schedule orientation. Any questions on scheduling/orientation should be directed to the Nicholls Admissions Office.

### Step #4

### **Securing Campus Housing:**

Once students are accepted to the University a letter will be sent from admissions. This letter will contain the student's N number which is their identification number as a Nicholls student. This letter will also include instructions on securing campus housing if the student intends to live on campus. A deposit is required through the housing portal on Banner. Bridge to Independence works with housing to place students in either Millet or Zeringue. These housing units on campus are the preferred for Bridge Degree students. We recommend private rooms which equate to 2 roommates, each with their own bedroom including a locking door. Both roommates share a bathroom. Preferential placement and roommate selection is a service provided by Bridge.



### **Admission Packet:**

All required documents must be submitted together to complete the process for admission consideration to Bridge. It is important that the **most current information** is submitted in order to ascertain that the Bridge Program is appropriate and that the student has the combination of desire, motivation, skill, and experience to be successful in the program.

### Documents and completed forms required at time of submission\*:

- 1. Bridge to Independence Application
- 2. Recent 5" X 7" photograph
- 3. Current 1508 special education evaluation or evaluation from private provider with full assessment data and exit IEP from High School if student attended public school. The assessment must reflect a diagnosis of Autism or ASD.
  - \*All materials listed above must be submitted in one packet and thoroughly completed. Incomplete applications will not be processed.

Completed packets can be brought to Bridge to Independence or mailed to:

Bridge to Independence at Nicholls State University
Attention: Dr. Mary Breaud
College of Education
P.O. Box 2053
Thibodaux, LA 70310

### **Acceptance Letters:**

Formal acceptance letters to the Bridge Degree program are available upon request.

### **Checklist:**

Meets Initial Criteria
Campus tour
Attend Orientation
Meet with advisor to schedule classes
Send in admission packet
Provide class schedule to Bridge
Complete housing portal in Banner (deposit required to hold room)



# **Bridge to Independence Application**

To ensure that the application is processed, applicant and/or parent/guardian must complete all information (Race & ethnicity tracking is optional).

Date attended a Nicholls tour and program overview:\_\_\_\_\_

IDENTIFYING INFORMATION											
Applicant Birthd					date:						
Name:								Dir cir	aute.		
Street Address:										Age:	
City:		State:						<u> </u>			
Phone: ( )	I		Applic	ants C	Cell F	Pho	one: (	)		Male/F	emale
Applicant's					Dr	ive	r's License:	<del>-</del>		Yes/No	<b>)</b>
Email Address:	ss:										
U. S. Citizen:	Yes/No Country of SSN#										
		Citize	nship:								
Languages Spoker	n in the I	Home:		Are	you	Со	nserved:			Yes/	'No
Areas Conserved:											
Conservator's							Relationsh	-			
Name:				Applicant:							
			PAREI	NT INF	ORI	MΑ	ATION				
Parent #1 or Guar	dian Nar	ne:									
Address:											
Email Address:											
Primary Phone #	(	)		E	mai	il A	ddress:				
Parent #2 :											
Address:											
Email Address:											
Primary Phone #	(	)					one#: (	)			
SIBLING INFORMATION											
Name of Sibling(s)				Age Live				ves at Home			
Yes/No											
Yes/No											
Yes/No											
									s/No		
						Yes/No					
								Ye	s/No		



Bridge to in	aepenaen	ce										
				EDUCATI	ON 8	& SERVIC	ES					
			Nam	e of Institu	ution				D	iplom	ıa	
High Sch	ool:											
College of Program												
High Sch Complet	ool											
or Project Date:	cted											
Subject St	trengths	<b>:</b> :										
Subject W	<b>V</b> eaknes	ses:										
Does the	applicar	nt have	a <b>Louisiana</b>	Medicaio	l wai	ver?			Yes/	No		
If yes, Cas Name:	se Mana	gemen	t Agency					Phone #:	(	)		
Address:				•	Cas	se Manag	er's	Name:				
Email Add	dress:						ax #					
Direct Ser	vices Pr	ovider:	Yes/No	Direct Service Provider Agency Name:								
Address:				_		Phone#: ( )						
Email Add	dress:					Fax#: ( )						
					•							
Is a client of Rehab Ser		ana	Yes 🖵	No 🔲 🛮 In I	Proce	ess 🗖						
Address:												
LRS Counselor Name: Phone #: ( )												
Email:	Fax #: ( )											
Do you red SSI:	ceive	Yes 🗖	No 🔲 In Pr	rocess 🔲 V	Vill ap	oply 🗖						
If Yes, Name of Payee: Amount Per Month: \$												



VOLUNTEER & COMMUNITY SERVICE							
Organization	Description of Activ	vity and Duties	Hours/ Per Week				
	WORK EXPER	IENCE					
Business/ Organization	Duties	Dates Employed	Hrs/Wk				



## Bridge to Independence

MEDICATION INFORMATION						
Do You Take Medication(s):	Yes 🗆 No 🗅					
Needs Assistance With Medications: Yes  No  If yes, please explain:						
Medication(s)	Times of Day/Week	Purpose				



BEHAVIOR					
Caused property damage including fires	YES	NO			
Physically threatened and/or attacked others					
Verbally threatened others					
Self-injurious behavior					
Mistreating animals					
Elopement					
Lying					
Fabrication					
Inappropriate sexual behavior					
Stealing					
Prior arrest or probation					
Tobacco use/abuse					
Marijuana use/abuse					
Drug use/abuse					
Alcohol use/abuse					
Seizure(s)					
Current gang behavior, affiliation and desires					
Incontinence problems					
Requires attendant care					
Consistently follows verbal directions					

If yes to any of the behavioral and or self- care issues, please explain in detail. Include the most recent date(s) of the occurrence(s) and severity (use another sheet for more writing space):



### **RACE & ETHNICITY TRACKING OPTIONAL**

For purpose of data collection for Bridge to Independence funding, please mark the box9es0 that best describes the applicant's race/ethnicity category or which he/she identifies with:

Α	Asian or Pacific Islander: Persons having origins in any of the peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands. This area includes, for example, China, Japan, Korea, the Philippine Islands and Samoa.
В	African American (not of Hispanic origin): Person having origins in any of the black ethnic groups.
н	Hispanic: Persons having origins in any of the Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American or other Latin Cultures, regardless of ethnicity.
	Native American or Alaskan Native: Persons having origins in any of the original peoples of North America, and who maintain cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition.
w	Caucasian (not of Hispanic origin): Persons having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, North Africa or the Middle East.

I have completed this Bridge to Independence Degree program application truthfully and to the best of my knowledge all information is accurate.

Applicant Signature: _	 	 	
Date:			



### **Personal Statement Instructions**

An important part of the admissions process is the personal statement. This is your opportunity to shine by telling why you want to come to the Bridge Program as well as something about you. This includes facts about your background, goals, and any other information that you think will help us learn more about YOU. BE CREATIVE. The personal statement can be handwritten or typed, a portfolio, video recorded, etc. Any electronic submissions must be on a flash drive, as a DVD/CD will easily break during the mailing process. The maximum allowed time for video recorded personal statements is 5 minutes. Materials submitted will not be returned.

### Your personal statement must include numbers 1 – 4 and 11 below. 5 - 10 are optional.

- 1. Your name.
- 2. Why you want to participate in the Bridge to Independence Degree program.
- 3. Special interests.
- 4. Include specific areas or activities you would like participate in while in the program.
- 5. Describe 1-2 opportunities/trips you have taken without your parents/family. Include:
  - # of days
  - Destination
  - Purpose (e.g. vacation, conference, etc.)
  - How you felt about being away
  - Who you traveled with
  - Mode of transportation
- 6. Things you like to do in your free time.
- 7. In school, name your favorite subject(s) and your least favorite subject(s).
- 8. Your strengths.
- 9. Areas you would like to improve upon.
- 10. Describe what you learned and enjoyed about any paid and/or volunteer work experience.
- 11. Describe what you see as your ideal life in the future?
  - Where would you like to work?
  - Where would you like to live? A City, Apartment, condominium, home and would you like to live with a roommates, family or alone.



Case Management State Agency Referral Form (if applicable) Pages 11 to 14 are to be completed by applicant's case manager, if applicable. If applicant does not have a case manager, please check the "No Case Manager" box and continue to page 15. ■ No Case Manager at time of application Attach the most current state report for this client. Client Name: ID/Case#: AGE: Diagnosis: Name of Agency: Fax#: Address: Name of Case Manager: Phone #: Email: Number of months or years the applicant has been your client?: 1. What are the client's most exemplary traits? 2. What are some areas for improvement? 3. State any factors/characteristics/behaviors of this client that would be a concern for Bridge? Please be very specific. 4. State reasons why you feel the client is or is not appropriate/ready for Bridge at Nicholls State?



5. Is your client ready to move out of the house? Explain why or why not.
6. Do you feel the client's parents/guardian, are supportive of their son/daughter participating in the Bridge Degree program? Explain.
7. Generally, how often would you say this client's parent's contact you?
7a. When you're contacted by this client's parents, what types of negative or positive situations are you addressing?
8. Do you feel the client's rights and choices as an adult are being respected and supported by his/her parents/guardians? Please give examples.
9. Does the client have a strong support system? State who they are and how they support the client.



## Check the box for all that apply to the client's history of:\_\_\_\_\_

Check the box for all that apply to the cheft's history or		
Caused property damage including fires	YES	NO
Physically threatened and/or attacked others		
Verbally threatened others		
Self-injurious behavior		
Mistreating animals		
Consistently follows verbal directions		
Elopement		
Lying		
Fabrication		
Inappropriate sexual behavior		
Stealing		
Prior arrest or probation		
Tobacco use/abuse		
Marijuana use/abuse		
Drug use/abuse		
Alcohol use/abuse		
Seizure(s)		
Current gang behavior, affiliation and desires		
Incontinence problems		
Requires attendant care		
Resentment towards parent(s)		
If yes to any of the behavioral and or self- care issues, please explain in detail.		
Include the most recent date(s) of the occurrence(s) and severity (use another		
sheet for more writing space):		



### **Certification:**

I have completed this application truthfully, and to the best of my knowledge all information is accurate.

Case Management Agency Service Coordinator:	
Date:	

### **Signature Submission of Regional Center Referral Form:**

Your client's current Annual/Quarterly report MUST be submitted with this form.

This referral MUST accompany the Bridge Degree program application when it is received by the program's office for review.

Return all 3 documents to your client in an envelope sealed as directed below.

### **Envelope Sealing Instructions:**

Once completed, please place this referral in an envelope, seal the envelope completely, write your name across the overlap of the flap/envelope body. Finally, place a generous amount of clear tape over your signature.



# **Authorization to Release Information**

Name(s) of Agency, High School, Professional, Medical (all that apply)							
Amalias							
Applicant	. name:		1 - 1 - 2 - 2 - 2				
DOB:			Today's Date:				
_	=			requests the following information iding quality services:			
Medica	l informati	ion:		Psychological Information:			
	_	Information		<ul> <li>Diagnostic information</li> </ul>			
	Current M			Current Medications			
	Treatment	=		Treatment history			
• /	Assessmer	nts/Evaluations		Assessment/Evaluations			
o Inc	o Individual Education Plan (IEP)			<ul> <li>Individual Transition Plan for Employment</li> </ul>			
o Ed	lucational <i>i</i>	Assessments/1	508 Evaluation	Social Assessment Information			
o Em	ployment	Assessment (Lo Services)	ouisiana Rehab.	<ul><li>Case Management Agency Reports/Plan</li></ul>			
0 0	ther (desci	ribe):					
By signing below, I understand that Bridge to Independence at Nicholls State University shall share information with the referring agency and any other agencies as it pertains to the program services rendered to the aforementioned person and his/her health and welfare. I authorize Bridge to Independence to request information from the referring agency, school and other pertinent health care providers that is deemed pertinent to services provided. I also authorize the release of information from the referring agency to Bridge to Independence to aid in providing such services only until I complete/graduate from the university.							
Applican	t Signature:			Date:			



Nicholls State University		
Bridge to Independence		
Bridge Staff Signature:	Date:	
	Applicant Ckill Inventory	
	Applicant Skill Inventory	
Applicant Name:		
Person assisting or rating applica	ant:	
Relationship:	Date:	

## Use this rubric to rate the applicant with the attached Skill Inventory

With No	Applicant is able to accomplish the task without assistance
	Applicant is able to accomplish the task without assistance
Assistance	
Little	Applicant requires 25-50% assistance to accomplish the task
Assistance	
Significant	Applicant requires 50-75% assistance to accomplish the task
Assistance	
With No	Applicant is able to accomplish the task without reminders
Reminders	
Few	Applicant is able to accomplish the task with reminders on 25-50% of
Reminders	the steps
Many	Applicant is able to accomplish the task with reminders on 50-75% of
Reminders	the steps
Is Still	Applicant is able to accomplish the task with reminders on 50-75% of
learning	the steps
N/A	This particular task is not applicable to this Applicant

Place a mark in the appropriate box indicating the Level of Assistance AND the Level of Reminders needed to accomplish the skill. See example on the next page. Please follow the example provided at the top of the next page.



Academics: General	With No Assistance	Little Assistance	Significant Assistance	With No Reminder	Few Reminders	Many Reminders	Is Still Learning	N/A
Keeps track of assignments and								
due dates								
Brings proper supplies to class								
Completes multiple choice exams								
Completes written exams								
Gets up in the morning for school								

17 Revised 1-6-23



## WHAT ARE THIS APPLICANT'S NEEDS?

What are the student's strengths and their areas of need? Please describe in detail any previously used supports, accommodations, and/or behavior/management plan. List any types of assistive technology utilized. If you need more space, please attach an additional page.



## WHAT IS THE APPLICANT'S EDUCATIONAL HISTORY?

Please list any education experiences that will give a picture of how the applicant learns best. Where in school was the applicant most successful? Please elaborate on strengths and areas for improvement.




## **College Readiness Survey**

This survey will generally determine a student's college readiness by assessing academic maturity, academic motivation, learning style, assertiveness, social skills, willingness to seek advice and planning/goal setting skills.

1	people shou	nswer quickly and honestly. The qualid complete the survey <b>independe</b>	ntly. Please focus or	the present, not the future.
		= Excellent (Strong); 4 = Adequa S = Student's Ratings	P = Parent's Ratir	
S	P		S	Р
1		_ Time management skills	22	Tasks done promptly
2		_ Study habits	23	Use of library and computer
				Comfort with strangers
		Comfort with testing		Speaks own opinion
5		_ Works under pressure		Competitive
				Proactive (not reactive)
			28	Self-confidence
		Perseverance	29	Willingness to compromise
9		_Ability to self-direct		Desire to socialize
		_ Work-play balance		Joints teams and clubs
		_ Critical thinking skills		Values close friendships
				Leadership skills
		_ Interest in attending college		Seeks help from friends
14		Reasons for attending college		Able to make decisions
15		_ Writing interest		Values parental advice
		_ Reading interest		Wants recognition
		_ Creative ideas and tasks		Seeks college planning advic
		_ Class participation		Seeks teacher feedback
		Listens and takes notes		College goals defined
		Works beyond assignments		Has plans for future
		Prefers to study alone		Helps to meet college costs



## **Scope of Services**

The Bridge Program is designed to address the unique needs of students with intellectual/developmental disabilities.

### **ACADEMICS**

Participants in the Bridge Career program at Nicholls State University are not enrolled through traditional means, as the matriculated, degree seeking students of Nicholls State University are. Bridge students enroll through the Bridge to Independence Program and receive a **Certificate of Achievement** and an "Unofficial Nicholls State Transcript" through the Bridge Career Program.

#### **HEALTH SERVICES**

Bridge students have access to campus Student Health Center services. These services are for immediate first aid/onset care only. Bridge students need to make other medical arrangements for long term care issues. Likewise, counseling and psychological services provided by the Student Services are also for immediate emergency interventions only. Students with pre-existing/ongoing concerns should make the necessary arrangements for these known issues. Bridge does not endorse any physician or counselor and therefore does not make referrals. As part of the College of Education, individual and group counseling services may be available to Bridge students. These services are provided by graduate level counseling students supervised by a Ph.D. instructor. Once again Bridge does not endorse these services and participation is optional.

### **CODE OF CONDUCT**

All Bridge students will be expected to abide by the student code of conduct as outlined, http://www.nicholls.edu/sja/files/2015/06/Code-of-Student-Conduct-Handbook.pdf. Bridge students will follow policies of the judicial system and the recommendations of the Vice President of Student Affairs as well as the Bridge Accountability Policy. Any resulting disciplinary action will follow in accordance with Nicholls State and/or Bridge policies. These policies include permanent or temporary expulsion of a student. Parents/guardians will need to acknowledge that they will be active members in holding their student accountable for their actions.

### **PARENTS/GUARDIANS**

Parental involvement is crucial for student success in the Bridge Program. Parents will be incorporated in many important decisions that their student may make through Bridge Individual Planning Meetings. However, there may be times that Bridge is bound by confidentiality or judicial rulings, and may be unable to share information about the student without his/her permission. The Bridge Program goal is to support students in becoming independent adults, capable of self-advocacy and self-determination. Parents may not always agree with the decisions that their students make, but should maintain a positive and open relationship with all parties.

Applicant's Name Printed	Applicant's Signature	Date



# **Information Release**

Ι,	, a student of Nicholls State University
(student name - print)	
grant permission for reciprocal communication bet parents or guardians, and all Nicholls State Universicurrent student.	
understand and allow reciprocal communication becarents or guardians, and Nicholls State University eleted issues. I understand that the purpose of the my success as a Nicholls State University Bridge study	employees will be done only for Bridge se communications will be to help ensure
understand and allow Bridge to Independence State organizations and offices such as, but not limited to Counseling Center, Campus Police, University Health	, the Student Access Center, University
understand and allow Bridge to Independence Staf with any University Health Service appointments for nealthcare needs.	
understand and allow the Bridge to Independence Banner account, and Nicholls student email for the	
understand that Bridge to Independence staff mair authorities if there is evidence judged to be of an en me or someone else.	•
am aware that Bridge to Independence utilizes phoeducational and information purposes. Mark below so ohotograph you as well as post these images onto comments.	stating whether we have your permission to
I agree to being photographed and post	ed on Bridge Social Media accounts.
I do not agree to being photographed ar	nd posted on Bridge Social Media accounts.
By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read ar	nd agree to the information above.
Student:	Date:
N. N. mahari	



### **Medical Information Form**

The following Medical Information Form should be completed to ensure that students have necessary information to complete forms required by University Health Services. Please also attach a copy of the applicant's current insurance card which will need to be provided at any appointments scheduled with the University Health Services.

## Please attach a copy of your health insurance card with this form.

Student Name:						Date of Birth:			
Student ID (N#):									
Family Medical His Circle one answer	•	h item:							
Blood Disease	Yes	or	No			High Blood Pressure Yes	or	No	
Cancer	Yes	or	No			Kidney Disease Yes	or	No	
Diabetes	Yes	or	No			Respiratory Disease Yes	or	No	
Seizure Disorder	Yes	or	No			Other:			
Heart Disease	Yes	or	No						
Personal History Circle one answer	for eac	h item:							
Adopted			Yes	or	No	High Blood Pressure	Yes	or	No
Acne (on medicatio	n)		Yes	or	No	Kidney Disease/Stones	Yes	or	No
ADD/ADHD			Yes	or	No	Lyme Disease	Yes	or	No
Anemia			Yes	or	No	Malaria	Yes	or	No
Anxiety/Depression			Yes	or	No	Marfan's Syndrome	Yes	or	No
Asthma			Yes	or	No	Migraines	Yes	or	No
Autism			Yes	or	No	Mononucleosis	Yes	or	No
Specify:						Obsessive Compulsive Disorder	Yes	or	No
Blood/Clotting Disor	rder		Yes	or	No	Reflux/ulcers/colitis/irritable bowel	Yes	or	No
Cancer/Tumor			Yes	or	No	Seizures	Yes	or	No
Specify:						STI	Yes	or	No



Concussion	Yes	or	No	Sickle Cell Disease/Tr	ait	Yes	or
Diabetes	Yes	or	No	Sinusitis		Yes	or
Disease/injury of joints	Yes	or	No	Sleep Disorders		Yes	or
Eating Disorder	Yes	or	No	Stomach or Intestinal	Trouble		
Eye Trouble	Yes	or	No	Suicide Attempts			
Hay fever, hives, seasonal allergies	Yes	or	No	Thyroid/Endocrine Dis	orders	Yes	or
Specify:				Tuberculosis		Yes	or
Head injury w/ unconsciousness	Yes	or	No	Vision/Hearing Impaire	ed	Yes	or
Heart disease	Yes	or	No	Other:			_
Hepatitis	Yes	or	No				
Specify:							
Have you ever been hospitalized? If yes, please specify:	Yes	or	No				
Have you ever had an operation? If yes, please specify:	Yes	or	No				
Do you have a disability (physical or lf yes, please specify:	learni	ng)?	? Yes	or No			
Do you have emotional health proble If yes, please specify:	ems re	quir	ing therapy	of medications? Yes	or No		
Do you smoke, if yes how much? If yes, please specify:	Yes	or	No				

No No No

No

No No



Do you have a past/present history of substance abuse?  If yes, please specify:	Yes	or	No	_
Do you have a past/present history of alcohol abuse?  If yes, please specify:	Yes	or	No	_
Do you have a past/present history of gambling? Yes  If yes, please specify:	or No			_
Are you allergic to anything (ie food, medication, etc)?  If yes, please specify:	Yes	or	No	_
Please list current prescribed medications with dosag	je and 1	frec	juency:	
Preferred Pharmacy Any prescriptions from University Health Services WILL be specified.	e called	int	o the pharr	macy you have
Pharmacy Name:				
Pharmacy Address:				
Pharmacy Phone Number:	_			



## **Emergency Contact Information**

When students go to University Health Services, you will be contacted by a Bridge staff member before the student arrives, so that you can be available to speak with University Health Services staff if needed.

Emergency Contact Name:
Phone Number:
Relationship:
Address:
For All Bridge Students
I understand that the information on this form will remain confidential and only be used to fill out forms required by University Health Services.
Applicant Signature: