For over 25 years, Fairleigh Dickinson University’s nationally recognized program for college students has been changing the lives of students with learning disabilities. The Regional Center offers a structured plan of intensive advisement, academic support and counseling services tailored to the needs of students with a diagnosed, language-based learning disability. Since its inception, students from throughout the United States have discovered how FDU’s Regional Center can help them succeed.

A GROWING NEED FOR SERVICE
A growing number of students enrolling in colleges and universities today require special attention for learning disabilities. The American Council on Education reports that students with learning disabilities represent the fastest growing and largest population of college students with disabilities.

While many institutions of higher education recognize this need for ongoing support for their students, few universities provide the range of comprehensive services – offered at no additional fee – by FDU’s Regional Center for College Students with Learning Disabilities.

A STRUCTURED PLAN OF INTENSIVE ADVISEMENT AND SUPPORT
The University’s Regional Center provides a comprehensive support program for students with language-based learning disabilities who qualify for admission. Students can choose to major in virtually any of the University’s two- or four-year degree programs. The Regional Center is designed to guide students with learning disabilities through the transition from high school to college and prepare them to make a potentially greater transition from college to the working world. As they progress through the program, students become more knowledgeable about their demands, more attuned to how they’re going to meet challenges, and ultimately more self-reliant.

THE POWER OF PROFESSIONAL STAFF
Academic support makes a critical difference in the early success of Regional Center students at Fairleigh Dickinson where the University’s professional staff works with students as partners in the learning process. Support sessions are kept small, individualized and flexible, with most ranging from one to three students.

Regional Center freshmen receive up to four support sessions a week, usually one for each academic course they are taking. These sessions provide learning strategies particular to the class work involved. Freshmen also attend regular counseling sessions to deal with the various issues that arise in adjusting to college. After the first year, these sessions are voluntary and are used less frequently as the student becomes more self-reliant.

continued
In addition, all first-year students in the Regional Center program enroll in the three-credit *Metacognitive Strategies* course for both the fall and spring semesters. This course is specifically designed to help students with learning disabilities to approach college-level course work strategically and to capitalize on students’ individual learning styles. The Assistive Technology component of this course teaches students with learning disabilities how to access cutting-edge technologies available through the center and online.

An option has been designed for students who are interested in working more independently, who demonstrate good time management skills and are motivated to be successful without extensive support. In this option, participating students maintain weekly contact with one of the Center’s learning specialists. Tutoring is available, but the focus is on guiding students in the use of learning strategies across content areas. To be considered for this option, applicants should have a cumulative 3.3 GPA and have participated for at least one semester in the regular Regional Center program.

**A RECORD OF SUCCESS**

The Regional Center provides students with learning disabilities the opportunity to be fully integrated into Fairleigh Dickinson’s wide variety of programs with impressive results.

Regional Center students are among those who earn high honors and are named to the dean’s list each semester, and seniors have received academic distinction at graduation. Several students have been selected for the Fairleigh Dickinson University study abroad programs.

Our students also have achieved success in other areas of University life, serving in student government, working at the University’s radio station, competing on Division I sports teams and serving as editors of the campus newspapers. Alumni have continued on to graduate programs, and have succeeded in careers ranging from teaching and nursing to social work and business.

**APPLYING TO THE PROGRAM**

More than 150 students are currently enrolled in the Regional Center program at the Metropolitan Campus and the College at Florham. **Students must be admitted to the University before they can be accepted into the Regional Center.**

To be considered for the program, you should:

- Be diagnosed with a **language-based learning disability**;
- Be intellectually capable of meeting the demands of college studies with appropriate support; and
- Be motivated for academic success and be willing to invest the time and effort needed to succeed.

To apply, students must complete a Regional Center application for admission and submit records detailing the diagnosis of a language-based learning disability. A psychological evaluation and an individualized learning evaluation (dated within three years prior to the application) must be provided. Students will also be asked to provide information about any academic assistance received in the past as well as other relevant diagnostic material.

There is no specific deadline to apply for admission into the Regional Center. However, the number of applicants regularly exceeds the number of available positions in the program. Interested students are strongly encouraged to apply as early as possible. In addition to incoming freshmen, a limited number of openings are available for transfer students.

A downloadable application for admission to the Regional Center is available at [fdu.edu/rcsld](http://fdu.edu/rcsld). To request a paper application, contact the Regional Center admissions coordinator at 201-692-2087.

**TWO-WEEK SUMMER COLLEGE PREP PROGRAM FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES**

In July, the Regional Center offers a two-week summer program for graduating high school students and rising seniors at the University’s Metropolitan Campus in Teaneck, NJ. This program introduces students to college-level work and helps them develop the specific skills and academic strategies needed to make a successful transition from high school. This specialized program includes courses in developing learning strategies, improving writing skills, using assistive technology, and boosting mathematics or reading skills.

For more information and to apply for the college prep summer program, go to [fdu.edu/rcsld](http://fdu.edu/rcsld) and click on the Summer Experience link or call 201-692-2086.
Regional Center for College Students with Learning Disabilities

2014-15 Information Sessions

Throughout the year, the Regional Center hosts one-hour sessions offering helpful information about its programs and application process. Sessions are held at the Metropolitan Campus (Teaneck, NJ) in Robison Hall (5th Floor) and at the Florham Campus (Madison, NJ) in Hennessy Hall (Sarah Sullivan). Unless otherwise noted, sessions are offered at both campuses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>September 2014</th>
<th>January 2015*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Wednesday, Sept. 17..............</td>
<td>• Wednesday, Jan. 14..................</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2014</td>
<td>• Wednesday, Jan. 28..................</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Wednesday, Oct. 1 (Metro Campus)</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Wednesday, Oct. 1 (Florham Campus)</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Wednesday, Oct. 15..............</td>
<td>• Wednesday, Feb. 25..................</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Sunday, Oct. 26 (Florham Campus)</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Session will be held during Open House at the Florham Campus in Madison, NJ)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2014</td>
<td>• Wednesday, March 25 (Metro Campus)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Thursday, Nov. 6..................</td>
<td>• Wednesday, March 25 (Florham Campus)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Sunday, Nov. 9 (Metro Campus)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Session will be held during Open House at the Metropolitan Campus in Teaneck, NJ)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Wednesday, Nov. 19..............</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Wednesday, Dec. 10..............</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special Sessions for Parents and Students

TBD — Bergen County College Fair
Learn about the comprehensive program of academic support, advisement and counseling available through FDU’s Regional Center.

Thursday, Oct. 16, 2014 | 7 p.m. — Assistive Technology Workshop
Discussion and demonstration of technology tools and how they can be used to assist students with academic difficulties inside and outside of the classroom.

Florham Campus • Hennessy Hall, Hartman Lounge

Monday, Nov. 17, 2014 | 7 p.m. — Metacognitive Strategies
An overview of reading/studying/organizing strategies to assist students in their college careers.

Metropolitan Campus • Robison Hall, 5th Floor, Regional Center

Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2015 | 7 p.m. — Student Panel
Current Regional Center students will discuss the value of the Regional Center’s services and their own transition from high school to college. They will also share strategies that have made them successful.

Florham Campus • Hennessy Hall, Hartman Lounge

Wednesday, March 4, 2015 | 7 p.m. — Transition to College Workshop
An insider’s guide to making a successful transition to college for students with IEPs and 504 plans.

Florham Campus • Hennessy Hall, Hartman Lounge

Monday, March 30, 2015 | 7 p.m. — Assistive Technology Workshop
Discussion and demonstration of technology tools and how they can be used to assist students with academic difficulties inside and outside of the classroom.

Metropolitan Campus • Robison Hall, 5th Floor, Regional Center

Seating is limited, and reservations are recommended. To reserve your space, contact Grace Hottinger at 201-692-2087 or graceh@fdu.edu.
Top 10 Reasons Why Students and Parents Choose the Regional Center

1. We offer a *comprehensive program* of intensive advisement, academic support and counseling services *at no additional cost*.

2. We are a *recognized leader* – statewide and nationally – in supporting students with learning disabilities.

3. Regional Center staff are *trained learning specialists and counselors*.

4. We *support students* throughout their entire course of study at Fairleigh Dickinson University.

5. We assist students with learning disabilities to *succeed in the major of their choice*.

6. We *provide a wide range of accommodations*, including audio textbooks, extended time for testing, assistive technology and the use of word processors.

7. We tailor our support services to the *unique needs* of each student.

8. We require all Regional Center students to take a two-semester *Metacognitive Strategies Course* designed to help them become more effective and self-assured learners.

9. We offer a *two-week summer college prep program* for graduating high school students and rising high school seniors with documented learning disabilities. Sessions on study skills, learning strategies, self advocacy, the writing process, assistive technology and algebra skills are included in the program.

10. Graduates from the Regional Center enter their careers of choice more *confident, independent and prepared to succeed*. 