FLY Program FAQ

What qualifies me to be eligible for applying to the FLY Program? Admission into the FLY Program is selective and limited. The three primary criteria for admission consideration in the FLY Program are as follows:

1. You are diagnosed with a learning disability and/or ADHD.
2. You received accommodations through BGSU Accessibility Services.
3. The FLY Program is a good fit for you and your unique needs.

How can I apply to the FLY Program? Applying for the FLY Program involves 6 steps. You must:

1. Be accepted to BGSU.
2. Apply for and receive accommodations with BGSU Accessibility Services.
3. Apply to the FLY Program.
4. Complete the FLY Admission Interview.
5. Selected by the FLY Team of Learning Specialists as a good fit for the program.
6. Agree to a two-semester commitment to the program as Level 1 student.

What materials are necessary to document my learning disability and/or ADHD when I apply to FLY?

You may submit any of the following forms to support your diagnoses:

- Most recent comprehensive documentation from high school that clearly and explicitly names your diagnoses
- Most recent neuropsychological, psychometric, cognitive, or achievement results and reports
- Most recent ETR, IEP, or 504 (in the order of preference) if the document explicitly identifies your diagnoses
- Signed letter explicitly stating your diagnoses from a professional licensed to make the diagnoses

What is the admission process? The admission process for new applicants takes between 7 and 10 days AFTER you complete the Admission Interview. The FLY Learning Specialists Team will review your supporting documentation, previous accommodations and modifications, and your interview results. They will determine if the FLY Program is a good fit for your individual learning differences. Each student will receive one of the following decisions: Acceptance, Conditional Acceptance, or Denial. If you are accepted with conditions, the conditions will be explained in a letter; you will also be required to sign and return a Student Contract outlining the expectations of the program.
**Is there a fee associated with program participation?** Yes. All students admitted into FLY enter at Level 1. The fee for Level 1 is $2500/semester. This fee is billed as tuition, so it may be paid for with grants, loans, or scholarships.

**Are there any other requirements for participating in the Program?** Yes, you must also sign a Student Contract acknowledging your intention to follow the FLY Program expectations and policies, and you must also agree to a 2-semester commitment at Level 1.

**What happens if I am accepted into the program, but it is full?** We use a waiting list when we reach our enrollment capacity. Spots are limited, so the earlier you apply, the greater your chance of being accepted in the fall. If there are no openings, you are placed on the waiting list for the following semester. We sometimes have openings in the spring semester as well.

**When will I enter the FLY Program if I am accepted?**

New students are only admitted at the beginning of the fall or spring semester.

**How does a Learning Specialist help me?** The Learning Specialist (LS) serves as an academic coach and primary point of contact in the Learning Commons for FLY participants. Here are some the services facilitated by the LS:

- Conducts individual weekly meetings to review attendance, grades, and academic challenges
- Guides and coaches the student in study skills, time management, organization, planning, on-campus resources, and accountability
- Offers guidance in problem solving, communication, self-advocacy, and independence
- Coaches in self-monitoring, goal-setting, academic progress, and educational planning
- Assists in scheduling subject-tutoring sessions
- Connects and refers to the Counseling Center and Academic Advising
- Communicates with families in respect to FERPA and confidentiality

**Will my Learning Specialist help me get A’s at BGSU?** Earning A’s is your responsibility; however, the Learning Specialist can connect you with on-campus services to support you academically.
Who will provide tutoring? Peer-tutoring services are provided in The Learning Commons by undergraduate and graduate students for most 1000-2000 level courses in the setting most suitable for your learning needs (i.e., one-on-one, small group, or during drop-in small group sessions). Learning Specialists do not provide subject-based tutoring. Likewise, the Math and Stats Lab provides students with support for most math and math-related courses on a drop-in basis. Writing consultation is offered in one-on-one appointments, virtual sessions, or by paper submission. The Learning Commons also provides Supplemental Instruction (SI) groups for historically difficult classes.

I’m not very good at keeping track of my assignments. Is there someone who can help me create and complete my personal calendar? The Learning Specialist does not complete personal calendars. However, he/she can assist you in selecting an effective organizational tool for your learning differences, strategies for dividing larger assignments into smaller tasks, and accountability to be sure your organizational tool is up-to-date. Weekly meetings with an academic coach may be suggested by your LS.

Does participation in the FLY Program guarantee my happiness and success at BGSU? No; your happiness and success at BGSU is your responsibility. However, the FLY Program can provide you with academic supports, guidance, coaching, and information regarding on-campus resources. Participating in these opportunities is your choice.

Will my Learning Specialist register me for classes and choose my course schedule? No; your Learning Specialist does not replace your academic advisor. Every student is required to meet with an academic advisor to complete a degree plan. Advisors often suggest an order of classes to be taken each semester, but they do not help you choose the day and time for each class. This is where the Learning Specialist can assist you with choosing appropriate class sections that best fit your learning needs.

What is the difference between an academic coach and a Learning Specialist? There are several differences between the roles of the Learning Specialist and an academic coach. Most importantly, the academic coach is a student (either undergraduate or graduate) who provides you with additional support in executive function tasks, such as developing an email management and organization system, developing strategies for effective time management, creating effective study strategies, and planning the completion of larger projects or papers. Your Learning Specialist, on the other hand, is a trained professional who provides holistic coaching for students diagnosed with learning disabilities and/or ADHD.
Can I choose not to disclose academic information, like my grades and attendance, to my parents? Yes. According to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), parents/guardians can only have access to your name, address, phone number, major/enrollment status, dates of attendance, and activities and sports WITHOUT a signed FERPA release. If you sign a FERPA release, parents/guardians can also have access to academic information like we discuss during your FLY appointment. For more information see the BGSU Students and FERPA page (https://www.bgsu.edu/student-affairs/ferpa/students-and-ferpa.html).

Will my Learning Specialist provide counseling services to me if I am struggling with the transitions of college life? Our Learning Specialists are not trained nor licensed counselors; therefore, he/she can assist you in connecting with the BGSU Counseling Center if you need this type of support.

My parents like to know all about my school. Does my Learning Specialist provide real-time updates to my family after each meeting? Unfortunately, real-time updates are not possible because each Learning Specialist has a full caseload of students and university-related responsibilities. However, students and families are emailed a bi-weekly update with meeting notes from the past two weeks.

Will my Learning Specialist distribute my accommodations to my professors for me? No. Part of learning to become independent and to self-advocate is learning to communicate your learning differences with others. Your Learning Specialist will guide you through the process but delivering the accommodations letter to each professor is your responsibility.

Will my Learning Specialist schedule my exam appointments at Accessibility Services? Your Learning Specialist will teach you how to schedule exam appointments through the Accessibility Services' website, but it is your responsibility to make the appointment.

Are there limitations to the FLY Program? Yes, there are several limitations to the scope of the FLY Program. The limitations are as follows:

- Learning Specialists do not accompany the student to classes.
- Learning Specialists do not visit students’ dormitories or apartments.
- FLY meetings are conducted in the offices of the Learning Specialists.
- Learning Specialists do not house, monitor, nor administer medications.
• Learning Specialists cannot attend classes or speak to professors on your behalf.
• Learning Specialists do not provide tutoring.
• Earning grades is the student’s responsibility.