
SIGNA is organized & coordinated by Hearing & Speech (HESP) Clinic faculty who are certified & licensed speech-language pathologists.

- SIGNA members work with Communication Coaches who are HESP Master's students in speech-language pathology who plan & conduct the 1-on-1 sessions with each SIGNA member.
- SIGNA members also work with Peer Mentors and Peer Coaches who are UMD undergraduates in speech-language pathology and psychology. They help members navigate a variety of social situations in group settings on and around campus.



SIGNA members and their Peer Coaches meet for lunch.

Recipient
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SIGNA

Social **I**nteraction
Group **N**etwork
for **A**ll



DEPARTMENT OF
HEARING AND
SPEECH SCIENCES



SIGNA members and their Peer Coaches get together for card game night.

WHAT'S SIGNA'S PURPOSE?

SIGNA was developed for University of Maryland college students who want to understand others, express themselves and navigate academic & campus life in better ways without losing their...

INDIVIDUALITY.

The purpose of SIGNA is to help UMD students with neuro-divergent needs: *gain comfort and confidence with interpersonal interactions; *learn conversational & self-advocacy skills; *identify and work on executive functioning skills that support personal, academic and professional success; *develop their own personal goals; and *have more opportunities to make friends who will appreciate their diversity and individuality.

SIGNA members get verbal feedback on their interview skills and are encouraged to bring in their resume to get feedback.



Skills SIGNA members can work on...

SIGNA coaches are proud to embrace the neuro-diverse talents and abilities our students with autism bring to the University of Maryland. We also recognize that there are areas that students would like to improve upon, just like other students here on campus.

Some areas students with autism worked on were:

- Conversation & listening skills
- Making & keeping friends
- Executive functioning skills
- Conflict resolution
- Interpreting and using different tone of voice, facial expressions & body language
- Navigating campus life
- Transitioning into the professional world (interview & resume skills)

Testimonials

"I found the mock job interviews to be extremely helpful. I used what was told to me in a recent interview and I got the job."

-SIGNA member

"Our son enjoys his weekly sessions and the outside activities, especially the game night. Board games have always been a love of his :)"

-Parent of a SIGNA member

SIGNA offers:

- Full communication evaluation & report
- Two formal reports (communication plan & progress)
- Weekly group & 1-on-1 sessions
- Peer Mentor check-ins
- Social & professional activities

For more information on Program content & fees:

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