



UNIVERSITY OF  
CENTRAL  
ARKANSAS™

Autism Support Center for  
Executive Functioning and  
Neurodiversity

EXHIBIT D



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# ASCEND: Program Overview

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Launched in Fall 2025 as part of UCA Living Learning Communities ([LLC](#))

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Housed within the Residents in Service and Education ([RISE](#)) LLC in Hughes Hall

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Designed to support neurodiverse students through inclusive, low-sensory, and community-based programming

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Program emphasis on access, connectedness, and voluntary participation



## LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITIES

# Program Goals



1

Increase  
student  
participation

2

Support  
retention of an  
at-risk student  
population

3

Strengthen  
sense of  
belonging and  
community

4

Expand  
academic and  
transition  
supports

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# Program Leadership and Coordination

- One faculty member serves as the ASCEND Academic Coordinator
- Coordinator has expertise in neurodiversity and student support
- Coordinator is responsible for program development, partnerships, and student programming



# Sensory-Supportive Environments and Housing

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- Sensory-friendly space established in Hughes Hall
  - Open to all residents
  - Designed to reduce sensory overload and support self-regulation
- Space complements two additional sensory-supportive areas advertised campus-wide
- Partnership established with UCA Housing
  - Option for ASCEND participants to reside in a block of rooms near the sensory-friendly space
  - Sensory-supportive lighting adjustments available upon request
- No housing requests submitted for Fall 2025



# Student Identification & Outreach



Interest form developed for students to self-identify interest in ASCEND



Form housed on the Living Learning Communities website



Allows students to receive information and support without formal disclosure



Supports connection to affiliated programs, such as the Autism & Neurodiversity Alliance ([ANA](#))

# ASCEND: Activities and Participation



**Inclusive, low-pressure  
community-building  
events open to all UCA  
students (monthly)**

## August: Lunch on the Lawn Alternative Space

- Low-sensory lounge option provided during campus-wide event
- Attendance: 4 students
- Participants included neurodiverse and non-neurodiverse students
- Included in Welcome Week schedule as an inclusive option

## September: Terra Cotta Pot Painting

- Attendance: 7 students
- Approximately half identified as neurodiverse

## October: Planting Rooted Clippings

- Attendance: 3 returning participants
- Mixed neurodiverse and non-neurodiverse identification



**POTTING  
POTENTIAL**

Create, cultivate, and connect!  
Let's paint a pot, add a plant, and  
bring color and life to our campus.

**Paint A Pot:** Tuesday, September 30th  
at 1:40 PM in Old Main Room 28

**Add A Plant:** Tuesday, October 7th  
at 1:40 PM in Old Main Room 28

**RSVP on CubConnect**

Sponsored by ASCEND at RISE



This graphic is a promotional poster for an event. It features a stylized green vine on the left. The title 'POTTING POTENTIAL' is in large, bold, red and blue letters. Below the title is a subtext: 'Create, cultivate, and connect! Let's paint a pot, add a plant, and bring color and life to our campus.' It lists two events: 'Paint A Pot' on September 30th and 'Add A Plant' on October 7th, both at 1:40 PM in Old Main Room 28. It encourages RSVPing on CubConnect. The poster is sponsored by ASCEND at RISE, with the RISE BRUSHES logo and an illustration of paintbrushes in a jar. At the bottom is the ASCEND Living Learning Communities logo.

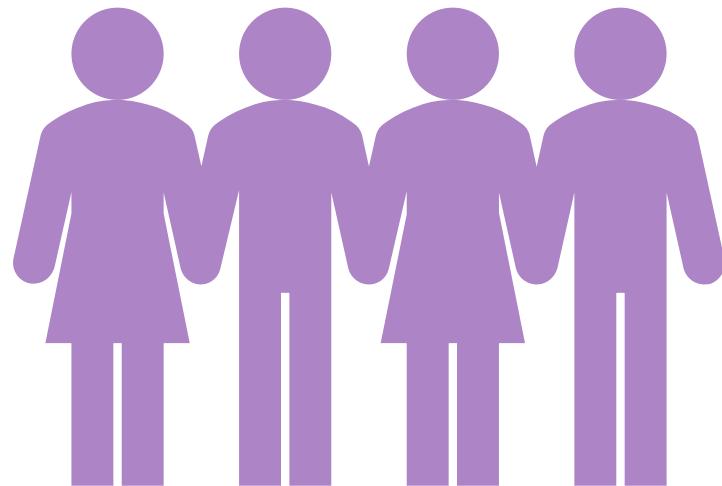


# ASCEND: Promotion & Communication

Events promoted through flyers in Hughes Hall and Old Main Hall and targeted email communication

Targeted email communication to students who complete the interest form

Continued emphasis on opt-in participation



## Spring 2026 Programming

- Similar low-sensory social events planned
- Continued monthly gatherings
- Ongoing collaboration with campus partners



# Future Program Development



Develop structured break opportunities during study day and finals week



Continue refining housing options



Proposed early arrival of ASCEND participants 3–5 days before standard move-in (Fall 2026)

Calmer, lower-sensory transition to campus

Early exposure to key campus resources



Use participation data to guide continuous improvement

# Thank you

## For More Information

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