



# Arrupe Partnerships for Community-based Learning

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## MORGAN AUTISM CENTER

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### **Organizational Profile**

Morgan Autism Center is a non-profit organization that serves individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders and other severe neurological disorders. Diagnoses include Autism, Asperger's Syndrome, Pervasive Development Disorder and related neurological and learning disorders.

Since 1969, the Center has offered an educational program for students from 3-22 years that provides individualized special education with a high staff to student ratio for children who are challenged to acquire skills or benefit from existing public school programs. Many students have accompanying disabilities, i.e. epilepsy, cerebral palsy and visual/hearing impairment. Students demonstrate significant deficits of perception, language, learning and behavior, and function below their age levels in most areas. The Center's model provides a comprehensive approach targeting multiple areas of development in a structured and supportive setting.

In 1985, Morgan Autism Center Adult Program was added, focusing on vocational and independent living skills training and is licensed by the California Department of Social Services. The ratio of staff to participants is 3:1, allowing participants to be closely supervised. All Center staff are credentialed and/or certified.

### **SCU Student's Role**

SCU students will be working only in the adult program, helping with the activities. Participants in the adult program range in age from 20-50 years old. SCU students will be supervised at all times by the Center's professional staff.

### **To Do Before Orientation**

- Visit organization's website above to learn more about their work.
- Read your course syllabus and be prepared to discuss your learning goals with your placement supervisor at orientation.
- A negative TB test within the last year is required. Students can receive a free TB test at the Cowell Student Health Center.