The Adult Social Communication Group at The University of Texas at Dallas

Individuals with social communication disorders secondary to high functioning autism often struggle with social communication issues that may continue into adulthood. The social communication demands of the college and work settings, for a young adult with social communication disorders, can be very challenging. The UTD Social Communication Group was formed to assist/support young adults at UTD and in the community in the college and work settings. The group is limited to seniors in high school who are at least 18 years old to young adults up to 30 years of age. Although there are many young adults who struggle with social communication issues, the group is limited to young adults with social communication disorders secondary to high functioning autism with at least average intellectual ability and who are able to sit and participate in a group without one-on-one assistance due to behavioral or attention issues.

The group meets once per week to discuss various social topics and to practice social and communication skills needed for social, academic, and work life in a support group setting. Some of the topics of the meetings may include:

- Conversation skills with peers
- Conversation skills with authority figures
- Time management
- Non-verbal communication skills
- Professional communication skills
- Job interviewing skills
- Communication during conflict
- Topic management
- Use of abstract language
- Social Thinking skills

The UTD Adult Social Communication Groups is part of the University of Texas at Dallas in Richardson. Services are provided by clinical faculty in collaboration with undergraduate and graduate students pursuing advanced degrees in speech-language pathology.
Services

**Group Therapy**
The group meets one time per week. The focus of the group is on specific social communication weekly themes discussed in an interactive mode with the student clinician as the facilitator. Small groups of 5-7 clients meet in different rooms to encourage more open discussion of topics. Clients are encouraged to share ideas/opinions on a variety of topics from current events to how to communicate effectively with a difficult boss or roommate.

**Clinical Faculty**
**Lucinda Dean, M.S., C.C.C.**
Speech-Language Pathologist
Email: lucinda.dean@utdallas.edu

**Therapy Schedule**
The group session is held on Monday afternoons from 4:00-5:00 during the scheduled UTD fall and spring semesters at:

UTD/Callier Richardson Building
811 Synergy Park Blvd
Richardson, Texas 75080

Please email Lucinda Dean prior to attending the first meeting to assure that space is available and that the group is a good fit for you. There may be a waiting list for the group.

**Fees**
There is a $25 fee to attend the group per semester.