



nonPareil Institute

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the vision of nonPareil Institute?

We envision ever-expanding programs beyond our current technology focus, and expanding our campus model around the world, which will allow a lifetime of sustainability, fulfillment and purpose for adults affected with autism spectrum disorder.

What is the mission of nonPareil Institute?

nonPareil Institute is dedicated to providing technical training, employment and future housing to individuals who have been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. We hope to one day be self-sustaining from the products our Crew build and market.

Do the founders/staff have sufficient background to support the vision of nonPareil Institute?

Yes. Each of the founders has a child affected with autism. They also have a combined 50+ years of experience in technology, training and staffing (employment). In addition, many of the staff and members of the board of directors have family members with autism, education (Master's) and related work experience.

Is nonPareil Institute an accredited school?

No. nonPareil Institute is a non-profit, working technology company. Statistics have shown that the majority of individuals with autism are unable to successfully attend AND complete traditional, post-secondary institutions; further, even those who are able attain a degree, have extreme difficulty securing AND maintaining meaningful, professional, long-term employment. We feel our one-on-one approach, allowing them to learn at their own pace, is more practical for the majority of adults with ASD.

Who can attend nonPareil Institute?

All applicants requesting admission to nonPareil Institute must have completed high school, be 18 years or older and have an official diagnosis on the autism spectrum: Asperger Syndrome, Pervasive Developmental Disorder– Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS), or Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) are acceptable diagnoses.

How can I apply to nonPareil Institute?

If you are a senior in high school or have finished high school and think nonPareil Institute sounds appropriate for you, please go to our website (www.npitx.org/engagement.aspx) and complete the Engagement Form under Area of Interest and select 'Admissions'.

How does the Admissions process work?

Once the Engagement Form has been completed, our admissions team will contact you by phone to determine if nonPareil is a good fit for the applicant. Once the determination has been made, our admissions team will schedule a tour with the applicant and their parent(s). You will receive an official application at the tour. Once we receive the completed application and necessary documents, your file will be reviewed. Once the tour is completed, all of the appropriate paperwork has been received and reviewed and both nonPareil and the parents agree to move forward, the applicant will officially be placed

on the Waiting List for admission. We ask for and appreciate your patience as we are a small non-profit working through many applications.

What experience or educational background is required to attend nonPareil?

All applicants to nonPareil Institute must have completed high school. They may be regular high school graduates or they may have finished high school under special education. Some students have attended college or even graduated from college. No prior related experience or education is required.

Does nonPareil have a waiting list and how long would an applicant remain on the Waiting List?

Yes, there is a waiting list. Since we are not a school, and are open year-round, we are able to admit students at any time, when there is an opening. When we have an opening, we review ALL applicants on the Waiting List to determine who we feel would be the best fit for our program at that time, so it isn't necessarily the next person on the list that gets admitted.

What if I have a younger child and I want to get them on the Waiting List now?

Unfortunately, we are unable to give tours or applications to younger children at this time. We do offer an Open House from time to time, and you are encouraged to register for one of these throughout the year. Your child must be at least 15 years old in order to attend. Please join our Mailing List (see below) to receive our monthly Newsletter to see schedule of upcoming Open House dates.

Where is nonPareil Institute located?

nonPareil Institute is located on the satellite campus of Southern Methodist University, SMU-in-Plano, a northern suburb of Dallas, TX.

Will nonPareil Institute open in other locations?

Yes. Our vision is to expand across the U.S., using the same model of Train.Work.Live. We are actively speaking with individuals in a number of cities to determine our next location. It will take financial resources as well as dedicated local people to help expand nonPareil Institute. If you are interested in helping to bring nonPareil to your city or state, please contact Gary W. Moore (gary@npitx.org).

What is the primary training curriculum of nonPareil Institute?

We are currently focused on technology, both with our training and with products that we release to the market; specifically, mobile apps, video games, and eBooks. Studies have shown and our experience confirms that many individuals with autism are drawn to and have the ability to succeed in technology.

What subjects does nonPareil Institute currently teach?

We currently teach a variety of subjects related to app, video game and eBook development. We continue to add courses in order to remain current with leading-edge technologies and based on market demand.

What type of products do nonPareil Institute students currently produce?

Students at nonPareil Institute learn to create video games, apps and eBooks for the iPhone, the iPad, the Android phone and other technology platforms. For a complete list of our current products, see <http://www.npitx.org/npstore.htm>

Is financial aid available?

nonPareil Institute has a very limited scholarship fund. No scholarships are currently available for new students. If you are interested in contributing to our scholarship fund to help deserving applicants, please contact Gary W. Moore at gary@npitx.org.

What type of student succeeds at nonPareil Institute?

The successful student at nonPareil Institute needs to really enjoy and want to work in technology. Many enjoy working on the computer, play video games, while others are interested in using digital technology to create art, music, or film projects. Training or experience in developing technology is not a requirement, but the applicant must have a strong interest in technology.

How many hours do students attend each day /week?

This varies greatly from student to student. Some attend 12-15 hours per week, while others attend 30-40 hours per week. Our program is designed to be flexible, work to the individuals' strengths and availability, while attempting to accommodate the unique needs of each student.

How is the training conducted? Are there big classrooms with lots of students?

No. What makes nonPareil unique is the way we conduct the skills training. We train one-on-one with every student. This ensures that they can learn at their own pace, and to the level at which they feel comfortable. We do not give tests or grades, thus removing much of the stress and anxiety many individuals with autism experience. We use a proprietary curriculum, developed by nonPareil, to train, track their progress and to develop their technical skills in a self-paced, relaxed lab setting. We also use small group classes to further develop their technical skills as well as develop team skills necessary for future employment.

How long does the program take to complete?

Students at nonPareil Institute progress at their own pace. Some students arrive with college degrees in technology, while others finished high school under special ed. The amount of time it takes to learn the materials taught here depends on many factors: the student's academic background, ability to focus, interest and work ethic. The timeframe to acquire the necessary technical and related job skills required for professional employment is comparable to the timeframe required to complete a college education coupled with the necessary job skills training.

Does nonPareil Institute provide job placement assistance?

nonPareil has a very unique model: we are a software company, intent on employing adults with ASD. As part of their training, nP students who demonstrate ability, initiative and commitment to work, become members of project teams working on products that nonPareil can market. Over time, the goal is that these adults can earn income based on the sales of these technology products. nonPareil will one day work with outside companies willing to outsource work to nonPareil, and will eventually work to develop partnerships with companies interested in hiring adults with autism. However, we remain very concerned about most companies' inability or unwillingness to successfully accommodate adults with ASD in a meaningful job on a long-term basis. Given that over 90% of those with ASD are either unemployed or under-employed, nonPareil is committed to setting the standard for successful, meaningful, long-term employment.

Do you have housing available?

While nonPareil Institute plans to eventually offer housing, we do not have that to offer at this time. There are several apartment complexes within one mile of the nonPareil Institute location. However, nonPareil cannot supervise students in their housing. We can only consider students from outside the Dallas-Fort Worth area if, (1) a family member can move to the Dallas-Fort Worth area with the student, or (2) the student can live with or nearby a family member already in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Do you offer summer camps for younger children with autism?

No. The nonPareil Institute program is a year-round program. Unfortunately, we do not have enough space to provide a summer program for children still in middle school or high school at this time.

What advice could you offer to parents of children who would like to attend nonPareil Institute after completing high school?

We encourage children to investigate technology. A good starting point is free SketchUp software from Google, which allows the child to learn basic 3D modeling. For high school students, Photoshop Elements is a relatively inexpensive, simplified version of the Photoshop professional package.

Where can I learn more about nonPareil?

Please visit our website: www.npitx.org or Facebook: www.facebook.com/nonPareilInstitute

Is there a documentary featuring nonPareil Institute?

Yes, a documentary featuring nP is currently being produced. A trailer to this can be seen by visiting: www.programminghope.com

Where can I learn more about products developed and released by nonPareil?

www.npitx.org/npstore.htm

How can I make a tax-deductible donation to nonPareil Institute?

Visit our website donor page (www.npitx.org/donorsupport.htm). You may also contact Gary W. Moore at gary@npitx.org for more information.

How can I get on your mailing list?

If you would like to be on our email list, click here:

