

## **T. Scott Smith Consulting**

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# **Managing Group Projects and Collaborative Work**

## *Educational Brochure for Students and Parents*

### **Overview**

Group projects are a common part of college coursework and require collaboration, communication, and shared responsibility. For students with autism, group work can present challenges related to communication styles, role clarity, time management, and navigating different expectations among group members.

Understanding how group projects typically function and developing strategies for participation can reduce stress and improve outcomes. Parents can support skill development while encouraging students to manage group responsibilities independently.

### **Common Challenges in Group Projects**

- Unclear roles or expectations within the group
- Differences in communication styles and work pace
- Difficulty coordinating schedules and deadlines
- Uneven contribution from group members
- Stress related to conflict or uncertainty

### **Group Project Success Checklist**

- ✓ Clarify roles and expectations early in the project
- ✓ Keep written records of tasks, deadlines, and decisions
- ✓ Communicate regularly and professionally with group members
- ✓ Ask for clarification when instructions are unclear
- ✓ Contact the instructor early if serious concerns arise

## Recommendations for Students and Parents

Students are encouraged to focus on clear communication, organization, and proactive problem-solving during group projects. Parents can support planning and reflection without intervening directly. These collaboration skills are essential for both academic success and future workplace environments.

### For More Information

For individualized guidance, transition planning, or vocational rehabilitation services related to college students with autism, please contact:

**Dr. T. Scott Smith**

Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

[collegeandautism.com](http://collegeandautism.com)

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