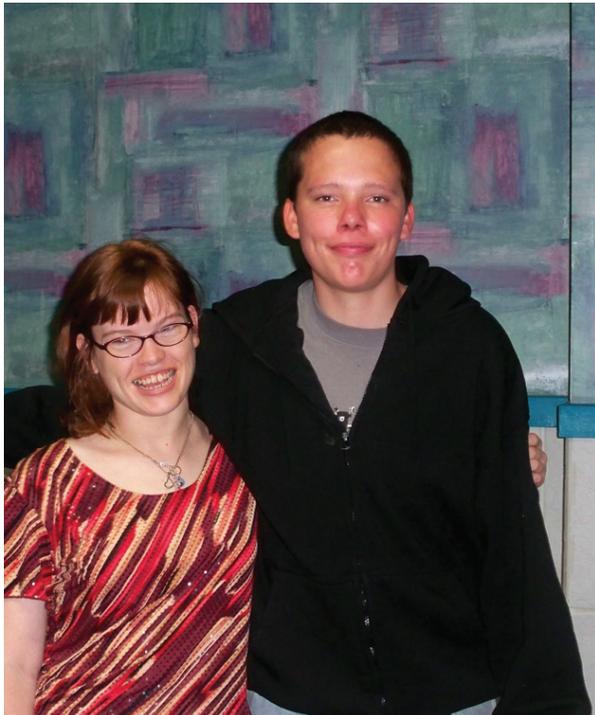


SETTING

Foundations, located in Coyne Hall at Onondaga Community College is on the Centro bus line. Currently, transportation for program participants is provided and partially funded through the HCBS waiver. The program is year-round and runs a rolling admission. Program hours are 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. on Fridays. Off-site community experiences and on-campus activities are important for each student's personal development and also provide an arena to apply skills learned in the program and to assess outcomes.

The focus of *Foundations* is for students to develop an understanding of expectations and identify their role in accomplishing what is expected, whether in the community or on the job. The key to independence lies within each individual as they build on their strengths and recognize when they need assistance. Deciding when to ask for help and when to work through problems independently is a skill valued by employers and practiced daily in program.



ONONDAGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
4585 WEST SENECA TURNPIKE
SYRACUSE, NY 13215-4585
(315) 498-6005
www.sunyocc.edu

Foundations Transition Program

*"Education is a human right
with immense power to transform.
On its foundation rest the cornerstones
of freedom, democracy, and sustainable
human development."*

-Kofi Annan



FOUNDATIONS TRANSITION PROGRAM

Students who have developmental disabilities have often learned to interact and adapt in ways that promote a “helpless” approach to decision making, with little understanding of their role in the problem solving process. This limits opportunities in every area of life: social, educational, and vocational. Our goal is to create environments in which students realize success by becoming responsible and independent contributors to their surroundings and assume an active role in outcomes.

Foundations transition program is for students who desire a solid awareness of who they are and what they can accomplish through effective communication and problem solving. The focus is on fostering independence while helping students prepare for employment.

At *Foundations*, all students are assessed regularly in the areas of hygiene and appearance, attitude, responsibility, listening and taking direction, problem solving, ability to get along with others, self-awareness, self advocacy, and perseverance.

Students most likely to benefit are those with a mild intellectual disability and eligible for an IEP or the local diploma. Students must be at least 20 years old (preferably 21) and be deemed eligible for the Home and Community Based (HCBS) Medicaid waiver. We strongly recommend students take full advantage of the educational services provided in high school and remain in school until age 21 to better prepare for our program. At *Foundations* students are expected to possess a maturity level where the desire to learn and prepare for employment is evident, but additional time is needed to practice and master the skills necessary for further independence. The ideal student for this program is one who can independently and appropriately regulate their behavior in a variety of settings. Off-site community experiences and on-campus activities are important for each student’s personal development and also provides an arena to apply skills learned in the program and to assess outcomes.

This transition program focuses on issues of personal/ academic development revolving around employability. Student participation is typically three to four years, followed by a referral to other agencies for vocational placement, or, if necessary, additional habilitation training.



FOUNDATIONS TRANSITION PROGRAM

The *Foundations* transition program takes a structured learning approach to teach pro-social skills. Classroom instruction is designed to introduce and reinforce positive independent living skills using the four-step process of: Demonstration – Modeling – Rehearsal – Application. Content areas blend with daily living experiences, offering choices to expose students to the basics of the problem solving process.

Training and Instruction is presented in the following areas:

Functional Academics

- Decision Making/Problem Solving
- Interpersonal Relationships
- Communication
- Conflict Management
- Social Competence/Work Performance

Independent Living:

- Healthy and Physical Wellness
- Hygiene and Appearance
- Shopping/Budgeting
- Money Management
- Housekeeping
- Healthy Meal Preparation
- Public Transportation

Pre-vocational:

- Cooperation
- Responsibility/Initiative
- Job Readiness

ADMISSIONS/ELIGIBILITY

A visit to the *Foundations* program for students transitioning out of school in the current school year or for those recently graduated can be scheduled during the months of November, February, March. Once a student visits and expresses a desire to attend the program, the service coordinator must submit the required paperwork, if openings are available; an intake meeting may be scheduled to determine eligibility and acceptance into program.

Criteria used to determine acceptance of a student into the program:

1. Student must be at least 20 years of age (preferably 21), and eligible for the HCBS waiver.
2. Student must have motivation and eagerness to learn.
3. Student must possess the ability to receive information and instruction from staff and provide independent responses and feedback.
4. Acceptable social behavior verified by family, school, or agency. Included is the ability to get along with peers, follow rules, accept supervision, and have no history of criminal convictions.
5. Student must have history of demonstrated commitment through regular school attendance.
6. Student must be independent in areas of mobility, daily living skills, and the regulation of their behavior. *Foundations* program is not designed for students who require 1:1 supervision.
7. Submit a completed application that supplies requested documentation.

For an admissions application or to schedule a visit, please call the College for Living department at 315-498-6006 or 315-498-6022 or email ancillod@sunyocc.edu