

Eligibility

To be considered for the program, an individual must first be determined to have an intellectual disability and establish eligibility through the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD). The Central New York Developmental Regional Office (DDRO) is the starting point to apply for services. To access this program, an individual must also be deemed eligible for the Home and Community Based Medicaid Waiver (HCBS).

Visits to the program for students transitioning out of high school in the current school year or those recently graduated can be scheduled in the months prior to graduation. Once a student visits and expresses a desire to apply, their Care Manager must submit a service authorization request (SART) to the Central New York Developmental Disabilities Regional Office (DDRO) and required paperwork to the college. If openings are available, an intake meeting will be scheduled to determine suitability and acceptance into the program.

Setting

Foundations Transitions Program is in Coyne Hall at Onondaga Community College. Transportation is provided and partially funded through the HCBS waiver. The program is year-round and runs on a rolling admission. Program hours are 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Monday-Friday.

For more information, please contact the College for Living Department at: (315) 498-6005 or (315) 498-6022 or by email: d.mckenney@sunyocc.edu or mecha@sunyocc.edu

Foundations Transition Program



About the Program

Students who have intellectual 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 an active role in outcomes.**

Foundations Transition Program is for students who desire an awareness of who they are and what they can accomplish through effective communication and problem solving. The focus is on fostering independence by preparing students for community involvement and/or employment. Students are assessed regularly in the areas of hygiene and appearance, attitude, effective communication, responsibility, initiative, cooperation, and work quality and quantity. This group day habilitation program (GDH WOW) is designed for individuals with a mild disability who have recently taken coursework in career exploration and work-based learning. Students with borderline to mild deficient adaptive functioning in receptive/expressive/written communication, as well as daily living skills and socialization, are appropriate for this program.

Current Coursework:

Functional Academics: Time and money management, budgeting, menu and grocery store math, use of a daily planner

Interpersonal Relationships: Acquaintances, friendships, and dating. Setting boundaries

Communication: Effective listening and interactions using pro-social lessons

Independent Living: Housekeeping, shopping, healthy meal preparation

Health and Physical Wellness: Aerobic exercise, yoga and dance, art, and music classes.

Community pre-vocational service is offered in a group setting for select eligible students. Students who receive both group day habilitation and community pre-vocational services attend classes for half the day and volunteer in the community the remainder of the day. Individuals in the pre-vocational program are expected to possess a maturity level where the desire to learn is evident, but additional time is needed to practice and master the skills necessary for employment and further independence. The ideal student for the program is one who can independently and appropriately regulate their conduct in a variety of settings. Off-site community experiences and on-campus activities are important for each student’s personal development; they provide an arena to apply skills learned in the program and a realistic assessment of outcomes.

Criteria used to determine acceptance of an individual into the program:

1. The student must be approved for the group day habilitation and/or community prevocational service via the Front Door; this is the initial contact through the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD).
2. The student must possess the ability to receive information and instruction from staff and provide independent responses and feedback.
3. 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.
4. The student must have the motivation and eagerness to learn. This includes a history of commitment through regular school attendance.
5. The student must be independent in areas of mobility, daily living skills, administration of medication, and regulation of their behavior. This program is not designed for students who require 1:1 supervision and assistance.
6. Submit a completed application that supplies requested documentation.

