



# Ready for Life Academy

## INCLUSIVE COLLEGE PROGRAM

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Transition program for people with special needs ages 18-26

Location: Hope College

Established: August, 2007

Funding Partners: Tuition, Public School Districts, Ready for Life Scholarship Fund

### PROGRAM FEATURES

- Interaction and involvement on a college campus with same age peers
- Lifelong learning model based on students individual goals
- Instruction in the core areas of transition by a certified special educator
- Participation in College classes
- Participation in campus activities
- Volunteer job placements on campus and in the community
- Community Living Support services for after school support
- Four year program

### PROGRAM VALUES

- Individual worth and value
- Lifelong learning model dedicated to:
  - Fostering interdependent community
  - Encouraging strong work skills
  - Cultivating gift-based character
- Inclusion
- Service learning
- Building purposeful relationships
- Promoting healthy lifestyle habits
- Advancing individual responsibility and citizenship

### STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

- Diagnosed special need
- Completion of high school with certificate of completion or high school diploma
- Future goals of living independently and having paid employment
- Completed application

- Copy of IEP and MET
- Completed school referral form
- Completed health form
- The following assessed skills during interview:
  - Minimum 3<sup>rd</sup> grade comprehensive reading level
  - Basic money skills
  - Ability to cross streets safely
  - Knowledge of personal information
    - Name, address, phone number, email address, etc
  - Ability to write, type or dictate a paragraph
  - Calculator skills
  - Basic conversation skills
  - Beginning life skills
    - Personal hygiene, basic meal prep, etc
- Signed student guideline and policy handbook
- Parent/Guardian/Caregiver requirements
  - Willing to allow the RFL student the dignity of risk to make individual decisions and move around the campus and community without direct supervision.
  - Signed financial contract taking responsibility for the cost of tuition
  - Open communication with Ready for Life staff

## IMPACT OF READY FOR LIFE

- Improved self-confidence, independence, communication skills and community awareness for Ready for Life students
- Skill learning and skills development for Ready for Life students
- Increase in maturity level for Ready for Life students
- Meaningful friendships between Ready for Life students and Hope college students
- On campus special education learning environment for Hope college students
- Community commitment to inclusivity

## STAFF

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