Ready for Life Academy

INCLUSIVE COLLEGE PROGRAM

Transition program for people with special needs ages 18-26

Location: Hope College

Established: August, 2007

Tuition: $11,000-$18,000/year

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 – Courses of Study
• Participation in campus activities
• Volunteer job placements on campus and in the community
• Community Living Support services for after school support
• Four year program – two certificate of completion options

PROGRAM VALUES

• Individual worth and value
• Lifelong learning model dedicated to:
  o Fostering interdependent community
  o Encouraging strong work skills
  o 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
  o Copy of IEP and MET
  o Completed school referral form
  o Completed health form
• The following assessed skills during interview:
  o Minimum 3rd grade comprehensive reading level
  o Basic money skills
  o Ability to cross streets safely
  o Knowledge of personal information
    ▪ Name, address, phone number, email address, etc
  o Ability to write, type or dictate a paragraph
  o Calculator skills
  o Basic conversation skills
  o Beginning life skills
    ▪ Personal hygiene, basic meal prep, etc
• Signed student guideline and policy handbook
• Parent/Guardian/Caregiver requirements
  o Willing to allow the RFL student the dignity of risk to make individual decisions and move around the campus and community without direct supervision.
  o Signed financial contract taking responsibility for the cost of tuition
  o 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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