



# Ready for Life Academy

## INCLUSIVE COLLEGE PROGRAM

---

Transition program for people with special needs ages 18-26

Location: Calvin College

Re-established: January, 2017

Funding Partners: Tuition, Ready for Life Scholarship, MIABLE Account

### PROGRAM FEATURES

- Interaction and involvement on a college campus with same age peers
- Lifelong learning model based on student's 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, as requested
- 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 skills will be assessed during the 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

## OUTCOMES OF READY FOR LIFE ACADEMY

- 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 Calvin college students
- On-campus special education learning environment for Calvin college students
- Community commitment to inclusivity

## STAFF

---

### **Emily Perton**

Executive Director  
[emily.perton@rflnetwork.org](mailto:emily.perton@rflnetwork.org)  
 (616)248-3775 office  
 (616)550-5064 cell

### **Amber Gilliland**

Instructor  
[amg35@calvin.edu](mailto:amg35@calvin.edu)  
 (630)940-9695 cell

### **Jamie Smits**

CLS Coordinator /Classroom Assistant  
[jamie.smits@rflnetwork.org](mailto:jamie.smits@rflnetwork.org)  
 (616)813-8708 cell

### **Mallory Dye**

Social Worker  
[mallory.dye@rflnetwork.org](mailto:mallory.dye@rflnetwork.org)  
 (317)670-4904 cell