

WELCOME

Ready For Life

[Interactive Open House](#)

Spring 2021

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CALVIN UNIVERSITY

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RFLA@CALVIN STAFF

<u>Amber Schafer</u>	Lead Instructor
<u>Kae Groenleer</u>	Part-time Instructor
<u>Jamie Smits</u>	Instructional Assistant and CLS Coordinator
<u>Mallory Dye</u>	Social Worker / Housing Coordinator
<u>Emily Perton</u>	Executive Director

HOPE COLLEGE

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FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

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RFLA@FSU STAFF

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[Sandy Baker](#)

Lead Instructor

[Emily Perton](#)

Executive Director

READY FOR LIFE ACADEMY STUDENTS

WELCOME YOU!

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PROGRAM FEATURES AND GOALS

- To prepare students for paid employment and independent living
- 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 - add on service

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

READY FOR LIFE ACADEMY CORE

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CLASSES	
Relationships	Fall semester 2x/week
Personal Finance	Fall semester 2x/week
Employment	Spring Semester 2x/week
Independent Living	Spring Semester 2x/week
Genius Hour	Spring semester 1x/week
Belonging in Community Academic Support Lifetime Management	Every semester 1x/week

RELATIONSHIPS

Course Description:

Ready For Life Academy students learn how to communicate with others using the PEERS curriculum as well as social thinking. The four different classes focus on how communication differs depending upon your relationship with the person and the type of communication. Topics range from digital etiquette, conflict management, personal space, and romantic relationships.

Topics Covered:

Communication skills
Self-Awareness skills
Listening skills
Boundaries
Conflict management
Character traits
Self-advocacy
Disability awareness
Emotions/behaviors

PERSONAL FINANCE

Course Description:

Ready For Life Academy students learn how to manage their own finances through four different classes focusing on the different aspects of money managements. Students will learn how to create a personal budget, maintain a personal budget using online banking and apps, read their paycheck, pay bills and save for the future.

Topics Covered:

Money skills

Budgeting

Banking

Bills

EMPLOYMENT

Course Description:

Ready For Life Academy students learn the important skills associated with employment. Through four different classes the students will identify job interest areas, create a resume, apply for jobs, interview for a job, the soft skills they need to be a good employee, and how to communicate with coworkers.

Topics Covered:

Applications

Resume

Interview skills

Job searching

Good employee traits

Paycheck understanding

W-2 forms

Workplace vocabulary

INDEPENDENT LIVING

Course Description:

Ready For Life Academy students learn the skills they need to manage their life and home independently. Through the completion of four different classes the students will learn how to move out on their own, manage household tasks, stay safe and healthy, and understand their sexuality and wellness.

Topics Covered:

Meal planning

Balanced eating according to the food plate

Stress management

Body Awareness

Cooking/Kitchen Safety

Medications

Scheduling and attending Doctor
Appointments

Exercise

Home Management

Genius Hour

Students create their own personal research project and present it at an annual fair.

Lifetime Management

Students learn the importance of time management and remaining organized with assignments, social calendar, and daily communication tasks.

Belonging in Community

Students set goals weekly and track their goals through group discussions and one on one advising with Ready For Life Staff.

Academic Support

Students complete their adapted course work for their college classes through the support of the Ready For Life Staff.

CERTIFICATE TRACKS

HOPE AND CALVIN ONLY

Enhancement Track

Academy students who graduate with a Ready For Life Academy Enhancement Certificate have completed four years at the Ready For Life Academy program. They have taken two college classes each semester in both liberal arts as well as a course of study of their choosing. They have also completed the life skills requirements that are broken into four themes: personal finance, relationships, employment and independent living. The students have enhanced their learning by participating in volunteer job placements on and off campus and choosing Ready For Life Academy extension classes. The Enhancement Certificate provides the graduate with the next steps in life toward paid employment and independent living.

Foundational Track

Academy students who graduate with a Ready For Life Academy Foundational Certificate have completed four years at the Ready For Life Academy program. They have taken one college class each semester in either liberal arts or a course of study of their choosing. They also completed all the life skills requirements that are broken into four themes: personal finance, relationships, employment and independent living. The Foundational Certificate provides the graduate with the next steps in life toward paid employment and independent living.

CERTIFICATE TRACKS

HOPE AND CALVIN ONLY

Enhancement Track

Four years

Five days a week

RFLA classes

College classes

3 required College classes

4 Plan of Study College classes

9 liberal arts College Classes

Job internships

Daily academic support

Weekly Advising

\$9,125/semester

Foundational Track

Four years

Three days a week

RFLA classes

College Classes

3 required Hope classes

4 plan of study Hope classes

1 liberal arts Hope Classes

Weekly academic support

Weekly Advising

\$5,500/semester

CERTIFICATE TRACK

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Two years/ Two summers

Five days a week

RFLA classes

College classes

Audit option

For credit options

Certificate programs

Associates Degree in general studies

Job internships and paid position in the summer

Daily academic support

Weekly Advising

\$7,500 - \$8,000/semester

TRACKS OF STUDY

Liberal Arts

Understanding and
Helping Others

Ministry and Service

Education and
Children

Communication

Physical Wellness

Creation Care

Ferris Only



Hospitality

Associates degree

Certificate programs

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

Arrival	8:25
Lifetime Management	8:30-9:00
RFLA Core Class	9:00-10:00
Chapel / Break	10:00-10:30
College Class	10:30-11:30

Lunch	11:30-12:15
Academic Support	12:15-1:15
RFLA Core Class	1:15-2:15
Literature	2:15-2:45
Community Living Support	4:30-6:30

MENTORING MATTERS

- College students who volunteer an hour to two hours each week to spend time with the RFL students in class, in the RFLA room or at social events on campus.
- Goal is to provide reciprocal friendships or natural supports with friends on campus.
- RFLA welcomes between 10 and 20 mentors each semester
- All mentors go through required training as well as a background check

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Meet our Mentors.

[Hope](#) and [Calvin](#)

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HOUSING

HOPE

RFL corporate leases homes near Hope College.

The houses are fully furnished and within walking distance to Campus.

Support:

On-call Resident Living Advisors

Planned Weekend Activity

Daily check-ins

RFLA students must meet the additional requirements to apply for an housing spot:

Safely be alone for up to two waking hours/day

Safely walk to and from campus

Administer their own medication

Take care of their own personal hygiene needs

Prepare simple meals

7-15 hours of Community Living Support Service/week

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HOUSING OPTIONS



HOUSING

CALVIN UNIVERSITY

- RFLA freshman and Sophomore students will live in a dorm on calvin's campus.

- RFLA students must meet the additional requirements to live in the dorm:

Safely be alone for up to two waking hours/day

Administer their own medication

Take care of their own personal hygiene needs

Prepare simple meals

5-8 hours of Community Living Support Service/week

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- RFLA students will share a room with another RFLA student of the same gender.
- Support:
 - On-call Resident Living Advisors
 - Daily check-ins

HOUSING

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

- RFLA students live on the first floor of North Hall.

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[Check it out!](#)

- RFLA students will share a room with another RFLA student of the same gender.
- Support:
 - On-call Resident Living Advisors
 - Daily check-ins

- RFLA students must meet the additional requirements to live in the dorm:

Safely be alone for up to two waking hours/day

Administer their own medication

Take care of their own personal hygiene needs

Prepare simple meals

7-15 hours of Community

Living Support Service/week

HOUSING COSTS

Single Room House	\$750/month +Utilities
Room and Board Calvin	\$10,800/year
Shared Room Dorm Ferris	\$711/month
Community Living Support Private Pay	\$15/hour

COMMUNITY LIVING SUPPORTS (CLS)

- One on one after school support in the students home/apartment working on specific independent living goals.
- Typically funded by community mental health services.
- Typical numbers of hours, 7-15/week.
- Typical goals: cleaning, grocery shopping, food preparation, laundry, budgeting, social skills, safety.
- Staff are hired and trained by Ready For Life, we hire college students.

SAMPLE CLS SCHEDULE

Sunday	3:00-5:00	Laundry and schedule the week
Monday	4:30-6:30	Meal planning, grocery list, grocery shopping, food preparation
Wednesday	4:30-6:30	Budgeting, exercise, chore zone
Thursday	4:30-6:30	Socialization, safety, food preparation
Saturday	10:00-12:00	Cleaning, food preparation

Meal Plan	Hope	\$7.80/meal X 7 meals a week = \$2,000/year
	Calvin	30 Block: \$570/year 60 Block: \$1,140/year 100 Block: \$1,900/year 150 Block: \$2,850/year
	Ferris	14 meals/week: \$4,200/year

OTHER COSTS

Books	\$200- \$300/year
Spending money	\$450/year

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
 - Completed interview
- Skills:
- Minimum 3rd 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

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Application Deadline: 12/15/20
- Student Interviews: 1/10/21-2/25/21
- Announcement Letters Sent: 3/1/21
- Acceptance Letter Return Due Date: 3/15/21
- Housing Application Deadline: 4/15/21
- Tuition Assistance Application: 5/1/21-5/30/21
- Tuition Assistance Letters Sent: 6/15/21
- Mandatory Student Orientation: TBD

WANT TO APPLY?

Complete the interactive PDF

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Application

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Support Inventory

NEED MORE INFORMATION

Reach out to Emily Perton

emily.perton@rflnetwork.org

(616)550-5064

THANK YOU

We Hope to Meet You
Soon!