

# Transition Guide: Further Education



## College and Post High School Educational Opportunities for Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

### Can I Go to College Without a Diploma?



The answer is "YES"! The last few years have brought some wonderful new programs to college campuses near you. These programs are specifically for students with developmental and intellectual disabilities for whom a general education diploma wasn't possible. But that doesn't mean college is impossible. Check out these programs that are geared for students with certificates of completion.

### Different Paths to Further Education

- ♦ Tennessee Rehabilitation Center at Smyrna  
<http://tn.gov/humanservices/topic/trc-smyrna>
- ♦ 2-year college associate degree programs
- ♦ Apprenticeships
- ♦ Adult college classes
- ♦ Adult education classes
- ♦ Programs for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities

### Specially Designed Postsecondary Programs

Postsecondary education programs for students with developmental and intellectual disabilities in Tennessee are two-year courses of study which empower students to achieve gainful employment in the community.

They are comprehensive transition programs for unique learners and highly motivated young adults whose disability is characterized by significant limitations in both intellectual functioning and adaptive behavior. Most students typically received special education services while in high school, graduating with either a regular diploma or a special diploma.

These programs enable young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to make a successful transition from high school to adult life by providing them with career counseling and developing their academic, vocational, and decision-making skills. Some programs offer campus housing, while others do not. Upon successful completion of the program a vocational certificate is awarded.



**Resources for College Life** Some students may be eligible for support from Vocational Rehabilitation to support their college endeavors. Look under the Disability Services heading for eligibility and service information:

<https://www.tn.gov/humanservices>

A summary of the best colleges for students with disabilities including services available on campus: [www.bestcolleges.com/resources/disabled-students/](http://www.bestcolleges.com/resources/disabled-students/)

Photo credit: <https://thehopescholarship.files.wordpress.com/>



Tennessee Promise offers two years of tuition-free community or technical college to Tennessee high school graduates. Tennessee Promise is a last-dollar scholarship, meaning it will cover college costs not met from Pell, HOPE, or TSSA. As part of the program, students are provided with a mentor who will support them during the college application process.

**More information:** [www.tnpromise.gov](http://www.tnpromise.gov)

## Postsecondary Programs in Tennessee

### Access – East Tennessee State University (Johnson City)

<https://www.etsu.edu/coe/access/>

### EDGE – Union University (Jackson)

<https://www.uu.edu/programs/education/edge/>

### FUTURE – University of Tennessee (Knoxville)

<https://futureut.utk.edu/>

### IDEAL – Lipscomb University (Nashville)

<https://www.lipscomb.edu/academics/undergraduate-studies/ideal-program>

### Next Steps – Vanderbilt University (Nashville)

<https://peabody.vanderbilt.edu/departments/nextsteps/>

### STARS – Christian Brothers University (Memphis)

<https://www.cbu.edu/academics/academic-success-resources/disability-services/>

### TigerLIFE – University of Memphis (Memphis)

<https://www.memphis.edu/tigerlife/>

### Autism Spectrum Programs

- **Full Spectrum Learning – Austin Peay State University (Clarksville)**  
<https://www.apsu.edu/full-spectrum-learning/>
- **Mosaic Program - University of Tennessee (Chattanooga)**  
[www.utc.edu/disability-resource-center/mosaic/](http://www.utc.edu/disability-resource-center/mosaic/)



Photo credit Wright.edu

## Looking for a Chance to Live On-Campus Away from Home?

Check out these postsecondary education programs around the country. More new programs are being developed every year.

### Shepherd's College in Wisconsin 3-year postsecondary program

[www.shepherdscollege.edu/](http://www.shepherdscollege.edu/)

### University of Iowa REACH Program

[www.education.uiowa.edu/services/reach/home](http://www.education.uiowa.edu/services/reach/home)

### Georgia Institute of Technology Inclusive Postsecondary Academy at Georgia Tech

<https://excel.gatech.edu/>

For a complete list of **240 programs around the country** for students with intellectual disabilities.

[www.thinkcollege.net/databases/programs-database](http://www.thinkcollege.net/databases/programs-database)