

the Sillerman Center

FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF PHILANTHROPY

INCLUSIVE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES:

A Guide to High Impact Investments



College provides countless opportunities to learn, mature, connect with others, and explore options for the future. Students with intellectual disabilities (ID) seek college experiences for many of the same reasons as students without ID.

Inclusive postsecondary education (PSE) programs are college-based programs designed to help students with ID access college experiences. Students with ID are

enrolling in colleges and universities, through inclusive PSE programs, at an unprecedented rate. Institutions of higher education may address the needs of these students through the disability services office, specialized programs, collaborations with outside agencies, or some combination of these. Over 200 college or university-based programs now exist in 48 states to help students with ID access college courses and experiences.

FOR ANY STUDENT - INCLUDING THOSE WITH ID - COLLEGE CAN PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES TO:

- Take ownership of learning
- Explore academic and extracurricular interests
- Make friends
- Access new cultural experiences
- Acquire work experience
- Practice independence from parents
- Learn financial responsibility

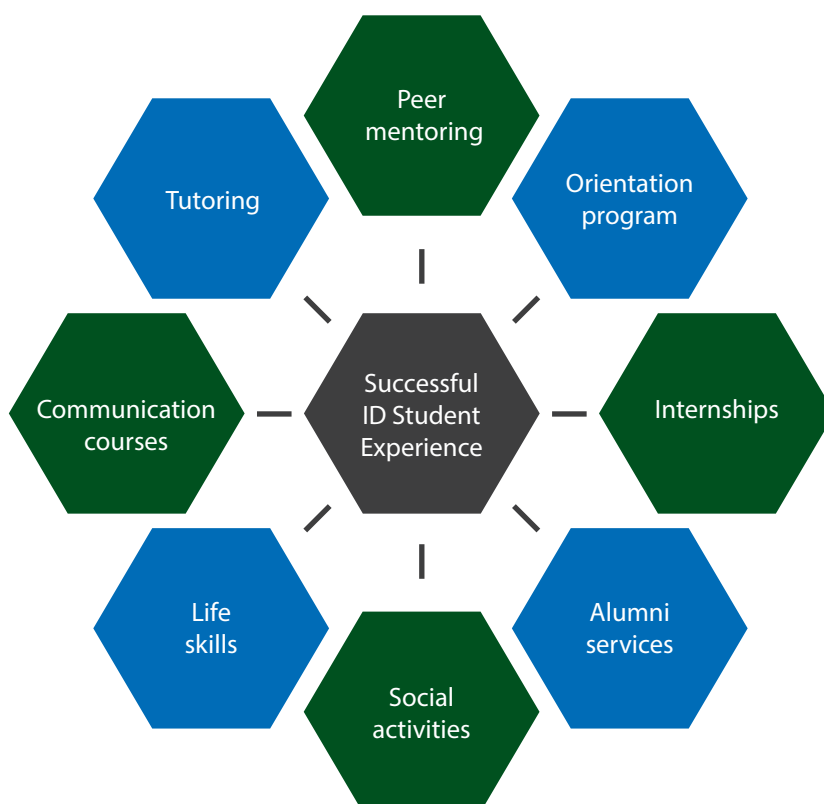
College students with ID may need these kinds of support:

Identifying and requesting academic and physical accommodations	Accessing campus activities and services	Navigating campus (physical spaces and operational systems) and the local community	Negotiating roommate issues and other social interactions	Maintaining safe, clean, functional living spaces
Setting and pursuing challenging but achievable goals	Selecting and registering for appropriate coursework	Transitioning into adult life upon graduation	Finding and succeeding in internship or work placements	Communicating important information to/from families

Inclusive PSE programs vary widely in their cost, duration, level of integration with degree-seeking students, and access to campus courses and activities. Programs may or may not offer college credits, housing, vocational training, work or internship placements, financial aid, or alumni services.

For a comprehensive list of inclusive PSE programs, visit www.ThinkCollege.net. Amendments to the [Higher Education Opportunity Act](#) and efforts of advocates have resulted in an unprecedented rate of students with ID enrolling in college and universities through inclusive PSE programs.

In addition to course work, a successful college experience for students with ID should include:



Inclusive PSE programs should strive for the following outcomes for graduates:

- Mutually beneficial friendships
- Paid employment and the skills to maintain employment and find new work opportunities when necessary
- Safety and self-care skills that maximize residential independence
- Access to adult disability services and benefits programs, and the skills to effectively use them
- The ability to articulate goals and identify pathways for achieving them
- Financial independence, to whatever degree possible for each individual

High impact inclusive PSE programs should:

- Promote the inclusion of people with ID in mainstream educational experiences, competitive employment opportunities, and community life by collaborating with disability service organizations
- Prioritize affordability and the enrollment of a diverse student body
- Contribute to the larger campus community by conducting research, offering professional development opportunities, and spreading awareness of disability issues
- Track student outcomes in order to strengthen the knowledge base of best practices and improve their own programming
- Utilize the Think College Standards of Practice* as a guide for program development and operation

*http://www.thinkcollege.net/images/stories/standards_F.pdf

For more information please visit:

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