Career and Community Studies-Employment Readiness is a college-based, transition, non-degree program to prepare students with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and autism (ages 18 and older) for adult life through academic pursuits, peer socialization, and career discovery and preparation. The program integrates inclusive classes, a typical college experience, and a transition curriculum to assist students in achieving adult roles and a quality of life in a community of their choice.

The first year of the program is designed as a foundation with courses covering self-determination, disability awareness and laws that protect disability rights, personal development, health and wellness, and employment skill development. Year two allows students to expand employment skills through career exploration courses and internship experiences.

Admission Requirements

The program is limited to 10-12 students each fall. Students participating in the program experience intellectual and developmental disabilities that may affect some intellectual functioning and adaptive behavior. Other qualifications include documentation of past successful work, academic, leadership, and community participation. Also required for admission are a completed application, reference letters, and an in-person interview with the CCS admission committee.

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of this program will be able to:

1. Become more self-determined persons who are better prepared for independent living and the achievement of career goals.
2. Gain confidence in critical and independent thinking and use their own voice and vision in order to be active and informed citizens.
3. Understand basic concepts of the academic disciplines and apply imagination and creativity as they begin a lifelong pursuit of knowledge.
4. Demonstrate awareness of ethical implications of their own actions and be positive role models who contribute to societal views concerning inclusion, community, and tolerance for diversity.