



College Readiness Checklist for Inclusive Higher Education Programs

Inclusive higher education programs provide students with intellectual disability the opportunity to continue their education after high school. They focus on preparing students for independent living and employment. Postsecondary higher education programs are growing in the United States. As of spring 2020, there are around 280 programs that allow individuals with intellectual disability to go to college at small private universities, large state schools, and everything in between! There are currently 6 programs in Tennessee: Next Steps at Vanderbilt University, TigerLIFE at the University of Memphis, the FUTURE Program at the University of Tennessee Knoxville, the IDEAL Program at Lipscomb University, the EDGE Program at Union University, and the Access Program at East Tennessee State University.

Recommended Skills:

Though this is a general checklist, students with the following skills would be well prepared to attend an inclusive higher education program. Students must have the ability to:

- Use different modes of communication, like a smart phone
- Sit independently through class periods (around 2 hours) without exhibiting disruptive behavior
- Actively participate in classes and community activities
- Follow rules closely
- Navigate campus with supports such as peers, a map, or phone application
- Use a computer
- Follow a schedule that changes day to day
- Be safe independently without constant supervision

Admissions Requirements:

Admissions requirements depend on the specific postsecondary higher education program that the student is interested in attending. Below is a list of general requirements.

The student must:

- Typically be between the ages of 18 and 29
- Have a documented intellectual disability (sometimes students with developmental disabilities are accepted)
- Have completed high school and received a regular, special education, alternate academic, or occupational diploma
- Demonstrate basic literacy skills
- Express a desire to go to college
- Access transportation to and from campus

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