



Lifelong Learning Programs

Lifelong Learning Programs are often geared toward older adults in the community who are of retirement age. These programs offer a chance to expand their knowledge by exploring new ideas. Usually, these classes are noncompetitive without grades or exams. Classes provide an opportunity to learn about new concepts in a comfortable environment that facilitates friendships among peers. Class topics range from language, music, and food to academics and hobbies. Although lifelong learning programs are often intended for older adults, they may also serve as a learning outlet for individuals with disabilities. Some community classes may also be open to all ages. Check with local universities and schools to see what kind of opportunities are offered in your area.

What areas of Tennessee do they serve?

There are Lifelong Learning Programs available throughout the state. Most often, they are affiliated with local schools, community colleges, and universities.

Is there a cost and, if so, who pays?

Each program varies in price. Check with the specific program to get financial information and to see if financial assistance is available.



For which students might this agency be appropriate?

Many Lifelong Learning Programs are targeted toward individuals who are of retirement age however all community programs do not have age requirements. Students who are interested in continuing to learn and want to engage with their community may find that Lifelong Learning classes are an appropriate and fun outlet for them.

Who is eligible to receive their services/ supports and when?

This is dependent upon individual programs. Some may have age or other requirements.

What is the student's and/or family's responsibility?

Together with their family, a student can seek out information about Lifelong Learning opportunities in the community and review information about



specific classes that may be of interest. They are also responsible for applying to the programs in order to enroll.

What is the responsibility of an educator?

If the teacher is aware of an all-age community class that might interest a student, the teacher should share information about the opportunity with the student and their family.

How (and when) do you involve them in the transition planning process?

- If students are not interested in attending a postsecondary education program, but would like to continue taking classes, teachers should discuss this option with the family and student
- Students can explore different local learning programs offered and decide which ones are of interest to them
- Teachers can request these programs to allow a student to sit in on a class to see if their student would be interested in taking the class in the future

What questions should I ask of my local lifelong learning programs

- What types of classes are offered?
- Is there an age requirement?
- Are accommodations available for this program?

Where can I learn more?

Many universities offer lifelong learning programs, so check your local university's website

Additional contact information:

Here are some programs offered in the middle TN area:

- Visit the USN Evening Classes series at University School of Nashville website at: www.usneveningclasses.org
- Visit Vanderbilt's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute website at: www.vanderbilt.edu/olli
- Visit Nashville Community Education's website at: <http://www.nashville.gov/ce>
- Visit Lipscomb's Lifelong Learning Program website at: www.lipscomb.edu/lifelonglearning
- Visit Memphis College of Art's website at: <http://mca.edu/community/community-education/continuing-education/>