ACCES-VR Student Services

ABOUT

Potentially Eligible Services are designed to address the career development needs of students with disabilities who are not already receiving vocational rehabilitation services through ACCES-VR.

Pre-ETS prepares students with disabilities for employment, explores their post-secondary education options, develops their employment related soft skills and assists them in obtaining work experience. The goal is for Pre-ETS to prepare students to become engaged in their own transition and vocational planning, and to prepare them for long-term employment that is consistent with their individual strengths, abilities, interests, and informed choices.

Apply for Potential Eligibility

Potential/Pre-ETS Eligibility

- A student between the ages of 14 and 22 who is enrolled in an educational setting (high school, college, homeschool)
- The student has a disability with the following documentation
  - Individualized Education Program (IEP)
  - Social Security Administration (disability) benefits award letter
  - School Psychologist Assessment
  - Documentation of a diagnosis or disability determination
  - Documentation related to 504 accommodations
  - Eligible for special education services through IDEA

Learn More

https://autismup.org/center-for-community-transition-au-transition-services/acces-vr

Pre-ETS and Potentially Eligible ACCES- VR Services

JOB EXPLORATION COUNSELING

This course helps students with disabilities explore career paths and understand the world of work. Using assessments, research, job shadowing, and hands-on activities, they'll identify their strengths, interests, and values for future employment.

Ideal for: High school or transition-age students who are beginning to explore career options and planning for their future employment.

Topics/Activities Include-

- Identifying personal interests, skills, and work preferences
- Exploring various career fields and job sectors
- Understanding the labor market and in-demand industries
- Learning about workplace accommodations and disability rights on the job
- Developing soft skills needed for workplace success
- Setting career goals and creating an action plan

SELF- ADVOCACY

This course helps students build the skills and confidence to self-advocate in school, social, and professional settings. Through interactive lessons and real-life scenarios, students learn to communicate needs, understand rights, and navigate supports effectively.

Ideal for: High school or college students who want to develop practical skills to advocate for themselves in school, work, and life.

Topics/Activities Include-

- Understanding your disability and how it impacts your learning or daily life
- Knowing your rights under disability laws (e.g., ADA, IDEA, Section 504)
- Requesting accommodations and navigating IEPs/504 plans or college disability services. Create an accommodation inventory
- Building self-confidence, communication, and assertiveness skills
- Disclosing your disability (when, how, and to whom)
- Managing stigma and building support networks
- Transition planning for life after high school or college

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WORK READINESS TRAINING

This course prepares high school and college students for workplace success. Through hands-on training, they'll build soft skills, job behaviors, and learn about supports to obtain, keep, and thrive in employment.

Ideal for: High school or college students with disabilities preparing to enter the workforce, internships, or vocational training programs

Topics/Activities Include-

- Introduction to the workplace
- Professional communication and workplace etiquette
- Time management, teamwork, and problem-solving
- Resume writing, job applications, and interview skills
- Health & Safety in the workplace
- Building confidence, self-advocacy, and independence on the job.

POST- SECONDARY COUNSELING

This course prepares students for life after high school, focusing on education, employment, independence, and self-determination. Through planning, discussions, and skill-building, they'll explore options and identify the supports needed to thrive.

Ideal for: High school juniors, seniors, or recent graduates who are preparing for post-secondary education, training, or employment.

Topics/Activities Include-

- Complete College Applications
- Explore College courses and areas of study
- Research other programs outside of college after high school
- Schedule college tours
- Understand financial aid, scholarships, and disability-specific funding opportunities
- Build independent living skills and transition planning strategies
- Create a personalized transition portfolio to guide their goals beyond high school

Application Process:

- A referral form must be completed by school staff and signed by students and their parents/guardians if student is under 18 before services can be provided
- Intake meeting can be conducted in-person, over the phone or virtually to determine appropriate services to be provided to each student enrolled in the program

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WORK BASED LEARNING EXPERIENCE (SUMMER INTERNSHIPS)- STUDENTS ONLY

These provide students the opportunity to gain real-world work experience in community-based settings. These experiences are designed to bridge the gap between education and employment by helping students apply academic and vocational skills in meaningful, supervised work environments.

Format & Duration-

- Internships start July and end in August (8 weeks)
- 10 hours per week for a total of 80 hours
- Receive guidance and mentorship from on-site supervisors and job coaches (if needed)
- Shifts are Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday (9am-2pm)

COMMUNITY-BASED WORK ASSESSMENTS (CBWA)

A personalized, hands-on evaluation conducted in real-world job settings. Its purpose is to determine an individual's readiness and suitability for employment—especially in supported employment scenarios.

Purpose-

- Evaluate functional abilities across real work environments (e.g., communication, work tolerance, interpersonal skills)
- Identify transferable strengths, barriers, accommodations, and skill-building needs
- Determine appropriateness of Supported Employment (SE) or other employment pathways

Format & Duration-

- Individual 1:1 service with an Employment Specialist on site 100% of the assessment
- Each Assessment is 20 hours over the course of 1 week. A second week if an accommodation is needed
- Typical schedule: Monday-Thursday 9am-2pm or 10am-3pm

For more information or to refer a student, contact:

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