

KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMY FOR INCLUSIVE LEARNING AND SOCIAL GROWTH



ASCE PROGRAM

ACADEMIC, SOCIAL AND CAREER ENRICHMENT



A two-year certificate program designed to provide an inclusive post-secondary opportunity for students with different intellectual and developmental abilities.



The Kennesaw State University Academy for Inclusive Learning and Social Growth Academic, Social and Career Enrichment (ASCE) program offers a fully inclusive college experience to students with different intellectual or developmental abilities who do not meet the university requirements for admission as degree-seeking students. This fully inclusive experience includes audit enrollment in typical university courses alongside degree-seeking peers. A focus on combining social integration, career exploration, and training results in a certificate in social growth and development.

As the first program of its kind in Georgia, the Academy for Inclusive Learning and Social Growth is the flagship of Inclusive Post-Secondary Education Programs state-wide, and promotes excellence and quality improvement through innovative program development, training, and advocacy.

Supportive research shows a variety of benefits to the students who engage in a program of this kind, including:

- Understanding the role of education in Career Success
- Development of career skills: professionalism, communication, and ambition
- Doubled rate of employment over peers who are only high-school completers
- Consistently higher earnings over time
- Decreased dependence on SSI and SSDI income supports

"Data from the national vocational rehabilitation database (RSA 911) show that youth with ID who participated in postsecondary education were 25 percent more likely to leave vocational rehabilitation services with a paid job and earn a 73 percent higher weekly income" *Milgore, A., Butterworth, J., & Hard, D. (2009) Postsecondary Education and Employment Outcomes for Youth with Intellectual Disabilities. ThinkCollege Fast Facts. No. 1*



PROGRAM INFORMATION

- Tuition-based fee structure
- Housing options both on and off-campus
- Audit support in class via trained peer-mentors
- Career planning and preparation
- Development of independence and successful management of lifelong learning, employment, and wellness

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

- Certificate of Social Growth and Development;
- Career portfolio with customized employment outcomes based on internships throughout the Academy program
- Case management approach including Person Centered Planning and a Dedicated Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

STUDENTS ON CAMPUS : EXPECTATIONS

Students on a college campus are expected to manage their own schedules, materials and relationships.

- Navigate campus to dining hall, classrooms and special events
- Follow KSU code of ethics and behavior
- Use cellphone, KSU email, Course Access Software for communication and assignment completion
- Audit two classes per semester

KSU student mentors provide tutoring and support during office hours (8am-5pm).

APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS

All applicants under 22 years of age are encouraged to consider exhausting services funded under IDEA before committing to this fee-based program.

Cohorts are selected from the most highly qualified applicants to begin each fall semester. Minimum requirements include:

- Third-grade reading level preferred;
- Knowledge of basic mathematics and ability to use a calculator;
- Ability to function independently for a sustained period of time;
- No significant behavioral or emotional problems that would impact school performance or social interaction;
- Desire and motivation to complete a post-secondary program; and
- Willingness to complete all assignments with support.

Applicants must have earned a completion credential from an accredited secondary school program, and must have been eligible for service under IDEA.

For more information, visit www.kennesaw.edu/chhs/academy or email us at academyadmissions@kennesaw.edu.

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Testimonials

STUDENT

"Being in the Academy has really changed my life. I have grown as a person. I have learned problem-solving skills from figuring out where my classes are to figuring out which subway train I should ride in New York. I wouldn't trade my experiences for anything in this world. I have made friends for life, and I have had times where I wanted to give up because it was 'too hard' but the Academy was with me 100 percent always. They had my back, and they are always showing me how to do things in a different, more positive way. I have grown from my time with the Academy with a supportive team and a great system. KSU is the place for me!

— Charlie Miller, second year Academy student, Class of 2015

PARENT

"We (the whole family) are very thankful that this program exists! Natalie went though school mainstreamed but with a one-on-one paraprofessional. We were worried about how she was going to do on her own in such a large university, but she assured us that she wanted to try and that she can do it. She was right; she's done it, and she has gained so much confidence and self worth within the community of the University, and it's only her first semester. I can't wait to see how much more she grows as an active adult in our community. All the staff of the Academy and KSU are awesome! They helped assure us (the family) and Natalie that they would give her the help that she needs to succeed while encouraging her to be independent, which is what we have always wanted.

When the Academy tells you that they are KSU students, they are not lying! It's an inclusive program, and she feels part of the university. Natalie uses a power chair to get around campus, and I'm not going to lie – there were a couple of instances where individuals were blocking ramps and such, but the KSU officers are great; they came out right away and continue to check those areas daily. They say, 'Hi' to her when they see her around campus and have assured her that they are there to help her in whatever she needs. Great guys! And all the students at KSU have been great, and she's even made friends outside of the Academy, and hangs out with some of her friends from high school too. It's an awesome program, and I encourage parents to attend the open house and see for themselves!"

— Angie Gomez, mother of Academy student Natalie Gomez, Class of 2016

EMPLOYER

"Here at KCSMA, we focus on abilities, not disabilities. We value people for their strengths and their weaknesses; our student from the Academy contributed greatly to our fun atmosphere. We are excited for what other fabulous opportunities will arise with this partnership."

— Kristen Settle, Before and After School Program Director, Kennesaw Charter Science and Math Academy



WellStar College of Health
and Human Services
Academy for Inclusive Learning
and Social Growth