



Kentucky Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities

Program Brief



Human Development
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Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary Programs

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Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary Programs (CTPs) were created by the Higher Education Opportunities Act (HEOA, 2008) and are designed to support students with intellectual disabilities (ID) who want to continue academic, career and technical, and independent living instruction at an institution of higher education (IHE) in order to prepare for employment.

CTPs are higher education programs for individuals with ID that lead to a meaningful credential. Hallmarks of high-quality programs

include (a) the social and academic integration of students with ID with their non-disabled peers, and (b) an individualized person-centered planning process that improves the needed skills and competencies of each student.

A high-quality CTP increases the number of individuals with ID who are academically, practically, and socially prepared to obtain and retain competitive employment in integrated settings and prepares them to live full and independent lives.

What does it mean for students?

Eligible students with ID, as defined by the HEOA, who are enrolled in an approved CTP will have the opportunity to take challenging and meaningful credit and non-credit courses alongside their non-disabled peers and in their chosen fields of study.

Additionally, students enrolled in an approved CTP are eligible for federal and state financial assistance – even if they don't have a regular high school diploma and are not matriculating toward a degree.

Financial assistance may include:

- Non-loan, need-based Federal Student Aid such as Pell Grant, Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (if applicable), and Work-Study
- Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship program funding (\$500/ semester for enrollment in at least six hours; \$250/ semester for enrollment in less than six hours).



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What does it mean for colleges or universities?

IHEs interested in establishing a CTP must apply to the Federal Student Aid Office at the United States Department of Education (ED). The establishment of an approved CTP enables IHEs to:

- Provide access to financial aid for students with ID
- Receive recognition as an approved CTP on the [ED website](#)
- Promote equitable access and success for a population of students conspicuously underrepresented in higher education

Technical Assistance

The University of Kentucky [Human Development Institute](#) offers technical assistance and support to current and prospective Kentucky CTPs on a range of topics, including:

- Applying to become a CTP
- Implementing the principles of Universal Design in program activities, including distance education and extracurricular activities
- Establishing advising and curriculum structures
- Offering diverse and multiple pathways for student participation and success
- Developing and implementing student-centered plans
- Providing academic and social supports and services (including mentoring)
- Promoting leadership development of and by people with ID
- Delivering instruction (including course modifications and accommodations)
- Defining and monitoring Satisfactory Academic Progress
- Ensuring opportunities for student career development experiences (paid and non-paid)
- Developing meaningful credentials
- Establishing or enhancing partnerships with local educational agencies, local offices of vocational rehabilitation, and employers
- Evaluating components of the program
- Embedding the program within the IHE for ongoing sustainability

In addition, there are currently three Kentucky IHEs that have approved CTPs - [Murray State University](#), [Northern Kentucky University](#), and Bluegrass Community & Technical College - that can serve as a resource to prospective IHEs interested in establishing a CTP.

Additional Information

[ThinkCollege](#), the National Coordinating Center for Transition Postsecondary Programs for Students with ID, has developed a learning module on CTPs. This [four-part module](#) discusses requirements for CTPs, preparing to become a CTP, the application submission and review process, and other components to student financial aid eligibility. The module includes a CTP Application Template, a step-by-step checklist, key components from successful CTP applications, as well as other related resources.

To schedule a consult, please contact:

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