

Additional College Supports for Students with Disabilities

All colleges have offices of disability services that students with disabilities can access to receive accommodations. Some disability service offices may have more supports in place for students, including tutoring, weekly check-ins, peer mentoring, etc. In addition, certain schools offer structured, comprehensive services in addition to disability services, which are listed below.

For Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD)

The following supports are intended for students with IDD who may not meet the traditional college entrance criteria and who benefit from modifications in their coursework.

Comprehensive Transition Programs (CTP)

CTPs have met certain criteria outlined in the federal Higher Education Opportunity Act. CTPs are “offered by an institute of higher education, designed to support students with intellectual disability in preparation for employment, include an advising and curriculum structure, and provide at least 50% of the program time in academics (college courses or internships) with other students without intellectual disabilities. In addition to meeting these requirements, programs seeking approval as a CTP must have a Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy, must offer a credential or have identified outcomes for students and have an established program length in weeks of instructional time and equivalent clock or credit hours” (Think College).

Arapahoe Community College – Elevate

Website: <https://www.arapahoe.edu/advising-support/student-access-services/elevate-acc>

University of Northern Colorado – GOAL

Website: <https://www.unco.edu/unc-goal/>

University of Colorado Colorado Springs–Office of Inclusive Services (CTP approval pending)

Website: <https://www.uccs.edu/inclusiveservices/>

Transition and Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities (TPSID)

“TPSID are model demonstration projects funded by the US Department of Education. Through a request process, grants were awarded to institutions of higher education or consortia of institutions of higher education to enable them to create or expand high quality, inclusive model comprehensive transition and postsecondary programs for students with IDD” (Think College).

Colorado State University – Empowerment Course

Empowerment Course: A one-year course designed to facilitate successful transition to employment and/or post-secondary education for young adults aged 18-26. The course addresses 4 key areas of successful transition – self-advocacy, employment skills, academic skills, and independent living skills.

Website: <https://www.chhs.colostate.edu/ccp/programs/empowerment-course/>



Other Options for Students with IDD in Colorado

Auraria Campus – Inclusive Higher Education Certificate Program (IHECP)

The IHECP offers two pathways to postsecondary education: College Preparation and the Inclusive Education Certificate Program. The Inclusive Higher Education Certificate Program provides an inclusive, on-campus college education for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities who do not meet university admission requirements.

Website: <http://www.inclusivecollege.org/>

For Degree-Seeking Students with a Wide Range of Disabilities

Colorado State University - Opportunities for Postsecondary Success

Opportunities for Postsecondary Success works in collaboration with the Student Disability Center to offer individualized support in the achievement of academic and career goals for degree-seeking students.

Website: <https://www.chhs.colostate.edu/ccp/programs/opportunities-for-postsecondary-success/>

University of Denver - Learning Effectiveness Program (LEP)

LEP Denver provides individualized support for neuro diverse learners with Learning Disabilities, and/or ADHD, students on the Autism Spectrum, and students who have a history of learning differences. Supports include: weekly one-on-one academic counseling, subject specific tutoring, executive functioning support services including organization and time management skill building, social skill building resources, and peer mentoring.

Website: <https://www.du.edu/studentlife/learningeffectiveness/>

Metropolitan State University of Denver- ISSAC (Integrated Supports for Students with Autism spectrum disorders in College)

Weekly sessions for students with autism to practice social communication skills with a mentor peers and mentors, receive individualized and group support, discuss and practice classroom and job-related skills, and get connected to resources at the university.

Contact: Dr. Siva priya Santhanam - issac@msudenver.edu

Community Colleges

Community colleges can be a great place for a student to start to adjust to college life. In addition, community colleges are open-enrollment, making them more accessible for many students. Always ask the disability service office about what additional supports they may offer.

Options Outside of Colorado

Think College is a national organization that keeps a list of inclusive postsecondary programs in the US for students with IDD: <https://thinkcollege.net/college-search>

Many states offer autism specific support programs. To find these, try searching for “Autism College Support Programs [insert state]”.

Descriptions included on this sheet were taken from program websites