

Florida Atlantic University
Academy for Community Inclusion



Information Packet
2023-2024

Florida Atlantic University (FAU) Academy for Community Inclusion (ACI) Program

Overview

The FAU Academy for Community Inclusion (ACI) is a comprehensive transition program for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Students will have the opportunity to develop their academic, vocational, and social skills at the post-secondary level. The courses and certificates offered are based on the strengths and needs of the individual participant. The program serves students on both the Boca Raton and Jupiter campuses of FAU.

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants **must:**

- Have a documented significant intellectual and developmental disability
- Be at least 18 years of age
- Have graduated or completed high school (can provide a transcript indicating completion)
- Be capable of meeting personal needs without assistance
- Be able to self-administer any necessary medication
- Display appropriate behaviors
- Have the capability to participate in 50-to-90-minute classes
- Navigate the campus independently
- Have the desire to participate in a college program
- Have the desire to obtain and maintain competitive employment

Prepare for the Academy for Community Inclusion (ACI) College Interview

As you consider applying to the ACI program at Florida Atlantic University, here are some things for you to consider doing to be better prepared for the admissions interview:

- Visit FAU ACI Website & Facebook Page
- Think about Reasons Why you Want to Attend College
- Think about Your Strengths/Weaknesses
- Dress Appropriately

Recommended Prerequisite Skills for Success in the Academy for Community Inclusion

Families often wonder what skills are needed to be successful in a college program. Here's a list of common skills that will help ensure student success in the Academy. If the potential student does not have these skills, families may want to work on these at home prior to applying to the Academy.

1. Can call and text someone other than immediate family
 - Student can call or text a friend, peer mentor, or ACI staff member with no assistance.
2. Can state what to do if lost on campus or in the community
 - Student can identify how to get help from others when lost on campus or in the community.
3. Can state e-mail address and check e-mail
 - Student can verbally state email address when asked. Student can independently check email address regularly.
4. Can engage in appropriate downtime activities in between classes
 - Student can entertain self appropriately and safely during unsupervised downtime on campus.
5. Can react appropriately to a fire alarm
 - Student can calmly and safely evacuate building during a fire alarm.
6. Can calm self
 - Student can self-soothe appropriately (and refrain from engaging in any verbal or physical outbursts) if frustrated/angry/sad when on campus.
7. Can cross street safely
 - Student can look both ways before crossing street and remain alert and engaged when on street and in parking lots.
8. Can communicate basic information about himself/herself (e.g., name, age, birthdate, etc.)
 - Student can state name, age, birthdate, and other basic information about self when asked by staff members.
9. Can respond to simple WH- questions
 - Student can answer questions about where, when, who, and why when asked.
10. Can interact safely and appropriately in a public restroom

- Student can exhibit safe and appropriate behavior in the public restroom, observing urinal etiquette and other required social interactions.
11. Can keep personal items safe
- Student can monitor personal items, making sure to keep items with them at all times.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What degree can I receive if I attend the Academy for Community Inclusion?

A: The Academy for Community Inclusion is a certificate program. Unlike a degree program, students will receive a certificate upon completion of their coursework instead of an Associate's or Bachelor's degree.

Q: Are ACI credits transferable for use towards an Associate's or Bachelor's degree?

A: ACI credits only allow you the opportunity to earn credits towards certificates in the areas of supported employment, supported community access, and supported community living. They are not transferrable toward a bachelor's degree.

Q: Do I need a standard high school diploma?

A: No, however you must have exited the school district and have received a high school diploma or certificate of completion.

Q: Does the Academy provide one on one assistance?

A: No, students must be capable of tending to their own personal care and needs.

Q: Do ACI students live on campus?

A: A residential program option is not available at present time.

Q: How long will it take me to complete the program?

A: An average of two years for each certificate or six consecutive semesters for one certificate. Yes, ACI students attend college in the summer!

Q: Who is the ideal candidate for the program?

A: An individual with a diagnosed disability of intellectual or developmental disabilities who would not be eligible to participate in a degree seeking program even if accommodations are provided.

ACI Program Courses

Prerequisite Classes: Taken during the 1 st Semester <i>Note: The first semester is probationary.</i>	
SLS 1200: Increasing Personal Effectiveness	This course reviews key strategies for personal growth, analyzes personal strengths and weaknesses, identifies personal goals and motivates the participant toward these goals.
SLS 1304: Career Exploration 1	Structured for self-directed and individualized career exploration. Includes systematic review of career development and exploration with the use of assessment materials and computer-based career development programs such as YES, Self-Directed Searches, and preferential inventories. Includes the formation of an individual work portfolio.
SLS 1570: Learning with Technology 1	An introductory course on today's technology basics to include cell-phones, tablets, and other types of common technology tools to help students become more skilled in their use in college and on the job. Students will also learn skills and techniques in using productivity tools and applications.

Required Courses	
Launch Pad	This course will orient students to the campus, university, and community. It will provide a complete overview of the skills and knowledge necessary for students to succeed in the ACI program. This course is to be taken each semester. Registration is limited to participants in the Academy for Community Inclusion.
HSC 2100: Health, Fitness for Life (2 credits)	A study of the strategies and techniques of healthful living. A wellness model will provide the framework for this course. Personal health and fitness appraisals will be conducted. <i>* Program Note: This course is required in the second semester of the ACI Program.</i>

Certificates and Courses		
Supported Employment (20 credits)	Supported Community Access (20 credits)	Supported Community Living (20 credits)
SLS 1305: Professional Career Development	SLS 1201: Personal Development	SLS 1571: Learning with Technology 2

SLS 1350: Employability Skills	SLS 1205: Be Safe, Staying Safe	SLS 1250: Living with Roommates
SLS 1354: Workplace Relationships	SLS 1211: Social Skills	SLS 1251: Residential Experience
SLS 1266: Getting Around the Community	ISS 1120: Community Citizenship	REA 1008: Reading for Life
SLS 1392: Business Technology for Community Living	SLS 1281: Diverse Communities	HSC 2400: Basic First Aid
SLS 2340: Professional Portfolio	SLS 1603: Community Resources	ABX 1001: Personal Finance for Community Living
SLS 2930: Career Seminar	SLS 1224: Recreation and Leisure Skills	SLS 2222: Personal Wellbeing
SLS 2943: Career Internship	SLS 2225: Life Planning	SLS 2604: Effective Living
Electives (2 classes, 1 must be outside the Academy)	Electives (2 classes, 1 must be outside the Academy)	Electives (2 classes, 1 must be outside the Academy)

Electives
FFP 1820: Emergency Preparation
SLS 1102: College Experience
SLS 1167: Service Learning
SLS 1321: World of Work
SLS 1504: Critical Thinking

The capstone course in ACI is SLS 2943 Career Internship. To complete this course satisfactorily, the student must obtain a part time, competitively paid job in the community.