



DOWN SYNDROME GUILD  
OF DALLAS

**The following are highlights of some of the post-secondary options available and links to further information. Use the contact information provided to find the program that will work best for your student.**

**El Centro College (Dallas, TX)** - currently offers two classes specifically designed for students with developmental disabilities:

***The Next Step program*** is designed for individuals with severe reading or learning disabilities. The class also teaches how to perform basic office-computer tasks, and works to improve basic reading, writing, and math skills. A job placement counselor also works with them in this period to help them to find work alternatives.

***The Moving On program*** is designed for individuals who have learning disabilities but read at a minimum of fifth grade level. The program works to improve basic work skills and computer skills in Microsoft Office, and works to improve basic academics, job seeking skills, and problem solving skills. This program also includes working with a job placement counselor. Contact Steven Carter, Program Director/Instructor in Workforce Education at 214-860-5940 or e-mail [sc5753@dcccd.edu](mailto:sc5753@dcccd.edu)

**Richland College (Dallas, TX)** - offers a variety of continuing education classes focused on an employability outcome. Some courses may include job search skills, workplace safety, computer skills. They also offer an “Employability Certificate” program which includes an internship following completion of classes. Please contact Melinda Weaver- Director of Continuing Education @ 972-238-3750 or [MWeaver@dcccd.edu](mailto:MWeaver@dcccd.edu)

**Northlake College** - a new program called CAPS - Career Action Pathways to Success- currently offers one 4-week class through Disability Services that addresses employability skills. This class is only offered in the summer. For more information contact Tony Miller, Disability Services Coordinator at 972- 273-3166.

**Tarrant County Community College** -currently offers three different programs: The Transitional Skills program on the Northeast campus (817-515-6657), The First Choice Program on the Southeast campus (817- 515-3020), and College Explorations on the South campus (817-515-4592).

**Transitional Skills Program at North Central Texas College (Corinth, Texas)** — classes are offered through the Division of Lifelong Learning. Course studies include phonics, reading, spelling, grammar, math, computers, history, and Spanish. The curriculum is designed to meet the academic needs of the individual with the emphasis on improving behavior patterns and developing living-life skills. Schedule options include two-day or four-day schedules. For more information call 940-498-6270.

**Vocat (Austin, TX)** - The program is a collaboration between Technology and Inclusion and Austin Community College (ACC) offering adult continuing education courses in Vocational Occupational Skills, Vocational Academic Skills and Vocational Technology Skills, designed to provide a community college experience for adults with moderate to severe disabilities. For more information call: 512-223-7515 or see: [www.austincc.edu/ce/bii/vocat](http://www.austincc.edu/ce/bii/vocat)

**College Living Experience (CLE) (Austin, TX)** - They also have several other locations throughout the U.S. CLE is a post-secondary program for students who require additional support with academic, social and independent living skills. Students live in independent apartments with support and may enroll in several different schools in the Austin area. Academic assistance includes helping students choose their classes, ensuring students receive the accommodations to which they are entitled, intensive one-on-one tutoring with content experts, and staff supervised study halls. Within the realm of independent living, CLE students are taught how to pay their own bills, live within a budget, manage their own checking accounts, keep their apartments clean and organized, and plan/ prepare meals. The extensive social skills program encourages students to make healthy choices and provides the skills necessary to make and keep friends. For more information see: [www.cleinc.net](http://www.cleinc.net)

**Houston Community College (Houston, TX)** - The Vocational Advancement and Social Skills Training program (V.A.S.T.) provides educational opportunities to individuals with intellectual and other learning differences that prepare them to enter Workforce Certificate Programs and to receive many of the skills needed to become competitively employed as well as live more independently in the community. Contact the V.A.S.T. program at 713-718-6000.

**Eastern New Mexico University Roswell (Roswell, NM) - Occupational Training Program**- provides a unique opportunity for students to experience college life while living on campus and attending classes focused on occupational and vocational training. A few of the certificate programs offered include, auto mechanics, child care, nursing assistant, and office skills, among others. For more information, contact: the Special Services Office @ (575) 624-7286 or see [www.roswell.enmu.edu/special\\_services/occupational\\_training\\_program.php](http://www.roswell.enmu.edu/special_services/occupational_training_program.php)

**ClemsonLIFE at Clemson University (Clemson, South Carolina)** – ClemsonLIFE is a full-time two-year program including coursework and job internships developed in partnership with The National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS). The program includes peer mentor support, certified faculty, field-based job experiences, employment portfolio development, independent living experiences with built in support, and extracurricular activities. For more information see [www.clemson.edu/culife](http://www.clemson.edu/culife).

**Next Step Program at Vanderbilt University (Nashville, TN)** – Next Step is a 2-year certification program with peer mentors and individual programs of study. The goal of the program is to broaden the career options and opportunities for individuals with intellectual disabilities in inclusive, age-appropriate settings. For more information see: [www.kc.vanderbilt.edu/site/nextstep](http://www.kc.vanderbilt.edu/site/nextstep).

**Pathway at UCLA (Los Angeles, CA)** – Pathway is a two-year certificate program for students with intellectual disabilities, providing a blend of educational, social, and vocational experiences, taught and supervised by an expertly trained staff that is sensitive to the individual needs of our students. The program includes a residential component. For more information see: <https://www.uclaextension.edu>, go to *Fields of Study* and click on *Pathway Programs*.

**The Career & Community Studies Program (College of New Jersey- Ewing, NJ)**-The CCS is a full time, 4 year program featuring coursework in four central areas: liberal studies, vocational development, independent life and socialization. Students receive support through trained mentors (specific to this program) while they participate in a variety of coursework and field-based experiences on and off campus. This program is endorsed by the National Down Syndrome Society. For more information see: [www.tcnj.edu/~ccs/index.html](http://www.tcnj.edu/~ccs/index.html)

For more helpful information also see: [www.thinkcollege.net](http://www.thinkcollege.net)