



Including Students with Intellectual Disability in the First Year Experience

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 **ThinkCollege**
NATIONAL COORDINATING CENTER

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The TPSID National Coordinating Center at Think College is a project of the
Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston.
The Center is funded by the Office of Postsecondary Education Grant #P407B100002.



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Open admissions

- Access supports available to all students with disabilities
- No dedicated pathway or oversight of the student's course of study beyond what is provided to all students

- Access supports available to all students with disabilities AND additional targeted support
- Some may be Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary (CTP) Programs
- Some may be TPSIDs

College Programs for Students with ID

- Have alternative admissions process & requirements
- Accept students who are non-degree seeking
- Vary in length – most are 2-year, some 4-year
- Vary in levels of academic inclusion
- Established course of study that leads to certificate
- May offer federal student aid (not loans)



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Student Experience



- Enrolling in college courses for credit or audit
- Internships/work study
- Paid jobs (on/off campus)
- Campus life/organizations
- Learning to live independently



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Higher Education Opportunity Act, 2008

- Creates the Comprehensive Transition Program
- Provides access to Federal Financial Aid
- Provides funding for model demonstration projects and a coordinating center
- Requires development of model accreditation standards
- Requires collection of program level and student level data

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Think College National Coordinating Center

Federally funded since 2010 to provide coordination, training & technical assistance to any college or university who wants to establish or improve postsecondary education opportunities for students with intellectual disability on their campus

www.thinkcollege.net

College options for people with intellectual disability

ThinkCollege
CHANGING EXPECTATIONS. INCREASING OPPORTUNITIES.

- COLLEGE SEARCH
- RESOURCE LIBRARY
- INNOVATION EXCHANGE
- WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR STATE

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Home Family Resources Technical Assistance Training Resources About TPSID

COLLEGE SEARCH

Think College Search

FAVORITES
Click "♥ save" to add programs to your favorites. You can then save, compare and download basic information for each one. See FAQ: How do I save and compare programs?

RECENTLY ADDED

- University of Alabama
- University of Nebraska Omaha
- East Tennessee State University
- Alabama A&M University
- Arkansas State University

Find the College that is right for you!

This directory includes information on 285 college programs for students with intellectual disability. You can search by program name, location, and other keywords. "Advanced Filters" offer more options to narrow your search. Review these Frequently Asked Questions for answers to some general questions on college programs, how we gather the information in the directory, and how to use the features of College Search.

Once you have located colleges you are interested in, download the How To Think College Guide to Conducting a College Search [PDF]. It provides you with the right questions to ask in order to get the answers you need about each program on your list. The How To guide is also available in Spanish.

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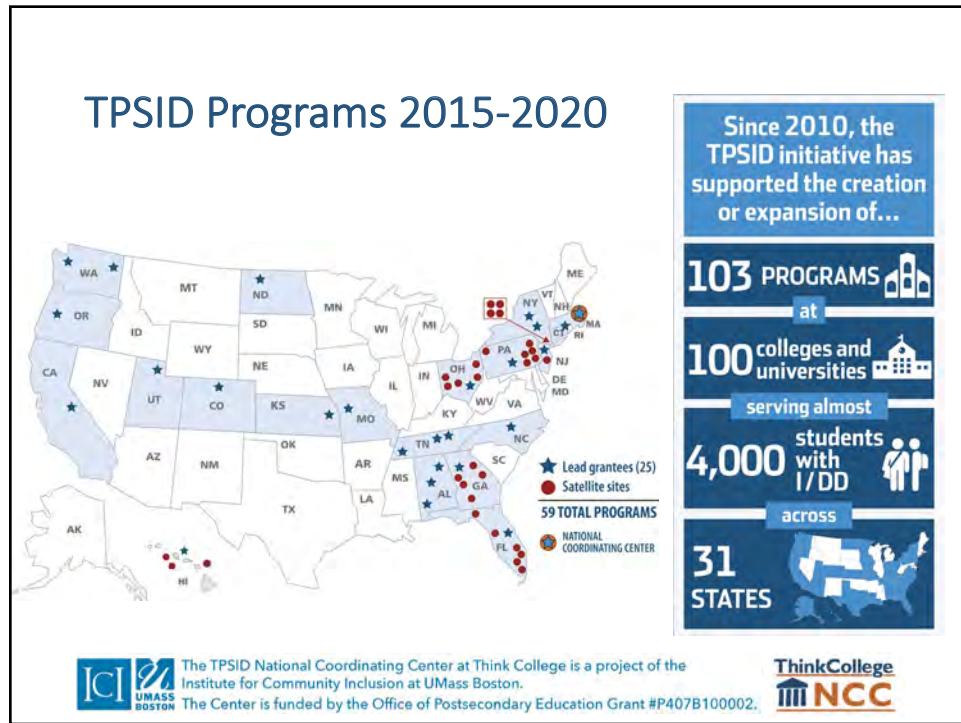
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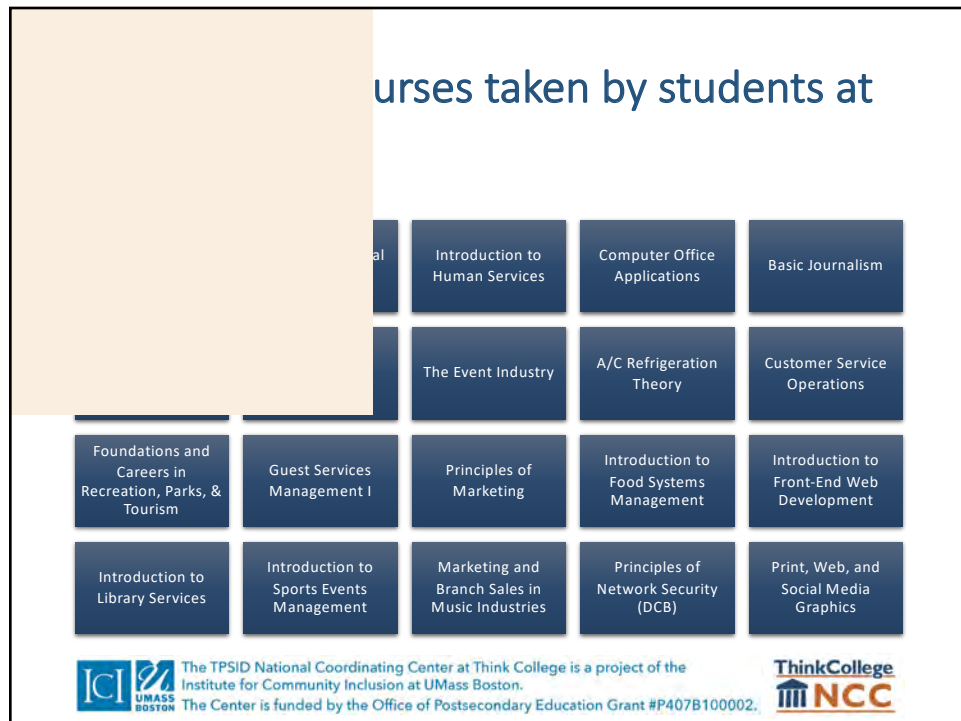
Transition Postsecondary Education Programs for Students with Intellectual Disability (TPSID)

Goal: to create, expand, or enhance high-quality, inclusive higher education experiences to support positive outcomes for individuals with ID.

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How are first-year experiences being approached in TPSIDs?

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Who are first-year students with intellectual disability?

- Average age = 20 (range = 17-43).
 - 95% of students age 25 or younger
- 61% male
- Prior educational setting:
 - Spent all or majority of their time in inclusive setting = 44%
 - Spent all of majority of their time in special education setting = 40%
 - Other/don't know = 16%
- 29% had a paid job prior to entry

(Of 482 first-year students in 2018-19)



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Orientation activities

At 71% of TPSID programs students attended the regular orientation for new students at the IHE

At 47% of TPSID programs family members of students attended the regular parent orientation



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Of all course enrollments in 2018-19, 8% were identifiable as “first year” courses

- University 101 - Freshman Experience
- Orientation to Adult Learning
- First Year Experience
- Freshman Seminar
- First Yr: What/Who are Computer Science/Scientists?
- First Yr.: Peace Justice & Sustainability
- FY103 The Body Adorned
- FY103 Up Your Game
- FYS101 A New York State of Mind: What Makes a City Great

Of 1931 course enrollments by first year students, 157 included the word “first year,” “orientation,” “college student,” “university student,” or “freshman” in the course name or FY or UNIV in the course code



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Key takeaways



- Growing group of incoming students
- Increased interest in program development
- Critical to align with college systems and practices
- Need for outreach to and connection with FYE



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“To achieve the desired impact, a high-quality FYE includes assessment, focuses on learning and development, and responds to differences in backgrounds, abilities, and goals of a wide array of student groups (Barefoot et al., 2005; Upcraft & Gardner, 1989; Upcraft, Gardner, & Barefoot, 2005).”

Young & Chung (2019)



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Career & Life Studies Certificate (CLSC)



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Professional & Continuing Studies



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Career & Life Studies Certificate

- 2-year certificate program
 - Created in Office of Continuing Education
- Students attend full-time
- 15-20 students total each year
- Mix of in-state and out-of-state students
- Started in 2011 in an off-campus building with many separate classes

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Accessing services and supports

- Paying the fee (student services)
- LONG discussions of policies, etc. (residence life)
- Turned away because of lack of resources (orientation)
- Worries about lack of training (counseling center)
- “No” due to flow of funding in the university (career services)

NOTE: We now largely have access to everything on campus ☺

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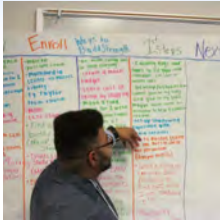
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Undergraduate Coursework



Criminal Justice	Fashion Business
Sports Management	Percussion
Voice and Speech	Ensemble
American History	Studies in Diversity
Physics	Black American Studies
Math	Early Childhood Development
Drawing	Exercise Science

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Internships

- US Senator's office
- UD Office of Admissions
- Home Depot
- Newark Public Works
- Lums Pond State Park
- YMCA
- UD Athletics



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Campus & Community Participation

- Student clubs
- Student centers and resources
- Campus activities
- UD Alternative Spring Break



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Point Coaching

- Point Coach and Student work 3-5 hours per week on academic, career, and life strategies.
- Meeting agenda is set by the student
 - Goals are also guided by a plan developed by the student, university staff and family
- Set goals and outline next steps: social connecting, independent living, leadership
- Support with undergraduate classes: study skills, notetaking, time management
- Developing skills/strategies for greater independence



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Residence Life

- Spread across multiple dorms
- CLSC students mostly living with other CLSC students
- No additional supports in the dorm
 - Taking advantage of natural supports built into the residential system
- Grown over time:
 - 3 students in 2016 to 11 in 2020
 - Initially only allowed to live in upper class dorms



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First Year Experience at UD

- 1743 Welcome Days
- Common Reader
- New Student Orientation
- First Year Seminar



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1743 Welcome Days

- Engagement activities prior to Fall and Spring semesters
- Opportunity for students to connect with clubs of interest
- Coaching staff is available as needed during some events

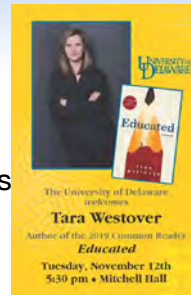


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Common Reader

- Program purchases for CLSC students
- Given to them during CLSC orientation so they have more time to read
- First time for students to utilize accommodations or other technology to support academics
- Often discussed in First Year Seminar



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New Student Orientation

- 2011-2016 – Separate orientation
- 2014-2016 - Told by NSO that CLSC students can't attend; "don't have the resources"
- 2017 – Agreed to have CLSC students attend. CLSC staff attended with students and families
- 2018-Present – CLSC students and families attend without staff. During visits with academic dept., CLSC students meet with CLSC staff.

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First Year Seminar

- < 2017 – CLSC students took their own similar, separate course
- Spring 2016 – requested to join FYS
- Considerations for:
 - How to identify instructors/sections
 - Whether to have all CLSC students in same section
- Advocated for having CLSC students spread across different sections (2 in each section)
- Instructors were selected, met with students and staff prior to semester

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First Year Seminar: Instructor Reflections

“I was actually really surprised by how the class turned out. Classmates love talking to students with ID and it is very easy for students with ID to form group discussions with other students. Some of them became close friends at the end of the class.”

“I realized I need to be clearer when explaining how to submit assignments via Canvas and that this is a good idea for ALL first year students.”

Quotes collected by Wes Garton, UD staff

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Please remember to submit your evaluation on Guidebook!



The TPSI

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