WHAT IS AUGIE ACCESS?

Augie Access is a Comprehensive Transition Post-Secondary Program recognized by the US Department of Education. Our mission is to empower adults aged 18-26 with intellectual or developmental disabilities to obtain meaningful and competitive employment, live independently, and engage socially through explicit instruction and full campus inclusion. Students can choose to live on campus and are required to join at least one university sponsored club/organization to engage with the campus community. Upon completion of the 3 year program, students will obtain a certificate in Career Studies and supports in job placement and independent living. Some students may decide, either while in the Augie Access program or upon graduation, they have gained enough skills and experience to become a degree seeking student. Should a student decide to further their educational endeavors beyond Augie Access, support in exploring options will be provided.

PERSON-CENTERED, START TO FINISH!

Augie Access guides students through a person-centered planning process that helps them develop a vision for their future goals in the areas of employment, independent living, and social engagement. The students create a trajectory of incremental steps to help them achieve their goals. Each student’s journey through the program is different. Most of the course choices are driven by student interests or are related to employment goals. The opportunities for campus activities are based on student preference. Internship experiences are based on preference, strengths, and interest areas. Supports are tailored to individual student needs.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND?

Adults aged 18-26 who have completed four years of high school and have a documented intellectual and/or developmental disability may apply. Adults may attend if they have a high school diploma, GED, certificate of attendance, or are receiving services from IDEA and their local education agency. If adults are eligible for services from the Division of Developmental Disabilities or Vocational Rehabilitation they may be eligible to attend Augie Access. There are no entrance examinations (ACT/ SAT) required!

WHAT ARE THE CLASSES LIKE?

Two-thirds of the Augie Access Program of Study consist of inclusive courses from the Augustana course catalog and chosen based on student interest, strengths, and desired career goals. The courses can be taken for credit or for audit. Students taking courses for credit are entitled to accommodations from the Student Success Center, such as extended time on tests, note-takers, and taking tests in an alternative location. Peer Navigators may also assist students with in-class academic and social support. Students auditing courses experience a modified class experience. The professor, student and program staff complete a Learner’s Agreement. The Learner’s Agreement outlines the objectives for the student in the audited course. Students may receive in-class supports from Peer Navigators. The remaining one-third of the course work include specially designed courses with transition focus, such as Employment Attainment, Skills for Social Skills, Consumer Math, or Leadership.
MY YOUNG ADULT RECEIVES SERVICES THROUGH AGE 21 FROM THE SCHOOL DISTRICT. CAN MY CHILD COME TO AUGIE ACCESS WHILE ON AN IEP?

Absolutely! The Augie Access Program Director is a South Dakota state certified Special Education teacher with nearly 20 years of special education experience. Augie Access can implement a student’s Individualized Education Plan in most instances. If your student is considering deferring a signed diploma, it is crucial to begin talking to the IEP team about this desire as students enter 11th or 12th grade. Plans beyond high school and surrounding transition services are an IEP team decision. Program staff is more than happy to attend IEP meetings to provide information whenever possible. Local educational agencies retain case management of the IEP. Augie Access program staff can assist in creating/implementing IEP goals and transition services, consult on the Present Levels of Performance, and provide written, quarterly progress notes for the IEP. In addition, the program staff communicates progress notes to the schools and families.

WHAT KINDS OF SUPPORTS ARE THERE FOR AUGIE ACCESS STUDENTS?

Inclusive post-secondary education recognizes the inherent support needs of students with intellectual or developmental disabilities and the importance of the correct supports to make access to a college education possible. Peer Navigators are the front lines of assistance for students in the program. Trained Navigators offer in-course assistance in the form of social and academic supports, tutoring outside of courses, community access, supports for campus inclusion, job coaching assistance, and other valuable services each and every day. While not a residential program, the Augie Access staff can be reached via phone in case of emergency. Faculty and staff across campus are also sensitive to the needs of Augie Access students and strive meet student needs. Students taking courses for credit are entitled to accommodations from the Office of Disability Services and the Student Success Center, in addition to extra tutoring or in-class support from Peer Navigators. Student who take the course for audit, or a modified version of the course, are also entitled to the same supports from Peer Navigators.

AUGIE ACCESS SUPPORTS WIOA PRE-EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION SERVICES

1. Job Exploration Counseling: The program includes three semesters worth of employment focused classes and person centered employment planning.
2. Work-based Learning Experiences: Students complete three semester long, community based internships with additional opportunities for campus internships and job shadow experiences.
3. Counseling on opportunities for enrollment in CTP or Post-Secondary Options: Augie Access is a CTP! We can provide guidance as students work to decide if seeking a degree is right for them.
4. Workplace Readiness Training: Students receive explicit instruction in social skills and soft skills required for workplace success.
5. Instruction in Self-Advocacy: Courses in Leadership and Self-Determination / Disability Awareness are part of the program of study.

Are you ready to start exploring inclusive post-secondary education?

Visit augie.edu/augieaccess to learn more about Augustana's Comprehensive Transition Post-Secondary Program or contact Jessica Lamb at jlamb@augie.edu or call 605-274-4928. Visit www.thinkcollege.net to learn more about inclusive post-secondary education.