Career & Life Studies Certificate (CLSC)

Frequently Asked Questions

- What is CLSC?
- What is a TPSID?
- What is an intellectual disability?
- Is CLSC a certificate program or a degree program?
- How many students will be admitted to CLSC?
- What are the age requirements for a CLSC student?
- What are the other requirements for admission into CLSC?
- When is the deadline to apply to CLSC?
- Where can I find the CLSC application?
- What is the selection process for new students?
- When will students know they have been selected into the CLSC program?
- When is the starting date for the program?
- Can a CLSC student be dually-enrolled in an 18 to 21 program offered by a school district?
- Will CLSC students be entitled to related services and therapies that they received in high school?
- What is the cost of the program?
- Can CLSC students receive federal financial aid?
- How many hours each week are CLSC students engaged in classes, internships, and other activities?
- What would a typical day look like for a CLSC student?
- Do all students who enroll in the CLSC earn the certificate?
- Can a student be dismissed from the program?
- Is it possible for CLSC students to continue outside part-time employment while they are enrolled in the program?
- What on-campus activities will students be able to participate in? / Will CLSC students do things with other UD students?
- What is the role of a coach?
- Will on-campus housing be provided? / Is this a residential program?
- Who should I contact if I want more information about the program?
• **What is CLSC?**

CLSC stands for Career and Life Studies Certificate. CLSC is a two-year, non-residential certificate program at the University of Delaware for students with intellectual disabilities (ID). CLSC provides integrated academic, career/technical, and independent living instruction in preparation for gainful employment. CLSC students attend classes, participate in internships and work experiences, and engage in all aspects of campus life.

CLSC is a Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary (CTP) program. CTPs are authorized by the Higher Education Opportunity Act.

• **What is a CTP?**

A CTP is a degree, certificate, or non-degree program that meets each of the following:
A) Is offered by an institution of higher education
B) Is designed to support students with intellectual disabilities who are seeking to continue academic, career and technical, and independent living instruction at an institution of higher education in order to prepare for gainful employment
C) Includes an advising and curriculum structure
D) Requires students with intellectual disabilities to participate on not less than half-time basis as determined by the institution with such participation focusing on academic components, and occurring through one or more activities and
E) Requires students with intellectual disabilities to be socially and academically integrated with non-disabled students to the maximum extent possible.

• **What is an intellectual disability?**

The Higher Education Opportunity Act, which authorizes CTP programs, says that a student with an intellectual disability has:
A) A cognitive impairment, characterized by significant limitations in
   i) Cognitive functioning; and
   ii) Adaptive behavior as expressed in conceptual, social, and practical adaptive skills; [and]
B) Who is currently, or was formerly, eligible for a free and appropriate public education under IDEA.

• **Is CLSC a certificate program or a degree program?**

CLSC is a certificate program. UD certificate programs may involve non-credit or credit courses and usually focus on developing professional knowledge and skills in a specific area. Students who successfully complete CLSC receive a certificate in Career and Life Studies from the University’s Division of Professional and Continuing Studies and the College of Education and Human Development.
• How many students will be admitted to CLSC?

Up to 12 students will be admitted each school year.

• What are the age requirements for a CLSC student?

Students must be at least 18 years of age when starting the program in the fall.

• Are there other requirements for admission into CLSC?

Students must also:
  o Have “functional communication skills,” defined as expressing needs and wants in ways that can be understood by others and through behaviors that are considered acceptable in public settings.
  o Manage free time independently for up to two hours in the community without supervision.
  o Demonstrate ability to self-monitor and self-manage behaviors in public settings.

• What is the deadline to apply to CLSC?

  o Applications are made available during the fall and students are encouraged to submit their application as soon as possible. Applications are reviewed beginning in January and continue to be reviewed until we meet our enrollment capacity of 12 students. We will no longer accept applications once we meet our enrollment capacity. Final decisions are typically made by May 1st.

• Where can I find the CLSC application?

  o Look on the CLSC webpage at http://www.udel.edu/cds/initiatives-adults-clsc.html or contact the CLSC program at 302-831-6974. Application materials are available in alternate format upon request.

• What is the selection process for new students?

All applicants’ materials will be reviewed by an admissions committee to determine if (1) they meet federal eligibility requirements; and (2) their goals and background make them a good fit for the CLSC program. After applications are reviewed, eligible and qualified applicants are invited for an on-campus interview and offered the opportunity to observe a class. Delaware residents will be given priority.

• When is the starting date for the program?

The UD CLSC program follows a similar schedule to undergraduate students. The first day of classes is typically the first day of undergraduate classes, which is usually at the end of August. However, CLSC students also typically participate in a summer session during which they spend time orienting to campus and UD
student policies. This is a required activity and occurs over one week just prior to the start of Fall semester.

• **Can a CLSC student be dually-enrolled in an 18 to 21 program offered by a school district?**

  No. Students should have exited high school with a certificate of completion, diploma, or GED before starting CLSC.

• **Will CLSC students be entitled to related services and therapies that they received in high school?**

  No. IDEA services identified in a student’s IEP do not carry over into postsecondary education programs. The CLSC program does provide extensive coaching and access to accommodations; however, services such as transportation, personal assistants, and speech, occupational, or physical therapy are not provided through the program. Students who need personal assistant services will need to arrange and pay for them through private means.

• **What is the cost of the program?**

  The cost for attending CLSC is about $25,000 per year.

  **Potential Financial Support for 2016-2017 for Delaware Residents:**

  The following state agencies has individual eligibility standards for financial support:

  o *Delaware Division of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDDS)* – eligible students can receive up to $12,200 per year toward the cost. Contact your Family Support Specialist for more information.

  o *Delaware Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)* – DVR may be able to provide financial support for eligible individuals interested in attending CLSC. Students and families should contact their DVR Counselor for more information.

• **Can CLSC students receive federal financial aid?**

  Yes. CLSC students are eligible to receive federal financial aid in the form of Pell grants and work-study. CLSC students do not qualify for federal college loans. Students and families are strongly encouraged to submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form to determine how much aid they may receive. FAFSA forms can be submitted to the federal government beginning in January. For more information see [https://studentaid.ed.gov/eligibility/intellectual-disabilities](https://studentaid.ed.gov/eligibility/intellectual-disabilities)

  Families can use 529 savings plans toward costs for CLSC. Also, scholarship opportunities outside the university may be available.

• **How many hours each week are CLSC students engaged in classes, internships, and other activities?**
Students will be enrolled in classes, working at internship sites, and engaging in other UD campus community activities for a minimum of 25 hours per week. Depending upon students’ individual program of study and interests, they may be on campus additional hours.

- **What would a typical day look like for a CLSC student?**

Students arrive on campus using personal transportation, public bus, or paratransit services. Students’ schedules may vary each day depending on the mix of classes, internships, and campus activities in that semester. UD classes and activities may begin as early as 8:00 am and sometimes extend into the early evening. Classes and internships are spread across the day and across campus. Breaks between classes may last as long as 2 hours. During breaks, students take advantage of the amenities provided by the university, such as the library and the student center. Students may work on homework and other assignments at this time, eat lunch around campus, complete activities of personal interest to them, or work on specific skills with a coach. After classes end, students may choose to stay on campus and participate in various clubs that align with their interests. Due to the individualized nature of the CLSC, the daily activities of one student may not look the same as those of another student.

- **Do all students who enroll in the CLSC earn the certificate?**

To earn a CLSC certificate, students must successfully complete required coursework, internships, and make progress on their individual goals as established through their individual student plan and regular advising meetings. Each course syllabus lists objectives and assignments. Course grades are based on class participation, completion of classwork and homework, and performance on tests and projects. Students who earn less than an overall C- average on courses may not be eligible for a CLSC Certificate. Students will have at least one advising meeting each semester to review their progress and, if needed, identify support and remediation plans.

- **Can a student be dismissed from the program?**

CLSC is designed to support students in reaching the goals in their person-centered plans, achieving greater levels of independence and self-determination, and preparing for successful employment. Through a structured advising process, students who are struggling are provided with a variety of opportunities and supports in order to be successful. If students are unable to remain invested in achieving these goals through the program, despite remediation and support plans, they may be dismissed from the program. Also, violations of the student code of conduct that negatively impact peers or the program may result in dismissal.
• Is it possible for CLSC students to continue outside part-time employment while they are enrolled in the program?

Students enrolled in CLSC are expected to make CLSC their top priority. Some students do maintain part-time jobs while they are enrolled. However, attendance, active participation, and completion of assignments are expected to take priority over outside work and students may need to adjust their work schedules accordingly.

• What on-campus activities will students be able to participate in?

Students will have access to the same campus activities and facilities available to other UD students. All students sometimes have to pay additional fees for activities, such as attendance at major athletic events; fitness classes; and special events. However, a variety of social and recreational groups and programs are available at no additional cost. Also, CLSC students will be matched with peer mentors to help them become involved in campus activities.

• Will CLSC students do things with other UD students?

Yes. An important goal of CTP programs, such as CLSC, is to support fully inclusive activities. Other than some core certificate classes, all CLSC activities are designed to engage students with typical peers and in integrated settings and opportunities. Peer mentors and coaches will be available to all CLSC students.

• What is the role of a coach?

All CLSC students will have at least one coach, who is a staff member of the Center for Disabilities Studies. Coaches will support students 2 to 15 hours per week based upon the goals identified in a student’s individual plan.

Coaches provide instruction, encouragement, information/resources, and guidance; assist students to develop and implement strategies to achieve greater independence; allow natural consequences and mistakes as teaching tools when safety is not a concern; encourage the student to self-identify when they need support and offer ideas as to how to effectively communicate their needs; and utilize a person-centered approach in all interactions with the students.

• Will on-campus housing be provided? / Is this a residential program?

No, there are no on-campus housing options available at this time. Students must identify their own living arrangements while in the CLSC program.

• Who should I contact if I want more information about the program?

Please contact Mary Thomas at the University of Delaware’s Center for Disabilities Studies at 302-831-6974 or CLSC-info@udel.edu.