

Counseling for Post-Secondary Education Progression

Post-Secondary Awareness

Learning ABOUT options

Build awareness of the variety of options and the role of post-secondary education and training.

Sample Student Outcome

Student can articulate the type of post-secondary education and training options available:

- Degree, non-degree, diploma or certificate program at a community college, college, university, or vocational/trade school

Experiences might include:

- Invite guest speakers in order to learn about college and trade experiences from people with and without disabilities
- Develop awareness of online post-secondary program options
- Learn about career fields and pathways through Montana Career Information Systems (MCIS)
- Discuss importance of networks of support, independent living options, and community participation
- Participate in college fairs & trades rodeo
- Add relevant info to transition binders (i.e. DSS at Montana post-secondary institutions, FAFSA website info, list of AT the students finds helpful in the school environment, etc.)
- Invite VRBS to present information about the VRBS program and post-secondary supports

Post-Secondary Exploration

Learning ABOUT programs

Explore post-secondary programs to determine best fit in meeting transition goals.

Sample Student Outcome

Student can provide a list of programs of interest and identify steps needed to meet transition needs and goals.

Experiences might include:

- “Exploration” course to learn about academic and career interests, including dual enrollment opportunities
- Explore on-the-job training and apprenticeship opportunities
- Virtual or onsite program tours- explore campus size, location, majors or degrees, student clubs, diversity of student body, living options, and availability of financial aid or scholarships
- Visit Job Corps Center and Adult Learning Programs to learn about workforce training and certificate programs
- Research program requirements, costs, timelines, and disability-related supports and services
- Interview/mentor with current student or trades worker with disabilities
- Create lessons with Montana Colleges Interactive Guidebook

Post-Secondary Preparation

Learning THROUGH experiences

Apply learning through practical experiences that develop knowledge and skills necessary for success in post-secondary education.

Sample Student Outcome

Student takes a lead role in post-secondary transition planning and preparation.

Experiences might include:

- Work-based learning experiences to help determine program of study
- Participate in “Movin’ On in Montana” or “College in a Day”
- Practice and preparation for PSAT/PLAN
- Create application management system for deadlines, support materials, and timeline (MCIS)
- Establish eligibility for VR services
- Learn how to research financial aid-FAFSA, Pell grants, scholarships and work study
- Enroll in dual enrollment or preparation courses to develop strong study skills and learning strategies
- Collect examples of college application paperwork and discuss needed requirements with students

Post-Secondary Training

Learning FOR success

Practice skills necessary for post-secondary education success

Sample Student Outcome

Student demonstrates knowledge and skills needed to successfully enter and complete post-secondary program.

Experiences might include:

- Educate students on differences between special education services in high school and disability student services on campus
- Collaborate with math teachers and college staff to offer lessons on financial planning and budgeting
- Instruction in expanded core curriculum: communication, social skills, organization, self-regulation, self-determination and independent living
- Training in the area of reasonable accommodations and alternative formatting of course material
- Access and training in assistive technology supports
- Student-led plans for Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) and Plan to Achieve Self-Support (PASS)