



ABOUT COLLEGE LIVING EXPERIENCE

Since 1989, College Living Experience (CLE) has been providing post-secondary supports to students with varying exceptionalities. Dedicated to providing the highest quality of individualized services in the areas of academics, independent living, social skills, and career development, CLE supports are tailored to each young adult we serve. It is through personalized services, our team celebrates the uniqueness of students in such a way that we are able to make a lasting impact in their lives and in their communities.

CLE began with one center over 20 years ago and has grown across the United States offering supports and services in 6 locations serving over 250 students a year. The success of CLE as the industry leader in post-secondary transition supports comes from our dedication to remain focused on the potential for each individual we serve. The evolution and innovation of CLE is defined by our mission which inspires us to reach beyond the boundaries of the traditional supports many of our families have been accustomed to their whole lives. As an organization, we are passionate about working with students to reach their greatest level of independence. Services are provided through community integration helping students understand, imagine, and create solutions that give meaning and value in their world.

APPROACH

CLE believes that all students can advance given the right instruction in the right environment. With newfound skills, a degree or certificate in hand, students can experience the possibilities of finding meaningful work and creating lasting friendships as they transition into adulthood. Once enrolled in CLE, students live together in apartments near local CLE centers while taking classes at community colleges, vocational schools, or universities. Each CLE center is staffed with well-educated, professional, and dedicated employees who work closely with students to provide structured tutoring sessions, independent living skills training (instruction) and social support.

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PROGRAMS

CLE assists students as they transition into post-secondary educational programs or career development. Once enrolled, our students live together in apartments near local CLE centers while taking classes at community colleges, vocational schools, or universities. Each CLE center is staffed with well-educated, professional, and dedicated employees who work closely with students to provide structured tutoring sessions, independent living skills training (instruction) and social support. CLE students include young adults with autism spectrum disorders, ADHD, Asperger's syndrome, non-verbal learning disorders as well as specific learning disabilities.

ACADEMICS: CLE collaborates with certificate programs, two-year colleges and four-year universities to provide a variety of opportunities for students to earn an associate's degree, bachelor's degree, or vocational certificate. Students attend tutoring sessions with content-specific professional tutors and study hall sessions each week. In addition, employees provide organization, time management and executive functioning support for our students to help them keep pace with their peers.

INDEPENDENT LIVING: Students are introduced to responsibilities of apartment living and receive help establishing and maintaining a bank account, paying bills, shopping, preparing meals, cleaning their apartment and other daily living activities. They learn how to create and follow a schedule, use public transportation and interact with roommates and neighbors within their community.

SOCIAL SKILLS: Students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities each week, such as movies, cultural performances, or outings to local events and attractions. Students are paired with a mentor who is a graduate student in psychology or related field. The mentor facilitates the guided application of the social skills CLE students are learning. Students also participate in group sessions with staff members and fellow students. The ultimate goal in providing social skills support is to help students succeed and become independent in different environments.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT: To assist our students with job readiness, CLE provides instruction and coaching on essential skills such as searching for jobs or volunteer opportunities, completing applications, participating in interviews, and acquiring job specific hard skills. Our students learn these valuable skills through experiential education guided by professional instruction.

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