

Post High School Programs

Transition Program

Transition programs may be housed on a college campus, within a local community or in a school-based collaborative setting. These programs focus on assisting students who may require more support to learn independent living and employability skills and may find traditional college work too demanding. Most programs focus on students acquiring job-specific work skills, interpersonal development, and improving their communication styles. Some of these programs may not offer college credits; however, students can attend a transition program as a precursor to enrolling in a college level program.

Trade or Training Program

Trade or training programs offer students specific, hands on training in a designated career field. Students typically need to take assessments or exams at certain points in their training in order to be placed in the correct courses or to become licensed in their desired career field. In many cases, trade or training schools will assist students in finding employment or joining the local union upon completion of their program.

Community College

Community Colleges typically offer certificate or associate's degrees in a variety of fields. Depending on the program, some students may have a combination of hands on training and classwork as they work to fulfill their graduation requirements. Community colleges in Massachusetts do not require students to take a foreign language or standardized testing, such as ACTs or SATs for admittance. Schools will require students to take placement exams to ensure that they are in the proper level core courses. Many students start their college career at a community college and transfer to a traditional four year college to finish their bachelor's degree. The Massachusetts state school system has designated tracks for specific majors in which students are automatically admitted to a state college as long as they maintain a certain GPA at the community college level.

Traditional College

Traditional four year colleges offer bachelor's degree programs in a variety of career fields. In most cases, traditional colleges have larger class sizes and bigger campuses than community colleges. Even though traditional colleges will have learning centers, they generally tend to offer less support than community colleges or supportive colleges. Students will need to independently self-advocate in order to get the assistance that they require. Some traditional colleges may have specific programs to support students with disabilities imbedded within in the school or campus.

Supportive College

Supportive colleges offer associate and bachelor's degree programs in a variety of career fields. These schools are college level programs specifically designed for students who learn differently. The class sizes tend to be smaller and the professors are accustomed to teaching students with learning challenges. Student and campus life are similar to that of a traditional college setting; however students receive more support from counselors and learning specialists throughout their educational career to ensure academic success. Students graduate with either associate or bachelor's degrees.