

Community/Habilitation Assistant Specialist

Certificate Program in Human Services
offered by
Columbus State Community College

What is this program about?

- 4 quarter certificate program offered at Columbus State for adults of any age that have a developmental disability.
- Pilot program – Brand new, never been done before – nothing set in stone – learning as we go !

Why would I want to participate?

- Once you successfully complete the program you are eligible to obtain employment as a Human Service Worker?
 - What does that mean?
 - You will be hired to work in an agency that supports people with disabilities. You will assist others in becoming more independent and more social. You may assist teachers/instructors in classrooms and workshops. You may assist people in developing friends or getting around in the community. You may assist a Service Coordinator, you may advocate for others.

If you complete the program and get a job.....

- It may be full-time or part-time. That will be up to you and the employer.
- Your wages will be decided by the employer.
- Your job will focus on your strengths.

Will I take classes at Columbus State?

- YES ! This is a college based program. Classes are taught at Columbus State. Classes will be adapted to meet your learning styles and needs.
- You will start school this summer at Columbus State.

What kind of classes will I be taking?

- You will take 2 classes this summer.
 - One is called College Success Skills
 - One is an Early Experience
 - As part of your early experience you will visit numerous Human Service Agencies that might employ you. You will visits these agencies with one of our instructors.
 - You will also meet for 2 hours a week to talk about the visits, learn team work skills, social skills, problem solving skills, etc.

What about the other 3 quarters?

- In the Fall, Winter and Spring you will take one class and do an internship.
- The classes you will take are called Introduction to MR/DD, Teaching and Supporting Persons with Disabilities and Intervention Strategies.
- You will learn about client rights, advocating, self-determination, different disabilities, ways to support others, how to help people become more independent, etc.

What is an internship?

- In the Fall, Winter and Spring you will do an internship at a local agency. You will be assigned an agency that you will spend 14 hours a week at. While you are there you will be working closely with a staff from that agency, learning and practicing skills that will help you become a human service worker.
- You will do internships at 2-3 agencies over the 3 quarters.
- An instructor at Columbus State will support you at your internship by visiting you at your agency 3-4 times per quarter.
- You do not get paid for your internships. Internships are learning opportunities.

How will I get to Columbus State and to my internships?

- Transportation to and from Columbus State will be your responsibility. You can drive, get a ride, ride the bus or walk.
 - We will try to assist you in getting rides from other students if necessary.
 - Transportation to and from your early experience will be provided (either by car, van or COTA bus). We will travel in small groups for early experience.
 - Once you start your internships you will be responsible for getting to and from the agency. We will assist you if we can..

Does this program cost Money?

- Yes.. The courses and internships are Columbus State classes. Columbus State currently cost \$79 a credit hour. You will be taking 5-7 credit hours per quarter.
- You are encouraged to work with BVR, they often will pay for courses that lead to employment.
- Financial aid may be an option?
- Additional options are being explored.

What kind of supports will be available for me?

- The instructors have many years of experience working with and for people with disabilities.
- Columbus State has a Disabilities Services department that offers a variety of supports.
- Columbus State has a Counseling Department that offers support.
- Columbus State has students that volunteer their time to assist others.
- We want you to be successful and will seek ways to provide the support you need.

Do I qualify for the program?

- Are you an adult with a developmental disability?
- Do you have a 5th grade reading level?
- Do you have the ability to “look” outside of yourself ?
- Are you willing and able to commit to going to school for 4 quarters?

How Do I Apply?

- Admissions Department – complete application process
- Take COMPASS test – be sure you have a 5th grade reading level
- Schedule an interview with Jackie Teny-Miller (phone # 287-2544).

Am I automatically accepted into the program?

- No... a committee will review all applicants and select 12 students to participate in the pilot.
- You will be notified if you have been accepted.

If I have questions after today, who can help me?

- Please contact

Jackie Teny-Miller

287-2544

jteny@csc.c.edu