



Aggie **ACHIEVE**

ACADEMIC COURSES IN HIGHER INCLUSIVE
EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL EXPERIENCES

TEXAS' FIRST INCLUSIVE, CERTIFICATE-BASED,
FOUR-YEAR EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG
ADULTS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

MORE THAN ONE MILLION SCHOOL-ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS (AGES 6-21) IN THE UNITED STATES HAVE INTELLECTUAL OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

As young adults, many hold the very same dreams for adulthood as others without disabilities in their community: find a great job, forge new friendships, live on their own.

The catalyst of many of these opportunities is the ability to go to college.

OVERVIEW

Through Aggie ACHIEVE, these students can have this experience. Aggie ACHIEVE aligns coursework, internship opportunities, and extracurricular activities with each student's academic interests and employment goals. Students reside in Texas A&M residence halls and have access to all campus-related activities.

In the first two years, students will be introduced to college life through weekly seminars focused on independent living, career awareness, and self-determination. Beginning in the spring of their first year, students will participate in on-campus internships each week to prepare for inclusive employment.

The last two years of Aggie ACHIEVE will focus more on career development and field specialization, including opportunities for off-campus internships in a student's field of interest. Students will have the opportunity to venture off-campus to work in a setting more directly aligned with their chosen field of specialization.

Students will have access to campus and community life similar to that of their peers on campus. They will be able to:

- Participate in approximately five hours of inclusive TAMU coursework per semester, including courses related to academics, physical education, and orientation to college*,
- Pursue active membership in clubs and student organizations,
- Participate in orientation events and campus programs, and
- Develop lifelong relationships with faculty, staff and peers on campus.

**Each student's program of study will be individually designed through a comprehensive, collaborative process called person-centered planning, where each student and their family member(s) meet with a staff member to design individualized goals. Faculty will work with ACHIEVE staff to develop a modified syllabus and Independent Learning Agreement to set expectations and assignments.*

FUNDING

Support for Aggie ACHIEVE currently comes exclusively from private philanthropy and student fees.

FEES	DESCRIPTION
\$20,500	Aggie ACHIEVE support fees and Texas A&M fees
\$10,400	Housing and meal plan.* <i>Rates vary per year.</i>

**Aggie ACHIEVE works with Residence Life to facilitate an inclusive living and learning community on campus in which students receive the support of resident mentors, a community of peers, and convenience to their classes and program activities.*

ACHIEVEMATES

Aggie ACHIEVE students will not only receive support from ACHIEVE staff and the university, but also individualized support from Texas A&M students who volunteer as ACHIEVEmates. ACHIEVEmates are undergraduate students from across disciplines who establish one-on-one relationships with Aggie ACHIEVE students to facilitate natural inclusion in the broader campus community.



PROGRAM GOALS

1.

Create a four-year postsecondary pathway for students with IDD in Texas in preparation for inclusive, paid employment and independent living.

2.

Enable students to have an immersive and inclusive college experience in which they have access to all services and supports available to any TAMU student.

3.

Assist students in reaching their post-school goals in the areas of competitive employment and independent living.

Transforming the future of our students also means expanding opportunities and experiences of our TAMU students already on campus. This educational opportunity has the ability to improve attitudes and create opportunities of growth for those who will go on to key corporate, community and civic leadership roles around the country after graduation.



ORGANIZATION AND LEADERSHIP

Housed within the Department of Educational Psychology in the College of Education and Human Development, Aggie ACHIEVE is also affiliated with the Center on Disability and Development, a nationally recognized University Center of Excellence on Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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HELP SUPPORT AGGIE ACHIEVE AND OTHER PROGRAMS IN THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

While students enrolled in the program will pay over \$20,000 per year for non-state supported academic and support fees, private funding is needed to support the organizational structure. Philanthropic support is critical to ensure this start-up initiative is on a path to success. To partner with us on this life-changing effort, contact:

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