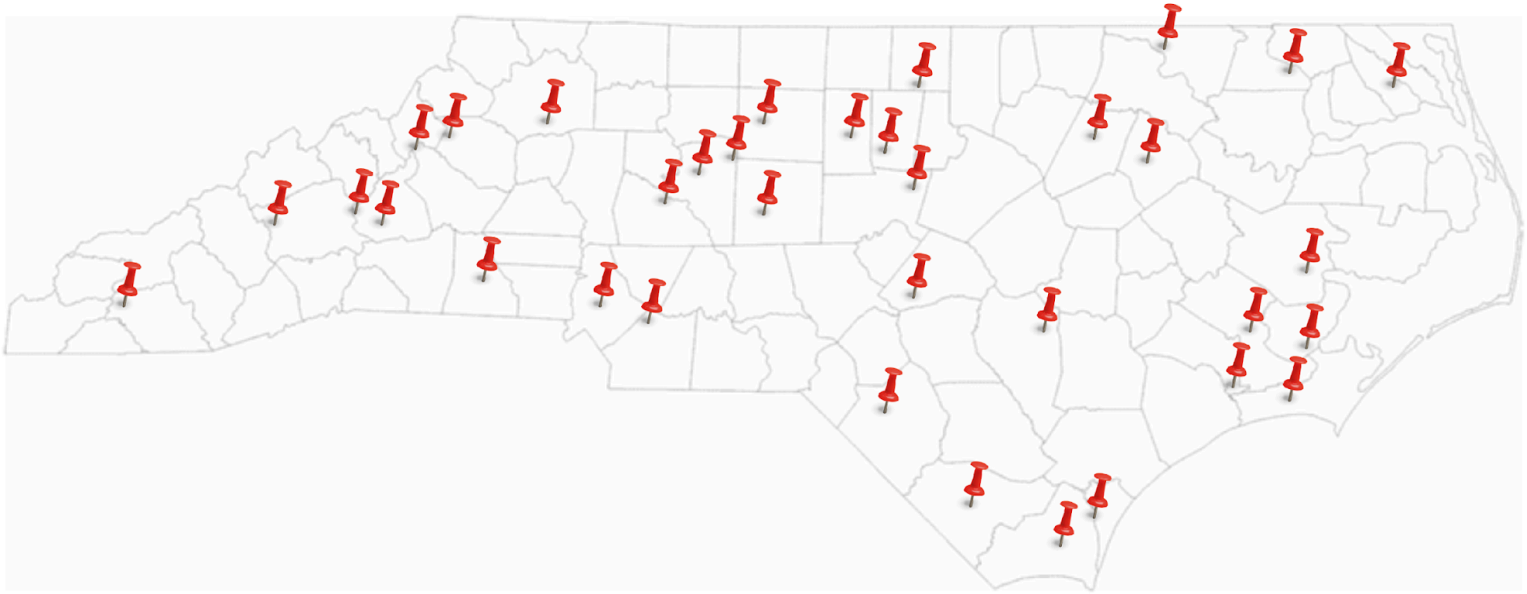
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities

North Carolina Post-Secondary Education Programs for Young Adults with I/DD

2025-2026

The Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities & North Carolina Postsecondary Education Alliance



This document is updated annually to reflect the most recent information available within the NC PSE programs.

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University Programs

University and Program Name	Description	Number of Students Per Year	Application Deadline	Internship Opportunity	Certificate or Award	Contact Information	Program Website
Appalachian State University Scholars with Diverse Abilities (2-4 years)	For students with ID—completely integrative courses related to career and personal interests and service-learning opportunities	15-20	December 1 (continuous until filled)	✔	✔	Dr. Susan Hedges: hedgessh@appstate.edu	https://sdap.appstate.edu/
North Carolina State University Elevate (4 years)	For students with I/DD - courses with opportunities to 'think and do' in order to enrich academic knowledge, transform career and occupational skills, and advance personal and social development	10	November 2			Catherine Fowler: chfowle3@ncsu.edu	https://elevate.ced.ncsu.edu/
University of North Carolina Greensboro Integrative Community Studies (4 years)	For students with ID and DD: fosters the development of engaged citizens by centralizing the student experience in: Inclusion & integration; curricular & co-curricular learning; diversity & equity; natural resources; student-created tools & strategies; and professional development.	15-25	November 1 - priority, December 1 - regular	✔	✔	Ryan Milligan: rpmillig@uncg.edu	https://ics.uncg.edu/

University Program Name	Description	Number of Students Per Year	Application Deadline	Internship Opportunity	Certificate or Award	Contact Information	Program Website
University of North Carolina Wilmington Inclusive Futures (2 years)	For students with I/DD - to develop independent living skills, create personalized plans for their goals, and explore career interests through internships and courses	10	February 2	✔		K. Ryan Wennerlind: wennerlindk@uncw.edu	https://uncw.edu/academics/beyond-the-classroom/inclusive-futures/?utm_source=ifp&utm_medium=301&utm_id=student-affairs
Western Carolina University UP (2 years)	For students with ID—fully integrated experience building skills in personal development, community participation, vocational preparation, social participation and learning, and course auditing	4-7	December 1	✔	✔	Alex Mathis: araxter@wcu.edu 828-227-3318 Kelly Kelley: kkelley@wcu.edu 828-227-3298	https://www.wcu.edu/learn/departments-schools-colleges/ceap/stl/special-education-programs/university-participant-up-program/
Wingate University Julia's Learning (2 years)	For students with I/DD - fully immersive experience to support development of independence, autonomy, self-worth, and meaningful lifelong employment	5	December 19			Melanie Keel: m.keel@wingate.edu	https://www.wingate.edu/admissions/julias-learning

Community College Program Name	Description	Number of Students Per Year	Application Deadline	Internship Opportunity	Certificate or Award	Contact Information	Program Website
Alamance Community College Career College (2 years)	For students with ASD, ID, and DD— reading, math, and computer skills with hands-on practicum experiences as Automotive Assistant or Health & Public Services Assistant	8-10 per pathway		✔	✔	Tim Haith: tlhaith717@alamancecc.edu	https://www.alamancecc.edu/services-for-students-site/disability-services/career-college-2/
Alamance Community College ABLE (self-paced)	For students with ASD, ID, and DD— reading, writing, math, and computer literacy skills with a goal of further academic study and/or employment	35				Aimee Gordon: argordon399@alamancecc.edu	https://www.alamancecc.edu/workforce-development/college-and-career-readiness/able-career-college/index.php
College of the Albemarle ABETO (self-paced)	For students with ID and DD— reading, math, and other life skills to aid transition into the workforce	not restricted				Denise Lane: denise_lane87@albemarle.edu	https://www.albemarle.edu/programs-classes/noncredit/courses/intellectual-disabilities-education/
A-B Technical Community College Successful Occupational Achievement Readiness	SOAR is a vocational and literacy training program for adults with IDD. Develops students' academic, social, and workforce skills through projects and contextualized lessons and activities.	20		✔	✔	Barbara Fedock barbarafedock@abtech.edu or adulted@abtech.edu 828 398-7131	http://www.abtech.edu/SOAR

(2 year)	-Students must commit to attendance Monday-Thursday 9:00-2:00 and be motivated to begin on a career path with support from Vocational Rehabilitation.						
A-B Technical Community College Biltmore Project SEARCH (9 months + placement)	Project SEARCH serves people with IDD. Students must have a desire to achieve competitive employment. Interns must also be eligible for NC Vocational Rehabilitation services and have reliable daily transportation to the program.	8		✔	✔	Tim Blekicki: tblekicki@arcnc.org	
Brunswick Community College Brunswick Interagency Program (self-paced)	For students with ID and/or DD— contextualized learning, money management, technology, career exploration, and supported employment	not restricted			✔	LeAnn Cecil: cecill@brunswickcc.edu 910-755-7381 Chad Cumber: ?	https://brunswickcc.edu/home/find-a-program/brunswick-interagency-program/
Cape Fear Community College Essentials Program (2 years)	For students with ID and/or DD— reading, writing, math, computer literacy skills, and career pathway classes	7			✔	Kathy Martinez: kmartinez@cfcc.edu 910-362-7457	https://cfcc.edu/academic-career-readiness/essentials-program/
Catawba Valley Community College ABE Academy (2-4 years)	For students with ASD, ID, and DD— basic academic instruction that is vocationally contextualized for career	40					https://www.cvcc.edu/CCE/Learning_And_Personal_Enrichment/Basic

	exploration with opportunities to enroll in multiple career pathways and specific vocational training classes at departments across campus						_Skills/adult-basic-education.cfm
Central Piedmont Community College I-LEAD (2 years)	For students with ID, DD, and/or TBI— math, science, professional development, creative writing, print shop, book club, theater, and digital literacy	not restricted			✔	Lisa Hailey: lisa.hailey@cpcc.edu	https://www.cpcc.edu/programs/independence-and-literacy-education-adults-disabilities-i-lead
Coastal Carolina Community College Career and Life Skills (self-paced)	For students with ASD, ID, DD, TBI, CP, and more— work readiness, reading, writing, math, and technology	10-20				College and Career Readiness: CCR@coastalcarolina.edu	https://www.coastalcarolina.edu/academics/con-ed/ccr/
Craven Community College Transitions Academy (2 years)	For students with ASD— math, reading, writing, technology, and soft skills including modules on horticulture, government, health programs, childcare, carpentry, and food preparation/safety	30			✔	Sandy Bayliss-Carr: bayliss-carrs@cravencc.edu	https://cravencc.edu/transitions-academy
Davidson-Davie Community College Occupational Network (self-paced)	For students with ASD, ID, and DD—reading/language arts, community living, math, consumer education, health, vocational education, and social science	15-18				Jill Storey: jill_storey@davidsondavie.edu	https://www.davidsondavie.edu/academics/college-and-career-readiness/occupational-network-abe-class/

Edgecombe Community College Adult Basic Education I (self-paced)	For students with ID and/or DD— reading, math, writing, digital instruction, vocational skills, and community-based service learning project	not restricted		✔	✔	Contact number: (252) 618-6704	https://edgecombe.edu/programs/college-and-career-readiness/adult-basic-education-i/
Fayetteville Technical Community College College and Career Readiness (self-paced)	For students with ASD, ID, and DD— academic advancement and immediate improvement in employability skills	not restricted				Ginger Strickland: stricklg@faytechcc.edu	https://www.faytechcc.edu/college-career-readiness/
Guilford Technical Community College POWER Pathways (self-paced/ 1 yr)	For students with ID and/or DD— basic reading, math, computer and writing skills, as well as employability skills and career preparation. Pathways in Food Service and Customer Service	not restricted			✔	Krystal Gossett: Kbgossett@gtcc.edu	https://www.gtcc.edu/academics/adult-education/power-pathways/index.php
Halifax Community College Students with Disabilities (self-paced)	For students with ID and/or DD— classes for academic and personal improvement and increased opportunities for gainful employment in new or existing industries in the Roanoke Valley and beyond	20				Phyllis Chavis: pchavis@halifaxcc.edu	https://halifaxcc.edu/WED/CCR/disabilities.php
Haywood Community College Career College (2 years)	For students with ID and/or DD— reading, math, and computer skills as well as hands-on	not restricted			✔	Jessica Moran - jhoneycutt@haywood.edu	https://www.haywood.edu/programs/college-career-readiness.php

	practicum experience within a specific program of study						
Mayland Community College Life Skills and Work Skills Academy (self-paced)	For students with ASD, ID, DD, and TBI— build independent living and workforce skills, make connections with local employers, master specific job tasks, and develop an Interview Portfolio	30				(Work Skills) Virginia Alvarado: valvarado@mayland.edu (Life Skills) Carol Holden: lifeskills@mayland.edu	https://www.mayland.edu/continuing-education/pre-college-ged-esl/work-skills-academy/ https://www.mayland.edu/continuing-education/life-skills/
Nash Community College Foundation Adult Basic Education (self-paced)	For students with ASD, ID and DD— academics (math and language arts) as well as coursework in specific career pathways for hospitality and food service, gardening and lawn maintenance, commercial cleaning, and retail sales	not restricted		✔		Roslyn Pemberton: rapemberton859@nashcc.edu	https://nashcc.edu/academics/continuing-education-programs/college-and-career-readiness/
Pitt Community College Career Academy (2 years)	For students with ID, DD, and ASD— develop job skills, career choices, academics in career contexts, and goals and objectives for job attainment in partnership with Pitt County Vocational Rehabilitation Services	25		✔	✔	Melissa Morlock: mwmorlock745@my.pittcc.edu	https://pittcc.edu/academics/academic-programs/transitional-studies/career-academy/

Randolph Community College ABLE (self-paced)	Provides a supportive academic setting for adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities as they prepare for more independence and opportunities. The program focuses on academic, social, vocational, and life skills to create a foundation that can help students transition smoothly into college or the workforce.	not restricted			✔	Shaneka Jones smjones@randolph.edu 336-633-0009	https://www.randolph.edu/academics/college-and-career-readiness-programs.aspx
Robeson Community College ABET (self-paced)	For students with ID and/or TBI— basic skills and abilities needed to become more independent and self-directed and meet and manage community, social, work, and personal adult responsibilities	not restricted				Banessa McCormick: bwilliams@robeson.edu	https://www.robeson.edu/ccr/
Rowan-Cabarrus Community College SOAR (2 years)	For students with ASD, ID, DD, and TBI— classes on functional academics, community living, health and safety, leisure activities, humanities, and participation in campus and community activities	20		✔	✔	Bridget Henderson: bridget.henderson@rccc.edu or Mandy Thacker: mandy.thacker@rccc.edu	https://www.rccc.edu/precollege/about-the-soar-program/

Sampson Community College ACE (self-paced)	For students with ID— reading, writing, math and vocational training through Project Discovery	not restricted				Allie Turner: aturner@sampsoncc.edu	https://www.sampsoncc.edu/wdce/academy-of-continuing-excellence/
South Piedmont Community College Compass Education (self-paced)	For students with ASD, ID, DD, TBI, CP, and more— math, reading, writing, soft skills, and occupational pathways in food service and heritage arts	not restricted				Nikki Myers: nmyers@spcc.edu	https://spcc.edu/programs/compass-education/
Wake Technical Community College Pathfinder Career Exploration Program (2 years)	For students with ASD, ID, DD, TBI, CP, and more— Six employment-focused cohorts in horticulture and landscaping, health care, animal care/pet retail, business/customer service, food service/culinary, and technology as well as career pathway opportunities in hospitality and barista/café training. They offer online-only and hybrid options.	40 per cohort			✔	Julia Tennant: jatennant@waketech.edu 919-334-1545	https://www.waketech.edu/programs-courses/non-credit/strengthen-basic-skills/adult-basic-education/abe
Wilkes Community College Career Step (self-paced)	For students with ASD, ID, DD, TBI, CP, and more— basic academics, liberal arts, employability skills, workplace readiness, and computer skills, concluding with hands-on training for a chosen career pathway (e.g., culinary)	not restricted		✔	✔	DeeAnna Parker: dcparker538@wilkescc.edu	https://www.wilkescc.edu/ccr/

Central Carolina Community College BELL Academy (2 years)	For adults (at least 18 years old) with intellectual/developmental disabilities who have been referred - emphasis is on improving reading, writing, math, and computer skills; helping adults become more independent	not restricted			✔	?	https://www.cccc.edu/news/story.php?story=9574
Cleveland Community College ConneXions PostSecondary Program (2-years)	Mission is to encourage students with disabilities to: achieve post-secondary education and employment goals, become responsible learners and workers, improve communication skills, increase self-advocacy skills, etc.	38		✔	✔	Haley Blanton or Jennifer Wall: connexions@clevelandcountyschools.org	https://sites.google.com/a/clevelandcountyschools.org/transition/connexions

Abbreviated Programs

Community College/University and Program Name	Description	Number of Students Per Year	Internship Opportunity	Certificate or Award	Contact Information	Program Website
Pitt and Wake Tech Community Colleges T-STEP (12 weeks)	For students with ASD— organization and executive function skills, emotion regulation skills, and social skills through the classroom, counseling, and volunteer internships	8-15		✔	TSTEPinfo@med.unc.edu	https://teacch.com/cllc/t-step-teacch-school-transition-to-employment-and-postsecondary-education/
University of North Carolina Chapel Hill HEELS 2 Transition HEELS Prep (4 weeks Summer)	For students with ID and/or DD— hybrid in-person and virtual experience building skills in self-management, life skills, career development, mental health, and community safety	10			heels2transition@med.unc.edu	https://www.med.unc.edu/healthsciences/outreach/heels2transition/heelsprep/
University of North Carolina Chapel Hill HEELS 2 Transition HEELS UP (6 weeks Summer 2)	For students with ID and/or DD— supported participation in social opportunities and a summer course at UNC Chapel Hill through a person-centered plan	7-13			heels2transition@med.unc.edu	https://www.med.unc.edu/healthsciences/outreach/heels2transition/heelsup/

Abbreviated Programs

University of North Carolina Chapel Hill HEELS 2 Transition HEELS UP (Summer and year round program)	An inclusive post-secondary education program at UNC Chapel Hill preparing for a two-year, year-round program launch for young adults with disabilities beginning Spring 2025.	3-7		✔	Hayden Loeb heels2transition@med.unc.edu (919) 966-4761	https://www.med.unc.edu/healthsciences/outreach/heels2transition/heelsup/ (not yet updated for year-round program)
University of North Carolina Chapel Hill LEND (1 year)	For students with IDD—Inclusive Leadership Program. Students need to be interested in Disability Advocacy work	4			Anna Ward: anna.ward@cidd.unc.edu	https://www.med.unc.edu/cidd/lend/
Stanly Community College Access to achievement (planned program length varies from student to student)	For students with self-identified I/DD - educational and career pathway opportunities. Also offer classes through the HR Development program such as literacy, interview skills, resume writing, life skills, financial literacy, budgeting, basic computer skills, and much more.	30			Alia King aking9402@stanly.edu 704-991-0394	https://www.stanly.edu/college-career-readiness/human-resources-development.html
Richmond Community College Next Steps (2 years)	Next Steps is an individualized, job-focused instruction and workforce preparation activities for adults 18 years of age and older with intellectual disabilities. The multi-step program provides inclusive opportunities for students to earn micro-credentials, certifications, and/ or college	not restricted	✔		Nicole Worley ndworley@richmondcc.edu 9104101863	https://richmondcc.edu/nextsteps

Abbreviated Programs

	credit in preparation for employment.					

Note: This list is not all-inclusive.