

CAREER AND COMMUNITY STUDIES - NON-DEGREE

College of Education and Human Services
 School of Lifespan Development and Educational Sciences
www.kent.edu/ehhs/ldes

About This Program

The Career and Community Studies program provides you with the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in a variety of career paths, from social work to community development. With a focus on hands-on learning and real-world experience, you'll gain practical skills that can be applied in your daily life and career. Read more...

Contact Information

- **Vonnie Michali** | yhale@kent.edu | 330-672-0725
- Speak with an Advisor
- Chat with an Admissions Counselor

Program Delivery

- **Delivery:**
 - In person
- **Location:**
 - Kent Campus

Admission Requirements

- The program is limited to 10-12 students each fall.
- Students participating in the program experience intellectual and developmental disabilities that may affect some intellectual functioning and adaptive behavior.
- Other qualifications include documentation of past successful work, academic, leadership, and community participation.
- Also required for admission are a completed application, reference letters, and an in-person interview with the CCS admission committee.

Program Requirements

Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Major Requirements (courses count in major GPA)		
CCS 00010	INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS I	3
CCS 00015	SELF-ADVOCACY: DISABILITY AWARENESS AND THE LAWS	3
CCS 00020	APPLYING TECHNOLOGY	1
CCS 00025	MANAGING MONEY IN COLLEGE	1
CCS 00035	SELF-ADVOCACY: COMMUNICATION SKILLS	3
CCS 00105	INTRODUCTION TO JOB EXPLORATION	1
CCS 00110	INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS II	3
CCS 00115	SELF-ADVOCACY AND SELF-DETERMINATION	3
CCS 00120	PERSON-CENTERED PLANNING: FRESHMAN	1
CCS 00135	SELF-ADVOCACY: HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS	3

CCS 00145	DEVELOPING PROFESSIONAL SKILLS: FRESHMAN	6
CCS 00205	JOB EXPLORATION I	3
CCS 00206	JOB EXPLORATION II	3
CCS 00220	PERSON-CENTERED PLANNING: SOPHOMORE	1
CCS 00235	SELF-ADVOCACY: INDEPENDENT LIVING AND INJURY PREVENTION	3
CCS 00245	DEVELOPING PROFESSIONAL SKILLS: SOPHOMORE	6
CCS 00292	WORK EXPERIENCE: SOPHOMORE	6
CCS 00306	EMPLOYMENT READINESS I	3
CCS 00307	EMPLOYMENT READINESS II	3
CCS 00320	PERSON-CENTERED PLANNING: JUNIOR	1
CCS 00335	SELF-ADVOCACY: HEALTHY LIVING	3
CCS 00345	DEVELOPING PROFESSIONAL SKILLS: JUNIOR	6
CCS 00392	WORK EXPERIENCE: JUNIOR	8
CCS 00410	EMPLOYMENT CERTIFICATIONS	3
CCS 00425	MANAGING MONEY AFTER COLLEGE	1
CCS 00445	DEVELOPING PROFESSIONAL SKILLS: SENIOR	2
CCS 00492	WORK EXPERIENCE: SENIOR	8
CCS 00499	PERSON-CENTERED PLANNING: SENIOR	3
Special Topics Electives, choose from the following: ¹		29
CCS 02095	SPECIAL TOPICS: SOPHOMORE LECTURE ¹	
CCS 02195	SPECIAL TOPICS: SOPHOMORE LABORATORY	
CCS 02295	SPECIAL TOPICS: SOPHOMORE COMBINED LECTURE AND LABORATORY	
CCS 03095	SPECIAL TOPICS: JUNIOR LECTURE	
CCS 03195	SPECIAL TOPICS: JUNIOR LABORATORY	
CCS 03295	SPECIAL TOPICS: JUNIOR COMBINED LECTURE AND LABORATORY	
CCS 04095	SPECIAL TOPICS: SENIOR LECTURE	
CCS 04195	SPECIAL TOPICS: SENIOR LABORATORY	
CCS 04295	SPECIAL TOPICS: SENIOR COMBINED LECTURE AND LABORATORY	

Minimum Total Credit Hours: 120

¹ Students enrolled in special topics courses also will attend sessions of Kent State courses selected in consultation with an advisor.

Graduation Requirements

Minimum Major GPA	Minimum Overall GPA
2.000	2.000

Roadmap

This roadmap is a recommended semester-by-semester plan of study for this program. Students will work with their advisor to develop a sequence based on their academic goals and history. Courses designated as critical (!) must be completed in the semester listed to ensure a timely graduation.

Semester One		Credits
CCS 00010	INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS I	3
CCS 00020	APPLYING TECHNOLOGY	1
CCS 00025	MANAGING MONEY IN COLLEGE	1
CCS 00035	SELF-ADVOCACY: COMMUNICATION SKILLS	3
CCS 00115	SELF-ADVOCACY AND SELF-DETERMINATION	3
CCS 00145	DEVELOPING PROFESSIONAL SKILLS: FRESHMAN	3

Special Topics Elective		1
Credit Hours		15
Semester Two		
CCS 00015	SELF-ADVOCACY: DISABILITY AWARENESS AND THE LAWS	3
CCS 00105	INTRODUCTION TO JOB EXPLORATION	1
CCS 00110	INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS II	3
CCS 00120	PERSON-CENTERED PLANNING: FRESHMAN	1
CCS 00135	SELF-ADVOCACY: HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS	3
CCS 00145	DEVELOPING PROFESSIONAL SKILLS: FRESHMAN	3
Special Topics Elective		1
Credit Hours		15
Semester Three		
CCS 00205	JOB EXPLORATION I	3
CCS 00235	SELF-ADVOCACY: INDEPENDENT LIVING AND INJURY PREVENTION	3
CCS 00245	DEVELOPING PROFESSIONAL SKILLS: SOPHOMORE	3
CCS 00292	WORK EXPERIENCE: SOPHOMORE	3
Special Topics Electives		3
Credit Hours		15
Semester Four		
CCS 00206	JOB EXPLORATION II	3
CCS 00220	PERSON-CENTERED PLANNING: SOPHOMORE	1
CCS 00245	DEVELOPING PROFESSIONAL SKILLS: SOPHOMORE	3
CCS 00292	WORK EXPERIENCE: SOPHOMORE	3
CCS 00335	SELF-ADVOCACY: HEALTHY LIVING	3
Special Topics Electives		3
Credit Hours		16
Semester Five		
CCS 00306	EMPLOYMENT READINESS I	3
CCS 00345	DEVELOPING PROFESSIONAL SKILLS: JUNIOR	3
CCS 00392	WORK EXPERIENCE: JUNIOR	4
Special Topics Electives		6
Credit Hours		16
Semester Six		
CCS 00307	EMPLOYMENT READINESS II	3
CCS 00320	PERSON-CENTERED PLANNING: JUNIOR	1
CCS 00345	DEVELOPING PROFESSIONAL SKILLS: JUNIOR	3
CCS 00392	WORK EXPERIENCE: JUNIOR	4
Special Topics Electives		6
Credit Hours		17
Semester Seven		
CCS 00410	EMPLOYMENT CERTIFICATIONS	3
CCS 00445	DEVELOPING PROFESSIONAL SKILLS: SENIOR	1
CCS 00492	WORK EXPERIENCE: SENIOR	4
Special Topics Electives		6
Credit Hours		14
Semester Eight		
CCS 00425	MANAGING MONEY AFTER COLLEGE	1
CCS 00445	DEVELOPING PROFESSIONAL SKILLS: SENIOR	1
CCS 00492	WORK EXPERIENCE: SENIOR	4
CCS 00499	PERSON-CENTERED PLANNING: SENIOR	3

Special Topics Electives	3
Credit Hours	12
Minimum Total Credit Hours:	120

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of this program will be able to:

1. Become more self-determined persons who are better prepared for independent living and the achievement of career goals.
2. Gain confidence in critical and independent thinking, and use their own voice and vision in order to be active and informed citizens.
3. Understand basic concepts of the academic disciplines, and apply imagination and creativity as they begin a lifelong pursuit of knowledge.
4. Demonstrate awareness of ethical implications of their own actions, and be positive role models who contribute to societal views concerning inclusion, community, and tolerance for diversity.

Full Description

Career and Community Studies is a 4-year, non-degree college experience designed to prepare students (ages 18 and older) with intellectual and developmental disabilities and autism for adult life. Throughout this transformative journey, students will learn and practice social skills and independent living skills, exploring, identifying and preparing for a career aligned with their strengths and interests. The program places a particular emphasis on addressing the challenges they may encounter, fostering a holistic approach to personal and professional development. Participants emerge as self-determined individuals who can figure out what they want to do with their lives.

During the program, students discover who they are, prepare for jobs they'll enjoy, and learn how to speak up for themselves while understanding their rights. The curriculum not only imparts vital employment skills but also guides students about the responsibilities that come with being an adult.

Students will engage in a curriculum that seamlessly integrates Career and Community Studies (CCS) with courses from other units, offering diverse opportunities to practice and master the skills crucial for employment. For those seeking a more immersive experience, the option to reside on campus is available, providing a platform to develop home management skills. The goal is for students to become independent individuals who can decide what they want, speak up for themselves, and use resources to succeed in adult life.