The What, Why, and How of Becoming a Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary (CTP) Program

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Agenda

• What brings you to this session?
  • Name
  • If you are at a college/university
    • CTP application status – just collecting info, starting to think about it, actively pursuing, already submitted, already awarded

• What is a comprehensive transition and postsecondary (CTP) program?

• Why should I apply to be a CTP?

• What are the steps to becoming a CTP?

• How do I write a successful CTP application?
Categories of College Programs

• Transition and Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities (TPSID)
  • Model Demonstration projects funded by the US Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education

• Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary (CTP) Programs
  • Programs that have been through an approval process and can offer access to federal financial aid

  *Some programs are both

  Most programs today are neither
CTP defined in the Higher Education Opportunity Act (2008)

(a) Comprehensive transition and postsecondary program means a degree, certificate, nondegree, or noncertificate program that—

(1) Is offered by a participating institution;

(2) Is delivered to students physically attending the institution;

(3) Is designed to support students with intellectual disabilities who are seeking to continue academic, career and technical, and independent living instruction at an institution of higher education in order to prepare for gainful employment;

(4) Includes an advising and curriculum structure;

(5) Requires students with intellectual disabilities to have at least one-half of their participation in the program, as determined by the institution, focus on academic components through one or more of the following activities:

(i) Taking credit-bearing courses with students without disabilities.

(ii) Auditing or otherwise participating in courses with students without disabilities for which the student does not receive regular academic credit.

(iii) Taking non-credit-bearing, nondegree courses with students without disabilities.

(iv) Participating in internships or work-based training in settings with individuals without disabilities; and

(6) Provides students with intellectual disabilities opportunities to participate in coursework and other activities with students without disabilities.

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What is a CTP?

• Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary (CTP) Program

• Pathway to Title IV (i.e., federal) financial aid for students with intellectual disability (ID)

• Traditional requirements for accessing Title IV financial aid:
  • Required to be working toward a degree or certificate
  • Required to have a high school diploma, GED, or have passed an ability-to-benefit test

CTP removes these barriers for students with ID
What is it not?

• Accreditation
• An indication of the quality of a program
• Access to loans or scholarships
Why should I apply to be a CTP?

- Access to financial aid for students with ID
- Recognition on US Dept. of Education website
- Legitimize your efforts on campus
Eligible student with ID with financial need

Program approved as CTP

Access to Title IV financial aid

- Federal Pell Grant
- Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant
- Federal Work-Study
If we are approved, which students are eligible?

- Students who:
  - Have a documented intellectual disability
  - Are no longer served under IDEA (i.e., not dually enrolled)
  - Have a documented need for financial aid by completing FAFSA
How is ID defined for CTP?

(b) Student with an intellectual disability means a student—

(1) With a cognitive impairment characterized by significant limitations in—

(i) Intellectual and cognitive functioning; and

(ii) Adaptive behavior as expressed in conceptual, social, and practical adaptive skills; and

(2) Who is currently, or was formerly, eligible for special education and related services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) (20 U.S.C. 1401), including a student who was determined eligible for special education or related services under the IDEA but was home-schooled or attended private school.
What are the steps to becoming a CTP?

1. Meet with your financial aid office
2. Financial aid office adds CTP to the IHE's E-App
3. Prepare a detailed narrative, Satisfactory Academic Progress policy, and letter to accrediting agency
4. Notify IHE's accrediting agency in writing
5. Submit application to DOE...wait......respond to queries
How do I write a successful CTP application?

• You must offer a meaningful credential
  • See resources from Think College (next slide)
• You need a Satisfactory Academic Academic Progress policy
  • Start with your college or university SAP and adapt from there
• Your course of study should be based on inclusive coursework
  • A lot easier if you have built your program from the standpoint of inclusion (harder to try to retrofit a more specialized program into CTP requirements)
• You have to notify your IHE’s accrediting agency in writing
  • Just a notification but can be tricky depending on your state
What does it mean to offer a meaningful credential?

Resources from Think College

- Insight Brief
- Credential Action Planning Tool
- Fast Facts
We are a CTP! Now what?

• Meet with your financial aid office
• Establish a process for sharing information:
  • You need to know FAFSA info (“expected family contribution” or EFC) for students with ID
  • The financial aid office needs to know that you have documentation of ID for each student
  • A shared Google spreadsheet is a useful tool
• Students and families will need support with FAFSA – they may not have heard of it or understand it
  • As much as possible, have the financial aid office provide this support
Want to learn more?
www.thinkcollege.net

Need Advice? Think College can help...
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Check out the Think College Learn module

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