Step Forward Programs

Step Forward I
Step Forward I is a comprehensive transition program for young adults with mild cognitive disabilities. This non-credit program focuses on interpersonal communication, daily living skills as well as workplace and college readiness. In addition to classroom instruction, students are placed in a community or campus-based work experience.

Topics covered in the Step Forward I program include:
- Personal finances
- Interpersonal and workplace communications
- Daily living skills
- Self-advocacy and disability awareness
- Nutrition and fitness
- Community and campus-based social activities
- Vocational exploration and career planning

Upon completion of year one, the student’s team will recommend the following options:
- Repeat the first year
- Promotion to year two ***
- Program exit

*** Students recommended for the Step Forward II program will undergo preparation to take the Accuplacer exam during the spring of year one.

Step Forward II & High Functioning Autism Spectrum Disorder Program (HFASD) ***
Step Forward II and the HFASD is a blended program designed for students who have successfully completed Step Forward I or who are academically qualified to enroll in classes at Gateway Community College and do not require the Step Forward I curriculum. The program offers an additional level of support and case management beyond the federally mandated ADA (disability) services.

Students in year II/HFASD will focus on their career objectives by engaging in related college level and or remedial coursework and internships. Students are required to attend non-credit seminars to enhance their study, time management, social and organizational skills.

Each student receives individualized academic and disability-related advising as well as case management. Students must apply for admission to Gateway Community College through the Step Forward dual application and take the placement test or submit SAT or ACT scores to determine appropriate classes. Students requiring academic accommodations must register for ADA (disability) services.

Topics covered in the Step Forward II/HFASD program include:
- Effective study skills and executive functioning skills development
- Understanding college expectations and goal setting
- Interpersonal communication and social skills
- Career exploration and resume writing
- Self-advocacy and disability awareness
- Community and campus-based social activities

*** This program is also appropriate for students with learning and/or psychological disabilities.

For more information, Please contact
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