



Next Steps Class of 2020

Application Process

- Complete the online Student Application.
- Mail or upload the required documents (listed on the website) to the Next Steps at Vanderbilt office.
- Participate in a personal interview, if notified by the admissions committee. Selected candidates are also invited back for a “trial day” on campus that usually occurs within two weeks of the interviews.

Important Application Deadlines

- *Early Consideration:*
November 15, 2016
- *Regular Consideration:*
January 13, 2017
- *Rolling Consideration:*
Applicants may still be considered after the completion of early and regular consideration deadlines on a space available basis.

Contact Us

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NEXT STEPS AT VANDERBILT

*An Inclusive Higher Education
Program for Students Who
Have Intellectual Disabilities*

For more information, visit:

vu.edu/nextsteps



Our Mission

Next Steps at Vanderbilt is a 2-year inclusive higher education program committed to providing students with intellectual disabilities inclusive, transformational postsecondary education in academics, social and career development, and independent living, while honoring equality, compassion, and excellence in all endeavors.

About Us

Next Steps at Vanderbilt is the university's 2-year inclusive higher education program for students with intellectual disabilities. The goal of the program is to broaden the career options and opportunities for these individuals with intellectual disabilities in inclusive, age-appropriate settings. Next Steps is a federally approved Certified Transition Program by the Department of Education, expanding to a 4-year program over the next few years.

Residential Life

Next Steps at Vanderbilt will begin piloting residential options in fall of 2017 for a small number of students. Our residential plan includes having on-campus housing options for the 1st and 2nd year students and off-campus apartment options for the 3rd and 4th year students. This model will take a few years to be fully implemented.

Academics

Each semester, Next Steps students enroll in 1-2 Vanderbilt courses and 3 Career and Community Education courses. Students spend approximately 3 hours per week attending Next Steps courses, and 6 hours per week attending Vanderbilt courses.

Each student has an Independent Learning Agreement that modifies course requirements to meet the student's individual abilities.

Taking part in classes provides an opportunity for the student to explore his or her interests and to move toward employment goals. Participation also provides an opportunity for the student to learn valuable independent living skills. For example, students are expected to get to class on time and are expected to complete assignments within their Independent Learning Agreement.

“Next Steps is awesome because it helps you meet friends and get job skills.” – Cat, Class of 2015

Career Development

Securing paid, meaningful employment for our graduates is a pillar of the Next Steps vision. Career exploration and job training are driven by each student's interests and plans for the future.

Career Development occurs both inside and outside of the classroom. Next Steps students take Career Technology courses, complete internships, and work with job coaches to enhance their skills.



Ambassadors having lunch with Next Steps students.

Campus Life

Academics are at the forefront of the Next Steps at Vanderbilt, but being engaged in campus life provides an exciting time of being exposed to new people, ideas, cultures; essentially, it's a chance to develop both personally and professionally. As such, Next Steps encourages its students to explore campus life opportunities with the 600 plus student organizations that they become interested in. Our students have access to the same student organizations, campus offices, and services that all Vanderbilt students use.

Ambassadors

Ambassadors are a diverse group of individuals from the Vanderbilt University student body are selected to serve as peer mentors. The students receive training and on-going support from Next Steps at Vanderbilt staff. VU students have the opportunity to be academic tutors, daily planning buddies, work-out buddies, lunch buddies or job trainers for the program students.