

iDEAL

*Igniting the Dream  
of Education and  
Access at Lipscomb*



LIPSCOMB  
UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF  
EDUCATION

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*IDEAL is a unique two-year program created by Lipscomb's College of Education to offer a college experience for students with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (ID/DD). The program is based on the Think College Standards ([www.thinkcollege.net](http://www.thinkcollege.net)) and other successful postsecondary programs. It is designed to encourage and support these students as they experience college with their peers. IDEAL students will take classes, go to sporting events, eat in the cafeteria and enjoy just being a college student—all while being a part of the Lipscomb community.*

*While Lipscomb's IDEAL program seeks to provide education and workplace training to students with ID/DD, it also encourages friendships, and increased independent opportunities and skills that can lead to a better quality of life.*

*The program is open to students between the ages of 18-26 who have completed high school and have a documented intellectual and/or developmental disability.*

## Building career skills

The ultimate goal of IDEAL is to equip students with the skills necessary to obtain better employment options. The program will rely on Lipscomb's many community partners to provide a variety of externships and future job opportunities. Students will begin their first semester with on-campus internships. In the second year of the program, students will be placed in available off-campus externships that match their job interests and abilities. By the completion of the program, students will have at least four work experiences to include on their resumé.

## Advancing academic skills

IDEAL has been designed so that students experience both the general education core classes, as well as major classes. Students will choose four general education classes based on their interests and career goals (e.g., art, music, science, English, math, nutrition or Bible), as well as four major courses (e.g., education, computer science or theater). The program director will work with the faculty to create individual learning plans that will identify any necessary accommodations to the syllabi or course material.

## Developing independent living, workplace and social skills

Many students with ID/DD need assistance with independent living skills that will help them be better



employees and give them the option to live independently. Each IDEAL student will take two classes per semester that teach these skills. Skills may be in the areas of technology, banking, cooking, cleaning, shopping, hygiene, social skills, self-awareness, safety and self-advocacy. Classes will be taught by the program staff or other Lipscomb faculty.

Student mentors will be essential to the success of the program. Lipscomb students will be asked to serve as mentors to the students with ID/DD. Volunteers will be matched based on expertise, desires and their individual class schedules.

Throughout the program, students will be encouraged to monitor their own progress, make choices about classes and leisure activities, and interact with faculty to meet their own needs. Students will learn to make a resumé, look for jobs, use public transportation and manage their own time. The goal is that the students will be as independent as possible when they leave the program.

# Admission Criteria and Process

## Criteria for admission:

- Students must have a diagnosis of an intellectual or developmental disability.
- Students must have completed high school with an IEP or specialized supports.
- Students must not be able to be accepted to college as a traditional student (low SAT/ACT score, low GPA, etc.).
- Students must have a general awareness of safety, functional communication skills and the ability to learn and participate in a classroom setting.
- Students must demonstrate self-control and the ability to work with others.

- Students must demonstrate a desire to attend and participate in the program.
- Students must demonstrate the ability to take care of their own personal needs.

## Admissions process:

- Submit an application along with a recent evaluation, IEP and two letters of recommendation.
- Participate in an interview.
- Visit campus for a day.

You will find the application form online at [lipscomb.edu/education/ideal-program](https://lipscomb.edu/education/ideal-program). If you have questions or need help in completing the application, contact Mallory Whitmore, program director, at [mallory.whitmore@lipscomb.edu](mailto:mallory.whitmore@lipscomb.edu).



# Ask away!

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You will probably have questions about the IDEAL program, and we are happy to answer any you might have. Here are a few general questions we have already been asked:

## What is the deadline for applying?

*Generally the application deadline will be April 1 for the new school year. The application form will contain the necessary dates and outline the admission process in more detail.*

## What does the program cost? Can I arrange a monthly payment schedule?

*Fees for each semester are \$7,500. Yes, you can select a monthly payment option.*

## I graduated with a general education diploma. Can I apply for your program?

*Yes, you can apply as long as you have a documented intellectual or developmental disability, required specialized supports in high school and would be unable to attend college as a traditional student.*

## Will the IDEAL students qualify for financial aid?

*Currently, IDEAL students may seek the Step Up Scholarship provided by lottery funds (equivalent to Hope Scholarship). Once Lipscomb University becomes a Comprehensive Transition Program through the federal government, then the students may qualify for federal grants.*



## What will the IDEAL students earn by the end of the program?

*Each student will earn a certificate of completion that includes the courses and internships completed.*

## How will parents know how their student is progressing through the program?

*Quarterly data will be taken on each student, as well as input gathered from professors and supervisors. Progress reports will be shared with students and parents.*

## Feel free to contact us for more information.

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