

# Let's Go to College!

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Academy for Inclusive Learning and Social  
Growth



# What are you here for?



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Let's dig into each of the pre-enrollment activities



# Program Description

What makes the Academy the Academy?

# Welcome!!

Let's get started!



## What is KSU's Academy?

- Students enroll through an audit status
- Two certificate programs for students:
  - ASCE: Foundational 2 year program offers initial opportunity for academic and social growth accompanied by career exploration
  - ALCD: Advanced 2 year program offers enhanced leadership experiences and more concentrated career preparation





# Our Services

Enhancing Independence through 3 components



## Academic Enrichment

### **Academically...**

Students take two KSU classes in areas of their interest



## Career Development

### **Vocationally...**

Students are placed in internships based on their individualized career goals



## Social Engagement

### **Socially...**

Students are integrated in the KSU community while living in student housing and participating in student organizations

# Academy Fast Facts

**Our End Goal:**

## Graduate Employable Students



We are an 8am – 5pm program that offers supplemental supports to the college experience:

- Peer Mentors for classes and internships
- Track students based on hours instead grades
- Academy classes for more education in areas of Career Development, Life Skills, and Technology
- Travel opportunities



**\*Currently, we work with 42 students and 35 mentors\***



# They say it best-

<http://wellstarcollege.kennesaw.edu/academy/>



# Admissions



## Admissions Requirements

- Successfully completed a high school program (served under IDEA)
- 3rd grade reading level preferred
- Basic mathematics understanding and ability to use a calculator
- Ability to use a computer to communicate and gather information
- Ability to function independently for a sustained period of time
- No significant behavioral or emotional problems that would impact school performance or social interaction
- Potential to be successful in competitive employment situations
- Desire and motivation to complete a post-secondary program
- Willingness to complete all assignments with support

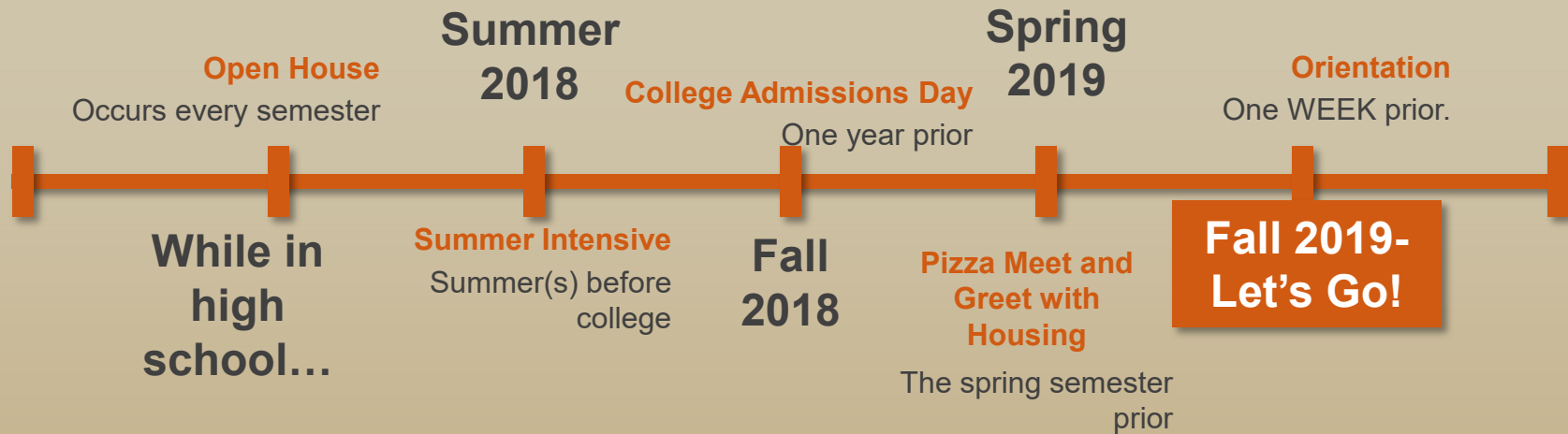
***We strongly recommend that applicant be on an active  
Vocational Rehabilitation caseload***



# Timeline

Thinking about College?

# College Preparation Timeline







# Why?

College Preparation

# Difference between High School and College

## Advocacy

In high school, parents are actively involved in advocating for appropriate services and supports for their children. Schools reach out to parents and their participation is required. Parents talk directly to their child's teachers on a regular basis.

In college, students are expected to advocate for themselves. Parent involvement may be discouraged at times. College faculty and staff do not typically communicate with parents directly.



## IDEA vs. ADA

## Advocacy



## Educational Support

## IDEA vs. ADA

IDEA is intended to guarantee persons with disabilities a free and appropriate primary and secondary education to ensure success. ADA doesn't guarantee successful learning or mandate the creation of special programs for persons with disabilities. ADA is about access.

## Educational Support

High schools develop and must follow the IEP. Core modifications of classes and materials are required. The School, with student and family input, is responsible for arranging for accommodations and modifications.

There are no IEPs in college. The Disability Services Office will develop an accommodation plan based on documentation of disability that is provided by the student after a student requests accommodations.



# Why do we prepare SO much?



## For Students:

College is a new world with LOTS to navigate. Students should be able to come to college with some knowledge of independence skills and some preparing on how-to problem solve. The target is to slowly introduce this new world of resources and possibilities instead of throwing the students out to swim. Example: accessing classes, new technology systems, dorm life, high school vs. college



## For Parents:

The level of support and the art of parenting changes. Instead of completing tasks for them, it requires more instruction on HOW to do something. Parents have to develop a new type of relationship of communication and processes to work through. Example: FERPA, financial management, calling home, dorm boundaries



# Breakdown

of pre-enrollment activities



### **Open House**

A chance for prospective students and parents to engage in an informational session and tour the KSU college



### **Summer Intensive**

A week-long program allowing students that are interested in college the opportunity to try it out first



### **Pizza Meet and Greet**

A social for all incoming students and parents allowing them to meet existing students and engage in a discussion with Housing



### **Orientation**

Three-days with the purpose of preparing students and parents with necessary resources before first day of classes

# Open House

Each semester, the Academy hosts a series of Open Houses with presentations from the Academy staff with extensive information of our program (i.e. cost, admissions requirements, components of the program, additional resources). Following is a Q&A session with Academy students and mentors with a campus tour for prospective students





# Summer Intensive



## Summer Intensive

Our week-long summer intensive program experience gives learners confidence as they explore the campus, access services and resources, and collaborate on a college-level presentation. Social skills, executive functioning, and classroom discourse at this major university are a focus of this exemplary program. Students are able to pick one week session out of the choices (typically two or three).

# Pizza Meet and Greet

Each spring (typically March), we host a mixer for all enrolled Academy students to meet the incoming students and parents. Housing staff is also in attendance with a presentation. Students get a chance to tour the campus with enrolled students, while connected with their roommates. Parents are given the opportunity to ask questions before families go home with a study guide to practice before school begins.



# Orientation



## Orientation

The week prior to beginning of fall semester, students and parents are invited to spend three days in different sessions to prepare them for a successful year. The sessions include conversations with campus police, Counseling and Psychological Services, KSU Health Clinic, the campus dietician, and others. Parents and students sit in different rooms as they review the student handbook and ask questions of the student and mentor panel.

Parents and students are able to connect with other incoming students and parents as they become familiar with the new environment of college. There are plenty of opportunities to tour campus, meet Academy staff, students, and mentors, visit different resources on campus, learn new technology systems, and ask questions.



## Why this works:

- Students and parents become fully integrated into campus prior to first day of classes.
- Students and parents know what the expectations are
- Students and parents know resources and when and how to use what
- Student can navigate the campus
- It eases nerves and the anxious “this is too new and different”
- If students are not ready yet, they are prepared before paying for a semester’s tuition





Thank you  
for joining!