



## **The Achievement Center at RVCC**

### **ACADEMIC FACTS**

The Achievement Center at Raritan Valley Community College is a Three-Year Certificate academic based, post-secondary program for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities interested in developing their education for continue to gain skills to enter the workforce or expand on their educational pursuits. The Achievement Center is operated by The Arc of Somerset County in partnership with Raritan Valley Community College.

The Achievement Center recognizes that every student learns and processes information differently. Through the use of student-centered curriculum and individualized strategies, the Achievement Center provides a bridge and support to help students achieve their individualized goals. Peer Mentor Support is available outside of the classroom.

Our college-level classes and student-centered approach empowers our students to find the right learning tools for them. To meet their goals, the Achievement Center has created academically inclusive and specialized classes include instruction in

- Reading Comprehension and Critical Thinking
- Writing and Research
- Public Speaking and College Presentations
- Employment and Career strategies
- Interpersonal Communication
- Teamwork
- Social Skills Training
- Functional Mathematics
- College Planning and Strategies
- Computer Essentials and Technology
- Goals and Note-Taking

Through these series of classes' it offers our students an opportunity to "learn their voice" and acclimate themselves to the classroom and college experience. Each student learns differently and demonstrates their knowledge of class material in various ways. The Achievement Center helps students identify their study habits; note-taking skills; self-advocacy in the classroom and on campus; and learn advantages to student planning and time management.

We challenge our students to critically examine reading material (short stories, poetry, novels); explore their writing abilities (Essays, Research papers); communication and social skills training; career development; computer classes, and oral presentations. As a result, our students build confidence, Self-Advocacy, working in teams, independence, and create new individual goals and aspirations.

### **Admission to The Achievement Center**

The Achievement Center at Raritan Valley Community College is a Three-Year certificate-based, post-secondary program (not an accredited college degree program) for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Our admission process includes two completed Applications: General Application, and a Reading and Writing Sample Application, documentation of intellectual/developmental disability; in person interview; and most recent copies of Individualized Education Program (IEP). Admission is not guaranteed.

### **Who Can Apply?**

- There is no maximum age limit for admission consideration
- Applicants must either have graduated high school or equivalent standing
- There are Summer Semester educational offerings for applicants or 16-years and older
- We accept applicants for new Academic campaigns (Fall Semester) as well as mid-year (Spring Semester)

### **Instructions for Completing the Student Application**

We are currently accepting applications for our Academic Year for the Fall/Spring/Summer 2025-26 academic campaign.

- After your completed applications have been submitted, you will receive written confirmation that it has been received. Applicants are contacted regarding their application and mandatory student/parent/family/guardian interviews are scheduled.
- Students wanted to be considered for this program must present documented disability that is characterized by significant limitation in intellectual functioning and in adaptive behavior.

- Due to space limitations, not all applicants who file an application and meet the criteria for admission will be accepted into The Achievement Center program.
- Students who are accepted to the program and meet academic requirements will receive a Certificate of Completion (graduation eligibility – 15 classes). Please note that acceptance is for a one year/2-semester period and are renewed annually as needed. We have a separate graduation eligibility document that lists required classes for Certificate of Completion.
- Deadline is May 9 for Summer Semester 2025
- Deadline is July 25 for Fall Semester 2025

### **COSTS**

- Classes offered by The Achievement Center are \$1,100 per class (new rate started in Fall Semester 2024), per semester. Summer Semester classes are pro-rated based on shorter length of semester.
- Support options such as College Management are \$1,100 per semester for times arranged by students and instructor.
- Additional offerings such as social groups, summer experiences and Club Friday (Wednesday) Night Hangout are priced according to service and will have a published cost at the time of announcement.
- All students are to adhere to the Tuition policy in regard to payment and deadlines

At this time, the following Achievement Center courses are eligible for payment through NJ State Supports Program budgets under the service definition of Goods and Services:

- **PAGE ONE: Thinking About Reading**
- **WRITING OUT LOUD**
- **COLLEGE SKILLS and STRATEGIES I & II**
- **CAREER DEVELOPMENT I and II**
- **THE BIG PICTURE: My Career**
- **EXPANDING COMMUNICATION**
- **SOCIAL SKILLS for GROUPS**
- **STAGE FRIGHT: Introduction to Public Speaking**
- **INDIVIDUAL COMMUNICATION**
- **MATHEMATICS and EVERYDAY LIFE**
- **RESEARCH and THE WRITING PROCESS**
- **CREATIVE WRITER IN YOU I and II**
- **INDEPENDENT LIFE**

- **NON-FICTION: Understanding Communication, Directions, and Writing**
- **COMPUTER ESSENTIALS I and II**
- **READING and WRITING for COLLEGE**
- **ESSAYS**
- **TIME MANAGEMENT**
- **SELF-ADVOCACY I and SELF ADVOCACY II**
- **TEAMWORK I and II**
- **GOALS**
- **LOVE OF MOVIES: Film Appreciation**
- **INTRODUCTION to ART**
- **INTERMEDIATE ART**
- **INDIE FILMS REFRAMED**
- **COLLEGE SUCCESS**
- **MATH SMART ONE**
- **WORDS: Note-Taking for Success**
- **HARNESSING SOFT SKILLS**
- **ACTING IS AN AUDITION**
- **SKILLS FOR LIFE**
- **HARNESSING SOFT SKILLS ONE and TWO**

**NOTE: Club Friday (Wednesday) Night Hangout are not DDD eligible for Goods and Services.**

**All eligibility requirements and regulations for budgets apply as per The State of New Jersey.**

**Complete the application and submit it to:**

**Bob Hult, Director of Post Secondary Programming**

**The Achievement Center at Raritan Valley Community College**

**Work Cell: 732-666-4781**

**Email: [bobh@thearcofsomerset.org](mailto:bobh@thearcofsomerset.org)**

**Fax: 908-704-0850**

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