What is PASSAGE USA?

PASSAGE USA is the University of South Alabama’s post secondary certificate program for students with intellectual disabilities. It focuses on providing individual supports and services for academic and social inclusion of students with intellectual disabilities in academic courses, extracurricular activities, and other aspects of the University’s regular post secondary program.

For more information, contact:

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Preparring All Students Socially and Academically for Gainful Employment at the University of South Alabama

University of South Alabama does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression), religion, age, genetic information, disability or protected veteran status. For information call (251)460-6641
ABOUT PASSAGE USA

PASSAGE USA is a post secondary educational (PSE) experience for students with ID that helps each student achieve his/her goals.

This two- year certificate program is based on individualized Adult Education Plans (AEP) developed through person-centered planning.

The program focuses on the students’ gainful employment through academic enrichment, socialization, independent living skills, self determination skills, self advocacy skills, and community engagement.

Students take 4 or more “courses” per semester. Each semester students take an Adult Seminar course (which will include individualized instruction on AEP goals) and an employment/internship class, as well as, additional elective classes with other USA students based upon interests, strengths, and needs.

Student Eligibility Requirements

- Is between the ages of 18-25
- Diagnosed with an Intellectual Disability
- Has some functional communication, reading and math skills
- Functions independently in multiple environments without extensive supervision

Program Costs

Please see our website for current program fees and other costs.

https://www.southalabama.edu/colleges/ceps/passage/pusa_progression.html

Student Benefits

- Students will take classes with, interact with and have job experiences with individuals without disabilities.
- Students will be assigned a peer mentor to assist them with their transition to PSE.
- Students will receive individualized instruction on AEP goals. Instruction will occur in online, classroom and natural environments.
- Internship/work experience will occur every semester.

Peer Mentoring

Peer mentors are used to:

- Support PASSAGE students in social, independent living, academic, and employment/internship settings
- Serve as role models for PASSAGE students
- Help PASSAGE students develop self-advocacy skills
- Help PASSAGE students achieve THEIR goals
- Help PASSAGE students form and foster life-long friendships

All individuals who serve as Peer Mentors will:

- Participate in Peer Mentoring and disability awareness training
- Successfully complete a background check
- Be required to log their mentoring experiences and participate in project evaluation activities