

**Florida Southern College (FSC)
Warner Southern College (WSC)
University of South Florida (USF)
Ridge Vocational Technical Center
Traviss Vocational Technical Center
Transition Program**

The Polk County School System has entered partnerships with Florida Southern College, Warner Southern College, University of South Florida, Ridge Vocational Technical Center, and Traviss Vocational Technical Center to create a unique program for students who desire independence. This is one program option for ESE students who are 18-21 years old and want to work toward achieving their desired post-school outcomes. The program provides a college atmosphere with same age peers and affords each student an opportunity to plan a transition into adulthood through continued education, work experience, and leisure activities.

Program Focus

Work Experience, Education, and Independence

The main focus of the program is independence and responsibility.

Career Experience with Job Coach

This provides a chance to practice employability skills, not necessarily train for a specific trade. The program helps students search, interview for, and begin a paid job once they have mastered employability skills.

Academic and Non-Academic Supports

Academic instruction with an ESE teacher – the focus is on functional academics

Participation in on-campus classroom activities (non-credit earning)

Access to the gym and exercise equipment

Access to the library

Peer Buddies (Education Majors) to provide one-to-one tutoring and support

Community-Based Instruction/Experiences

Personal shopping, budgeting, tipping, etc.

Making arrangements for transportation

Using public transportation (where applicable)

Vocational Rehabilitation, Social Security Office, and Other Agencies

Health Services

Banks

Libraries

Utilities Offices

Leisure Activities

Daily Living (cooking, caring for own home, following daily schedule)

Housing (apartments, group homes, supported living)

Personal Safety

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If a student or parent shows an interest in the FSC, WSC, USF, Ridge, or Traviss Transition Program, a school based staff member should give the parent an application to complete. The school based staff member should also complete the following and forward it to Teri Crace at the ESE District Office. This information will help in determining the appropriateness of the student for the program. If it is determined, by the committee, that the student is not an appropriate candidate for the program, he or she will be notified and encouraged to pursue other options.

Name _____ D.O.B. _____ Student ID# _____

Address _____

Home School _____

Seeking Special Diploma? Yes___ No___ Anticipated Graduation Date _____

Number of Absences:
This Year _____ Last Year _____

Discipline Referrals:
This Year _____ Last Year _____

Comments _____

Signature and Title of Person Completing Form

Date

The Transition Programs of Polk County

The School District of Polk County, Department of Exceptional Student Education (ESE), Transition Program provides a unique opportunity for 18-22 year old students who have graduated with a special diploma or are working on a special diploma and who desire to attend school in a non-traditional setting. This program is hosted on the campuses of FSC, WSC, USF, Ridge, and Traviss and will offer:

- Career Experience
- Opportunities to Audit College Level Courses
- Exposure to Campus Activities
- Meaningful Peer and Adult Interactions

This application should be completed by a parent/guardian and the student. Please send to:

Cathy Chvartsman
PO Box 391
Bartow, Fla 33830

Student Information

Student Name _____

Date of Birth _____ Phone Number _____

Address _____

Parent/Guardian _____

Home School _____

Teacher/Transition Specialist _____

Health Concerns/Medications _____

Strengths _____

Hobbies/Interests _____

Career
Interests _____

Criteria for Acceptance into the Warner Southern College (WSC), Florida Southern College (FSC), Ridge Vo Tech, Traviss Vo Tech, and University of South Florida (USF) Transition Program For ESE Students of Polk County

- The student must be between the ages of 18 and 22.
- The student must have graduated with a special diploma and is working toward a standard diploma *OR* be working toward a special diploma.
- The student must actively be working toward the goal of becoming an independent member of society (ex. seeking paid employment, preparing for a driver’s license test).
- The student must have a good work ethic.
- The student must be able to function with minimal supervision and support.
- The student must demonstrate appropriate behaviors in community settings (college campus, etc.)
- The student must be willing to attend campus chapel or convocational as required by FSC and WSC.
- The student must be willing to work with Education, Sociology, and/or Psychology students as they pursue their degrees.
- The student will be transported on WSC campus by WSC transportation.
- The student will be transported for Community Based Instruction (CBI) via public transportation, Polk County School Board (PCSB) bus, or parent volunteers.
- Parental involvement is required (support child’s independence and paid employment, attend meetings, sign and return paperwork, overall support).
- The student must have a letter of recommendation from a teacher, facilitator, or building administrator.
- The student must be willing to participate in career experiences on or off campus for approximately 10 hours per week.

Acceptance will be determined by the transition committee upon review of the application, student information form, review of the IEP, attendance and discipline records, and appropriateness of placement for the student (least restrictive environment).

If a student is offered a slot and refuses it, he/she will be placed at the bottom of the waiting list.

I have read and agree to the above criteria. Failure to maintain the criteria may result in dismissal from the program.

Permission to Photograph

On occasion, students will be photographed; video taped, filmed, and/or interviewed for newspaper articles, brochures, television, and public information presentations.

I hereby grant permission to be photographed and/or interviewed.

Student Signature Date

Parent Signature Date

Interview Checklist

Student Name: _____ D.O.B. _____

What are the students goals? _____

Checklist for entrance to FSC/WSC/USF/Traviss/Ridge

- _____ 18-22 Years Old
- _____ Regular Attendance
- _____ Good Work Ethic
- _____ Wants to Become More Independent
- _____ Teacher Recommendation on File
- _____ Working on or has Special Diploma

Items to Cover with Parent/Student

- _____ Review Entrance Criteria
 - _____ Parent Support Requirements
 - _____ Paperwork Completed and on File
 - _____ CBI Trips – may need money
 - _____ Career Experience on Campus
 - _____ Work with College Peers
 - _____ Attend College Classes (audit)
 - _____ Classroom Academics
-

Interview/Review Completed by: _____

Date: _____
Results