



Achieve in partnership with Evangel University

Achieve of Southwest Missouri is a local 501(c)3 non-profit organization that provides comprehensive transition services to individuals with disabilities in southwest Missouri who need additional skills and supports to succeed in life after high school. Primarily for youth ages 18-25, Achieve provides instruction and experiences in life management, career exploration, and self-determination.

Admission Guidelines

- Primarily for individuals between the ages of 18-25
 - Express desire and motivation to complete a post-secondary transition program and secure employment or further their education upon completion.
 - Demonstrate active participation throughout the application/interview process.
 - Demonstrate the ability to communicate with staff, faculty, and peer mentors.
 - Demonstrate the ability to function independently for a sustained period of time and navigate campus independently.
 - Demonstrate sufficient emotional and independent stability to participate in all aspects of the Achieve program and campus life.
 - Ability to be successful in competitive employment with reasonable accommodations.
 - Have proof of health insurance (Medicaid, Medicare, private).
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Application Details

Information requested in the application for enrollment:

- Student information (including education background and employment history)
- Parent/guardian information
- Medical information and history
- Release/Exchange of Information
- Transcripts
- Three letters of recommendation to include: personal reference, educational reference, vocational/employment reference, community reference.

- Copies of additional reports:
 - Applicants most recent IEP
 - Copy of Summary of Performance, if available
 - Copy of recent Individual Service Plan (ISP), if applicable
 - Educational evaluations conducted within the last three years (if applicable), such as:
 - School re-evaluation
 - Peabody Individual Achievement Test
 - Kaufman Test of Educational Achievement
 - Copy of recent (within the last year) Functional Behavioral Assessment, if applicable
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Application Timeline:

For Fall 2020 class - Applications now available

Friday March 20, 2020 – Applications due

April 2020 – Student interviews

Friday May 1, 2020 – Notification of program acceptance

Monday August 10, 2020 – Classes begin

A minimum of 6 students will be accepted the first year. Students will spend at least two days on campus attending class, working on personal goals with peer mentors, and participating in vocational experiences. Friday class will typically be spent in the community practicing life management skills.

Students will receive approximately 600 hours of instruction.

The Interview

The candidate is first interviewed along with a responsible adult who is familiar with the applicant's current abilities. Questions will focus on:

- Why they want to attend the program
- What they expect to get out of the program
- Activities they want to participate in
- Prior work or school experiences
- Where they want to work and live
- Situational questions (what would you do if?)

Students will take a tour of campus with a peer mentor while the family is interviewed.

Questions will focus on:

- Goals for their son/daughter attending the program
- Understanding the difference between high school and college
- Transportation plans
- Financial commitment
- Medical concerns
- Behavioral concerns

Student will return for a one-on-one interview (without parent/guardian present). Questions will focus on:

- Vision for the future
- Perceived barriers to success
- Fears and concerns

Decisions

Summaries of applications and interview notes are then provided to the Achieve Board of Directors, Admissions Committee. The Admissions Committee will make recommendations on student invitations.

In some cases, candidates may be invited to spend half a day on campus, attending classes and participating in social activities. This allows committee members to observe the student and make an informed decision.

The decision to offer or deny admission to the program will be made by the Admissions Committee of the Achieve Board of Directors and is made using best judgement and in the best interest of the applicant. Admission will be based on the criteria outlined above and the committee's professional opinion about issues such as:

- The applicant's desire to attend and succeed in the Achieve program and adhere to the policies regarding attendance and participation.
- The applicant's potential to successfully achieve his or her goals.
- The applicant's ability to assimilate into the campus culture, accept and follow campus expectations, and accept and follow rules of the program. Achieve does not have the personnel to (1) supervise students with difficult or challenging behavior, (2) dispense medication, or (3) provide personal assistance.

Letters of acceptance are sent to the top candidates.

Students who have accepted the invitation to participate in the program are required to make a \$200 deposit within 30 days of the issuance of the acceptance letter to secure their place in the program.

The student tuition investment of \$3,000 dollars a semester is expected to be paid in full by the end of each semester and will include all campus fees.

Students will be asked to leave the program if they do not respect program rules or the policies and procedures of Evangel University.