

Postsecondary Education Programs for Students with Disabilities in Utah

Aggies Elevated at Utah State University (Logan Campus & Price Campus)

Aggies Elevated is a two-year certificate program at Utah State University Logan and Price campuses designed to make the college experience accessible for students with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. One of more than 200 transition postsecondary programs in the U.S. for students with intellectual disabilities, Aggies Elevated seeks to provide college students with learning opportunities leading to independence, employment, and career development. The program provides the opportunity for the student to learn and live independently while acquiring skills suited to the student’s chosen career pathway. The program is based on the principles of maximizing opportunities, inclusive experiences, and life-long learning. The focus is on students who have intellectual and developmental disabilities such as Down syndrome and autism. Documentation of disability (i.e., a psychological evaluation) and Summary of Performance upon exit from high school are required.

For more information, please visit the [Aggies Elevated](#) website.

Table 1: Aggies Elevated Program Information

Population	Type	Size of Program	Requirements	Cost	Application Process
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Students 18–26 years old with intellectual and developmental disabilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Two-year inclusive college experience ◇ Live on campus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Program usually accepts 7–10 students each fall ◇ Currently 11 students in program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Certificate of completion or HS Diploma ◇ Intellectual Disability (ID) classification ◇ High motivation and parent support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Traditional USU tuition, room, and board ◇ Scholarships and financial aid under development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Available on website ◇ Applications due Feb of each year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Refer to website for specific deadlines

Wolverines Elevated at Utah Valley University

Wolverines Elevated is a three-year certificate program for young adults with intellectual disabilities. The program is in its first year as a model Transition & Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities (TPSID) program with funding from the U.S. Department of Education. One of more than 200 transition postsecondary programs in the U.S. for students with intellectual disabilities, Wolverines Elevated seeks to provide college students with learning opportunities leading to independence, employment, and career development. The program provides the opportunity for the student to learn and live independently while acquiring skills suited to the student’s chosen career pathway. The program is based on the principles of maximizing opportunities, inclusive experiences, and life-long learning. The focus is on students who have intellectual and developmental disabilities such as Down syndrome and autism. Documentation of disability (i.e., a psychological evaluation) and Summary of Performance upon exit from high school are required.

For more information, please visit the [Wolverines Elevated](#) website.

Table 2: Wolverines Elevated Program Information

Population	Type	Size of Program	Requirements	Cost	Application Process
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Students 18–25 years old with intellectual and developmental disabilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Three-year inclusive college experience ◇ Live on campus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Currently five students in program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Certificate of completion or HS Diploma ◇ Intellectual Disability (ID) classification ◇ High motivation and parent support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Traditional UVU tuition ◇ Scholarships and financial aid under development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Available on website ◇ Applications due Feb of each year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Refer to website for specific deadlines

Passages at Utah Valley University

The Melisa Nellesen Center for Autism’s Passages Transition Services provide supports for young adults with autism spectrum disorder during their journey to adulthood. There are currently two options available:

1. *The Personal Empowerment Program*: access to a series of courses and activities focused on successful transition to adulthood. Available to individuals in the community between the ages of 18 and 40.
2. *The Educational Coaching Program*: personalized support while attending Utah Valley University through regular weekly meetings with a peer who assists with student-led academic goals.

For more information, please visit the [PASSAGES: Transition Services for Individuals with ASD](#) website.

Table 3: Passages Transition Services Program Information

Population	Type	Size of Program	Requirements	Cost	Application Process
◇ Individuals 18-40-years old	◇ Inclusive college experience	◇ Currently 30 students in program	◇ HS Diploma ◇ Autism classification ◇ Demonstrate an ability to participate in college type classroom experiences	◇ \$300 per semester ◇ Financial aid available	◇ Interview and application (available on website) ○ Refer to website for specific deadlines

Creating Achievement Through Transition (CATT) at Weber State University

The purpose of CATT is to identify motivated college-bound students and pair them with a peer guide to increase their success throughout the transition process. Students with disabilities can struggle accessing the necessary accommodations to ensure success throughout their college experience. Peer guides positively influence the success of students with disabilities in college. As a volunteer organization facilitated by students with disabilities, transitioning students will become peer guides for future participants.

For more information, please visit the [CATT Peer Mentoring](#) website.

Table 4: CATT Program Information

Population	Type	Size of Program	Requirements	Cost	Application Process
◇ College students with disabilities	◇ Open entry ◇ Program pairs students with peer guides	◇ Admitted Weber State students with disabilities	◇ Documented disability	◇ Traditional WSU tuition	◇ Available on website ○ Contact Accessibility Services at WSU for more information

Tanner Dance at the University of Utah

The University of Utah Tanner Dance Program has three programs for children and adults with disabilities, allowing them to participate in dance and theater in a supportive environment:

1. *The Elevate Theater Company*: students will help students explore the sights and sounds of Broadway as they participate in a study of musical theater repertoire both past and present. Students will explore a variety of different emotions framed in various scenarios. As students engage in classes full of singing, dancing, and acting, there will be opportunities to expand on memorization and mobility skills.

2. *The Learning and Engaging through Arts Discipline and Development (LEADD) Program*: students will be challenged to learn valuable life skills through the artistic genres of dance, music, theater, visual art, and creative writing.
3. *Dancers with Disabilities*: classes for children and young adults who wish to experience the joy of moving and self-expression. Classes include appropriate technique exercises for the whole body, and dancers explore shape, space, rhythm, and movement quality. Teachers use literature and other springboards they creatively weave into the class. All classes have live accompaniment by experienced and engaging musicians.

For more information, please visit the [Tanner Dance Disabilities Programs](#) website.

Table 5: Tanner Dance Program Information

Population	Type	Size of Program	Requirements	Cost	Application Process
◇ Ages 15+	◇ Weekly classes through the year ◇ Dance, theater, and art appreciation	◇ 12-50 ◇ Varies by class	◇ Disability ◇ Function independently at basic level ◇ No major behavioral problems	◇ Varies based on camp or classes chosen	◇ Register on website for desired camps and classes ○ Refer to website for specific deadlines

Disability Service Offices

Every public university and college are required to have a disability service office for students with disabilities to help coordinate the accommodations that are necessary for students to access information in college. Many private universities and colleges offer a disability service office as well and are required to do so if they accept any federal money for any of their programs. Accommodations are provided to qualifying individuals under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

It is important to note that accommodations will not be given automatically. The student must request them and work with the office to provide necessary documentation of disability, as well as information about what accommodations have worked well in the past. As soon as a student plans to attend the school, it is a good idea to contact the school's disability service office (different names apply) to ask what documentation will be required, so accommodations can be put in place as soon as possible. When visiting the college campus, be sure to stop in at the disability resource center as well.

Many other colleges and universities are considering developing programs for individuals with intellectual and other disabilities. Please contact the [Utah Parent Center](#) for current information on these programs.

NOTE: The status of any given program is subject to change. For updated information, please contact [Lavinia Gripentrog](#).