

Why College?

- Because learning is life-long
- Because navigating college is a blueprint for navigating life
- Because choice in what and how to learn is most available in the collegiate environment
- Because college is more than classes; it is interests, personal connections and civic engagement
- Because interpersonal skills learned in college translate to those used in career life
- Because college means greater student-centered choices
- Because college provides time and space to plan your life and career goals alongside your peers
- Because the choice to attend college should be equally possible across the spectrum of abilities
- Because more and more young adults and non-traditional aged students with intellectual disabilities **want** it



*For people with intellectual
and developmental disabilities*

*The Arc of Somerset County provides
quality services and advocacy for
individuals with intellectual and
developmental disabilities and their
families to support development and
achievement at every stage of life.*

Please contact us to learn more.

The Arc of Somerset County
141 South Main Street
Manville, NJ 08835
Phone: 908.725.8544
Fax: 908.704.0850

The Arc of Hunterdon County
1465 Route 31 So., Suite 23
Annandale, NJ 08801
Phone: 908.730.7827
Fax: 908.333.4129

www.thearcsof Somerset.org

www.archunterdon.org

The Achievement Center at Raritan Valley Community College



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The Achievement Center at Raritan Valley Community College (RVCC) is a three year, certificate based, post-secondary program for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The Achievement Center offers:

- Peer mentors
- Academically inclusive and specialized classes
- Programmed campus engagement and career development

Student-centered design of both college and career plans, individualized strategies to meet the demands of college level Assignments, and removal of barriers to content, receptions and learning expression are central to each student's experience.



Academically inclusive and specialized classes include instruction in:

- Technology
- Liberal studies
- Campus engagement
- Employment strategies
- Social learning opportunities
- Interpersonal communication
- College assignment strategies

Academics

Achievement Center students access traditional RVCC courses in:

- Orientations
- College strategies
- Resource and library
- Chosen academic subjects
- Assessment tools for career development

Peer mentors are utilized for both academic and social support. Students have access to instructors before and after classes for additional instructional support as well as access to sessions to develop individualized organizational and answering strategies.

Each student learns differently and each student demonstrates their knowledge in various ways. Use of portfolio works, audio and outline form college-level assignments are all available to our students.

Employment

Students will have the opportunity to engage in career development through classroom presentations, service learning opportunities, and through work with actual assessments used in supported employment service models. The goal is to provide each student with the time and attention to aspire to a vocation, access the entry skills, and plan their approach toward a career.

Engagement

College is more than what you learn. It is who you meet, what you do and who you become. The Achievement Center and RVCC ask that each student engage with campus life in some way. Through sports, presentations, or subject matter interest groups, all students receive a Student Engagement Transcript detailing their activities in campus life. Our students pair with peer mentors or staff to begin this process of moving from spectator to participant in the area of their choosing.

“While Caryn did not have the chance to go to college right after high school, she was more than ready to take on the challenge when this program came along. Caryn said that she was nervous going into “The College Experience” course, a required freshman course, wondering if people would prejudge her because of her disability. Caryn quickly learned that most students were not that different from her when it came to the need to learn what it takes to have a successful college experience. She was accepted, made friends easily, and was an active participant in class discussions.”

*-Carol & Caryn
Parent & RVCC Student*