



The mission of the **Tennessee Inclusive Higher Education Alliance** (TN IHE Alliance) is to increase the inclusive higher education opportunities for students with intellectual and developmental disability in our state and beyond. The TN IHE Alliance is made up of more than 20 State and local agencies, self-advocates and family members, representatives from colleges and universities in Tennessee, and business owners. Representatives from each of Tennessee's inclusive higher education programs are core members.

**INCLUSIVE HIGHER
EDUCATION PROGRAMS
IN TENNESSEE**

ACCESS ETSU

East TN State University, Kingsport
etsu.edu/access
(423) 439-7687

EDGE Program

Union University
uu.edu/EDGE
(731) 661-5382

FUTURE Program

University of Tennessee, Knoxville
futureut.utk.edu
(336) 253-0167

IDEAL Program

Lipscomb University
lipscomb.edu/education/
ideal-program
(615) 966-5159

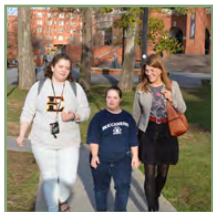
Next Steps at Vanderbilt

Vanderbilt University
vu.edu/nextsteps
(615) 343-0822

TigerLIFE

University of Memphis
memphis.edu/tigerlife
(901) 678-4303

What We Do



Spread awareness of college opportunities in Tennessee and nationally to students and families.



Provide technical assistance to colleges and universities interested in founding programs on their campuses.



Promote Think College (thinkcollege.net) standards for quality educational opportunities.

Educate legislators and policymakers about the benefits of inclusive higher education.

Maintain a website that provides information on programs, news, events, and resources.

Participate in the Southeastern Postsecondary Education Alliance.

There are many resources students, families and educators can use to learn about college opportunities. The places to begin are the TN Inclusive Education Alliance and Think College websites.

- TNIHEAlliance.org
- ThinkCollege.net

College campus visits are also excellent ways to learn more about the uniqueness and offerings firsthand. Students, families, and educators are encouraged to make a reservation to attend an upcoming Open House for your top programs. Reservations can be made on the individual program websites.

Sampling of Think College Resources: thinkcollege.net/family-resources



Is College Possible?

These resources illustrate students with ID accessing college.

- Read some [Think College Stories](#) that share the perspectives of successful college students with intellectual disability.
- Share info about college options for students with ID with teachers, parents and students with our [We Can series](#).
- This [Think College Learn module](#) shares resources and videos that help families and students learn more about college options.



How to Prepare

Students in middle school and high school can be working on preparing for college!

- Suggested [IEP Goals](#) that help students get ready for college
- [Suggestions for Parents](#) to help students prepare for college
- Twenty Powerful Strategies to [prepare for college](#)
- Use this [Foundation Skills Tool for College and Career Learning Tool](#) to help your son or daughter to prepare for college.



How to Apply

When students are applying to attend a college program for students with ID, there is typically a different admissions process than the one used by degree-seeking students.

Unlike students who are applying to college through the standard admissions process, students will **NOT** need a regular high school diploma or SAT or ACT scores. They **WILL** need documentation of disability and support needs. Check the website of programs you are interested in to learn more about specific requirements.