

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ON-CAMPUS TRANSITION PROGRAMS (OTCP) AT RADFORD UNIVERSITY AND VIRGINIA TECH

PHILOSOPHY/RATIONAL FOR PROGRAM

In order to better prepare students for the transition from secondary to postsecondary living, Montgomery County Public School partnered with Virginia Tech, Radford University, parents and local agencies to develop their On-Campus Transition Program. The program operates using the following mission statement: In keeping with the belief that children with disabilities are entitled to educational services and supports in natural, non-segregated environments with non-disabled peers, Montgomery County Public School's vision for students with disabilities ages 19-21 whose class has graduated is that these students will participate in an array of opportunities of their choosing in community settings that promote social interdependence, age-appropriate friendships, natural supports, educational growth and vocational security. Currently, students with developmental disabilities involved in the program receive all or part of their educational services on the college campus. The program is designed to not only serve the needs of the individual students, but to also promote inclusive, accepting communities for all citizens.

MISSION

To expand inclusive placement and service options for students with disabilities, ages 18 – 22, so they may participate in a wide range of activities on the college campus while planning for their future lives.

GOAL

Assist students in developing the knowledge and skills they will need to become active citizens who contribute to their communities.

ABOUT THE PROGRAMS

Developed in 2004 at both Radford University and Virginia Tech

The programs (RU and VT) are regulated through cooperative agreements between MCPS and each university. The latest cooperative agreement was signed in 2013 for the next seven years.

Each campus typically has 8-11 students at each program.

Students typically enter the program when they are 18 years old after graduating from high schools with an IEP or modified standard diploma. Like their typically developing peers, students remain in the program for 3-4 years (until they transition into Project SEARCH or until they exceed the age of eligibility).

Students from Christiansburg High and Auburn High School transition into the Radford University OCTP while students from Blacksburg High School and Eastern Montgomery High School transition to the Virginia Tech program.

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Education
- Recreation
- Community Involvement
- Vocational/Career Development
- Independent Living

EXAMPLES OF COLLEGE COURSES STUDENTS IN THE OCTP HAVE TAKEN

- University 100
- Theater Appreciation
- Drawing
- US History 1&2
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Bowling
- Forensic Psychology
- Special Education courses
- World Cinema
- Wellness Lifestyles
- Team Sports
- Ceramics
- World History
- Dual & Individual Sports
- Human Development
- Science for Elementary Education
- Karate
- Sign Language
- Physical Science
- Photoshop
- Jewelry Making
- Freshman English

LABELS OF STUDENTS WHO ARE TYPICALLY IN PROGRAM

- Intellectual Disabilities
- Autism
- Occasionally students with Other Health Impairment or Specific Learning Disabilities labels