

# What are CTP's?

**Comprehensive Transition Programs**, or **CTPs**, are degree, certificate, or non-degree programs for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) who meet specific criteria. If students with IDD attend a CTP, they can use federal financial aid to help pay for attendance.

CTPs are based at universities, colleges, or technical schools, and are approved by the U.S. Department of Education. They support students with IDD who want to continue academic, career, and independent living instruction to prepare for gainful employment.

CTPs offer academic advising and a structured curriculum. They require students with IDD to participate, for at least half of the program, in one of the following:

1. Regular enrollment in credit-bearing courses with college students who do not have disabilities.
2. Audit or participation in courses (with college students who do not have disabilities) for which the student with IDD does not receive regular academic credit.
3. Enrollment in noncredit, non-degree courses (with college students, who do not have disabilities), or internships or work-based training with individuals who do not have disabilities.

Students with IDD who attend CTPS are eligible to apply for federal financial aid to help cover the cost of attending college under these circumstances:

- The student meets the definition of intellectual disability as outlined in the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008.
- Students must be attending an approved CTP – a list is on the [Think College website](#).
- Students who meet these two criteria DO NOT have to have a standard high school diploma or be pursuing a degree or certificate.
- Students with intellectual disabilities DO still have to meet the financial need criteria for eligibility.
- They are eligible for federal grants and work study funds, but NOT federally subsidized student loans.