

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD)

Purpose – Assist young adults in preparing for employment; gaining employment; and maintaining competitive integrated employment

When can someone qualify for OOD?

- Starting at age 14, students can be eligible for services. Whether on a 504 or IEP, students can apply for services.

What are services offered through OOD?

- Pre-Employment Transition Services (High School Service)
 - o 5 different class offerings: Job Exploration Counseling, Self-Advocacy, Counseling on Postsecondary Opportunities, Work-based Learning, Workplace Readiness Training.
 - Max of 4 students can participate in Pre-ETS
 - 8-week classes. Meet once a week for 45-50 minutes.
 - Does not need to occur during school time.
- Summer Youth Work Experience (SYWE) (High School Service)
 - o Usually takes place starting after sophomore year.
 - o Can do up to 2.
 - o Students work in a chosen work environment with a 1:4 ratio (Job Coach to Young Adults).
 - o Detailed report given in the fall with the IEP team on the work experience.
- Job Development (Lifetime Service)
 - o Resume writing; job search process; interest inventories; interview practice; job coaching.
 - o 90 Days of Coaching
- Community Based Assessment (CBA)
 - o Two-week work experience to determine adults' strengths and weaknesses. Can assist with determining competitive employment and needs of the adult in the workplace.
- Work Adjustment
 - o If the adult struggles with the CBA or SYWE and several needs are significant, OOD will grant a Work Based Adjustment where they will address these "needs/struggles" and will provide interventions and strategies to be more successful in the workplace.
- Drivers Education Assistance
 - o Tutoring.
 - o Funding for specialized instruction.

What if an adult has no idea what they want to do for work?

- Vocational Evaluation – This is a 3 ½ hour assessment that will provide families and IEP teams with valuable data. At the end of the assessment the results produce results that provide professions that the adult would be successful at.

When should I utilize OOD services

8th grade (14 years old)

- Open OOD case
- Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)

9th grade

- Open OOD case
- Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)
- Job Development – if a student wants to work.

10th grade

- Open OOD case
- Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)
- February-March: Coordinate Summer Youth Work Experience
- Vocational Evaluation – Depending on the student's needs.
- Job Development – if a student wants to work.

11th grade

- September – October: Review Summer Youth Work Experience results.
- Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)
- February-March: Coordinate Summer Youth Work Experience
- Vocational Evaluation – Depending on the student's needs.
- Community Based Assessment – Depends on student's needs.
 - o Work based adjustment – depends on CBA/SYWE results.
- Job Development – if a student wants to work.

12th grade

- September – October: Review Summer Youth Work Experience results.
- Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)
- Vocational Evaluation – Depending on the student's needs.
- Community Based Assessment – Depends on student's needs.
 - o Work based adjustment – depends on CBA/SYWE results.
- April – May: Transition meeting with school and adult services (CCBDD & OOD).
- Job Development – if a student wants to work.

College

Ohio College to Careers – Representative on college campus from OOD will assist young adults in:

- Career exploration and vocational counseling
- Assistive technology
- Resume and interview preparation
- Internships and permanent employment
- Assistance navigating OhioMeansJobs resources
- Connection to an expansive employer partner network



Are you a college student with a disability? If you are, you will want to check out a new partnership between Ohio's state college and university system, the Ohio Department of Higher Education, Ohio businesses, and Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD). Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors (VR Counselors) are located in 15 public colleges and universities around Ohio to help students with job placement, technology, and internships. OOD is also expanding its business relations team to connect college students with disabilities to internship and permanent employment opportunities.

Here at Tri-C, Mary Hennessey is the Ohio College2Careers Counselor. Mary has offices on each campus: Eastern Campus ESS-1202; Western Campus WLA-102; Westshore Campus SHCS-141D; and Metro Campus SSB-209 (Currently all services are provided virtually). You can email her at mary.hennessey@ood.ohio.gov OR call or text 216-218-9930 (cell phone).

Ohio College2Careers goal is to help students with disabilities have the support they need to complete their degree and/or credential, earn higher wages, and meet the demands of tomorrow's labor market.

Some of the services available through Ohio College2Careers include:

- Career exploration and vocational counseling
- Assistive technology
- Resume and interview preparation
- Internships and permanent employment
- Assistance navigating OhioMeansJobs resources
- Connection to an expansive employer partner network

Want to learn more about OOD? It's the state agency that helps individuals with disabilities get careers and keep careers. OOD serves individuals with physical, intellectual, and sensory disabilities as well as mental health disorders. Further information about OOD and its services is available at www.ood.ohio.gov.

Meet with Mary to find out if you are eligible for services or, if an online self-referral process is desired, visit www.OODWorks.com.