

# Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities Southern Illinois Transition Project

## Lewis and Clark Community College Programs for Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

College for Life (CFL)  
<https://www.lc.edu/disability/>

**Background:** Lewis and Clark Community College (L&C) has been providing services to students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) since 1991. Typically unserved by community colleges, students with I/DD may enroll in one of two Lewis and Clark programs. The Supported College Transition (SCT) and College for Life (CFL) Programs, serve young adults who have a range of intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). Program services include specialized vocational training, personal enrichment, academic instruction, comprehensive support services, and individualized accommodations. Both programs respond to secondary special education graduates and their parents who believe that the public community college is the best alternative for continuing learning beyond high school.

**Funding:** Initial funding for these programs came from the Illinois Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities (1991-1993). Over the years, course fee structures were added and additional grant funding from federal and state resources kept the programs up and running. In 2018, L&C received a grant from the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities (ICDD), the Southern Illinois Transition Project, to expand and enhance the College for Life N. O. Nelson campus of L&C in Edwardsville, Illinois.

**Key features** of the Lewis and Clark's Southern Illinois Transition Project:

- Reaching out to transition age youth in the counties of Madison, St. Clair, Randolph and Monroe through transition fairs and local Transition Planning Committees (TPC's)
- Replicating the Godfrey campus College for Life Program at L&C's N. O. Nelson campus in Edwardsville including classroom setup and furnishings, funding of project manager and lead instructor for the site
- Adding to and enhancing self-determination skill building with the use of the AIR Self-Determination Scale. Self-advocacy and self-determination are integral components of the CFL program.
- Implementing person-centered planning to support student development and access to personal visions for education, training and employment

**Currently,** College for Life classes started at the Edwardsville campus on August 27 with 24 students, the maximum enrollment. Two instructors and three educational aides provide a variety of interest-driven lessons and activities twice a week from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. These not-for-credit courses run on the L&C 16 week semester calendar, and students have full access to all events and activities offered on both campuses.

Future plans include adding more spaces for students at the Edwardsville campus in the Fall Semester of 2020, and there is currently a waiting list of 12 students interested in those spaces.

In partnership with the Illinois Council on Developmental

