Becoming a CTP and Lessons Learned

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Requirements for CTPs

- Comprehensive Transition Postsecondary (CTP) Programs are degree, certificate, or non-degree programs for students with intellectual disabilities (ID) that:
  - Are offered by a college or career school and approved by the U.S. Department of Education;
  - Are designed to support students with ID who want to continue academic, career, and independent living instruction to prepare for gainful employment;
  - Offers academic advising and a structured curriculum; and

- Requires students with ID to participate, for at least half of the program, in:
  - Regular enrollment in credit-bearing courses with nondisabled students,
  - Auditing or participating (with nondisabled students) in courses for which the student does not receive regular academic credit,
  - Enrollment in noncredit-bearing, non-degree courses with nondisabled students, or
  - Internships or work-based training with nondisabled individuals.

- If students with ID are attending a CTP, they are able to use federal financial aid to help pay the cost of attendance.
Tip 1: Don’t Be Afraid to Apply

Myths About Becoming a CTP

 zoekt Too hard or time consuming? 30 page application
 zoekt Will it make a difference?
 zoekt Will the financial aid office partner with us?
 zoekt What do all the terms and stipulations mean in the CTP application?
 zoekt Yikes…An accreditation review process and letter with the CTP application? Clock hours vs credit hours?
 zoekt Is the timing right? Recertification renewal? Administrative changes?
Tip 2: Network, Divide, & Conquer

Talk to those who have been there...ask for samples from 16 approved CTPs

Explore Think College for CTP resources and FAQs

http://www.thinkcollege.net/for-professionals/professionals-financial-aid/fafsa-questions

Meet with your financial aid office to divide and conquer
Tip 3: Submit, Wait, & Be Flexible

☞ Contact your assigned School Participation Team with questions or updates www.eligcert.ed.gov

☞ Wait patiently, but periodically check the status of your application. Send items requested during review process

☞ Continue to work with your financial aid office (e.g., new students, updates on application)

☞ Be ready to participate in CTP webinars and conferences
Additional CTP Resources

- Think College Resources for Becoming a CTP
  http://www.thinkcollege.net/topics/becoming-a-comprehensive-transition-program
- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
  http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/
- Kelly R. Kelley, Western Carolina University
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  828-227-3298, or visit our website at
  http://up.wcu.edu