

# The DREAM Program

Developing Real Expectations for Achieving Mastery  
Mercer County Community College  
West Windsor, New Jersey





# Making the Dream of College Real for People with Intellectual Disabilities

An individualized, inclusive postsecondary and transition experience for young adults with Down syndrome and other intellectual disabilities

**The DREAM Program**

The program addresses the development of academic skills, career exploration, social relationships, and independent living skills to enhance success in community and family life.

**The DREAM Program**



# Academics

Academic growth is supported through enrollment in academic skills classes in reading, writing and math as well as interest based electives for credit or audit.

**Academics**





**Electives**

Each student's schedule is individually designed according to his or her individual needs and aspirations.

**Student Centered Planning**





# Career Exploration

Career exploration is supported through service learning opportunities, work site observations and job shadowing. We liaison with other agencies for job searching and coaching.

## **Career Exploration**



# Community

Social relationships are supported through full participation in college life including clubs and organizations, special events, theatrical productions and other recreational activities.

**Community**





# Peer Mentors

- Peer mentors are an integral part of the DREAM program
- Mentors provide ongoing support to students:
  - escorts during the first weeks of class
  - in class support
  - social activities
  - listening ears
  - voices of experience

**Peer Mentors**



- Integration with social, career and independent living skills
- Definition of success
- Initial student interview
- Scheduling
- Orientation
- Faculty training and support
- STU090-student survival skills
- Learning Center
- Testing Center
- Mentors
- End of semester review

**Facilitating Academic Success**

**Dreams come true:  
without that possibility,  
nature would not incite us to  
have them.**

**John Updike**

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[http://www.mccc.edu/student\\_services\\_needs\\_dream.shtml](http://www.mccc.edu/student_services_needs_dream.shtml)

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