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### **Application Overview**

The CHOICE Inclusive Learning Program at East Georgia State College is a 2 year non-degree conferring college campus and community-based program for students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities who have completed a high school program. Accepted students (generally) begin participation in the CHOICE Program the fall semester after exiting high school with a Certificate of Completion or a Special Education Diploma. The application packet is due one month prior to the start of classes.

Though CHOICE provides varied forms of support to students, CHOICE students are expected to have the capacity to be independent and unsupervised on campus and getting to and from campus, and to abide by campus/program rules. Each semester, students will take a combination of East Georgia State College (EGSC) courses that supports their individual career interest as identified through their Person Center Plan (PCP) and CHOICE program courses/seminars focusing on interpersonal skills, career preparation, independent living, self-determination, problem-solving, and time management. Students must be willing to work in community service jobs, volunteer work, and internships when the opportunity is offered as a component of career preparation.

After acceptance and three to four weeks into the start of the CHOICE program, a Person-Centered Plan (PCP) is facilitated by the CHOICE Program Director and or designee with the student, family, and other individuals chosen by the student. This PCP serves as a guide for the CHOICE Program staff, student, and family to create customized schedules for each student that combine traditional college courses, internships and specialty courses to support student development of specific skill sets essential for job obtainment and retention.

The ultimate goal of CHOICE is to build and strengthen skills in the areas of career development, academic enrichment, self-determination, social networking, and independent living.

**Key concepts to keep in mind include the following:**



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- ✓ Collaboration with the student, family, and high school team about a student's interests, assets, and needs, including a Person-Centered Plan, is a key component to preparation prior to campus participation.
- ✓ Students have a flexible day and calendar that will outline the student's daily activities.

\_ Students should have a cell phone for use in communicating with CHOICE staff during the program day. Students must follow the individual instructor's policies and procedures for cell phone usage.

\_ Employment is a goal of the CHOICE program. Students must be committed to career preparation in many forms, including unpaid internships and community service.

\_ Self-sufficiency and independence are goals of this program. This will be achieved through the student's commitment to active course and campus participation; networking with students, faculty and staff; successful completion of person-centered plan; and attainment of the CHOICE Certificate of Career Development.

### **Application for Admission**

Applications are currently being accepted for the **Fall 2017** semester. Once your entire admissions packet has been received; you will be notified by letter. A personal interview is required of all applicants and is scheduled upon receipt of the completed application. Applicants will not be considered until the entire packet is submitted.

### **APPLICATION CHECKLIST-**

Please complete and send the following documents to East Georgia State College CHOICE Program for Inclusive Learning

- ✓ Student Application and \$20 application fee made out to East Georgia State College
- ✓ Student/Family/History Information forms



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- ✓ Three letters of recommendation from teachers, administrators, or community members (not family members).
- ✓ Updated Medical History with supporting documentation
- ✓ Emergency Medical Treatment Release and Indemnification Agreement
- ✓ Release/Exchange of Information Form
  
- ✓ Proof and Acknowledgement of Guardianship signature page and supporting documentation, if applicable
- ✓ Student/Parent rating/questionnaire-*one questionnaire completed by each*
- ✓ Scope of Services for East Georgia State College CHOICE Students

**\*\*The following items must be sent directly by the most recent school attended**

Official High School Transcript including discipline records

Current IEP which serves as evidence of applicant's eligibility for special education and related services under the IDEA

Current Educational Evaluations (conducted within the past three years)

Psychological/Behavioral Evaluation (within last three years)

**Applications and supporting materials should be submitted to:  
East Georgia State College CHOICE Program for Inclusive  
Learning**

**Attn: Theresa R. Davis, Ed.S.**



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**East Georgia State College  
Program Director for Inclusive Learning  
131 College Circle  
Swainsboro, Georgia 30401  
Phone: (478) 289-2191  
Fax: (478) 289-2118**

### **Application for Admissions Procedures**

This is a two year, comprehensive, certificate program of study for unique learners: individuals who are motivated young adults whose disability is characterized by significant limitations in intellectual functioning and adaptive behavior as expressed in conceptual, social, and practical adaptive skills. In order to ensure that the **CHOICE Program** at East Georgia State College is the best match for our applicants, we require an application packet be completed for each student.

### **Admission Criteria**

Upon entering, it is expected that students will demonstrate the following minimal requirements:

- The applicant must have a cognitive and /or developmental disability that interferes with his or her academic performance. Developmental disabilities are a group of conditions due to an impairment in physical, learning, language, or behavior areas. These are chronic conditions that develop during the developmental period (before a person reaches

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the age of 22) and usually last throughout an individual's lifetime. Some specific conditions that may qualify as Developmental Disabilities are ADHD, Autism Spectrum Disorders (Autism, Asperger's Syndrome), Cerebral Palsy, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, Fragile X Syndrome, Hearing Loss, Intellectual Disability, Kernicterus, Muscular Dystrophy, Tourette Syndrome, and Visual Impairment.

- The applicant must have completed a high school program with support from special education and/or related services (as documented in an IEP or 504 Plan) under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and/or the Rehabilitation Act.

**Note:** Applicants will have typically received extensive special education services in their secondary schools, graduating with an alternative diploma (such as the certificate of attendance, life skills diploma, etc). These individuals would typically be denied access to a traditional college degree program.

- Applicants must be at least 18 by semester of enrollment.
- The applicant must display a desire to continue academic, career development, social and independent living instruction at East Georgia State College's CHOICE Program for Inclusive Learning.
- The applicant must have sufficient emotional and independent living skills necessary to participate in coursework and campus life such as the following:
  - ✓ Has functional communication skills (verbal or augmented).
  - ✓ Does not display significant maladaptive behaviors that would require extensive support from others.
  - ✓ Will be able to navigate the university campus with minimal supervision.
  - ✓ Will have transportation to and from campus (EGSC does not provide transportation for program students.)
  - ✓ Has a goal of obtaining part-time or full-time paid employment or transfer to another postsecondary Inclusion Program upon completion of EGSC's program.

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- The applicant must demonstrate the ability to accept responsibility for his/her actions and maintain respect for self and others and have no history of disruptive or challenging behaviors. The CHOICE program does not have personnel necessary to manage behavioral issues. Students will be responsible for understanding and adhering to the EGSC Code of Conduct for students and will be responsible for any violations as well as sanctions imposed by the EGSC Director of Student Conduct.
- The applicant must demonstrate reading, writing, and math levels of at least 3<sup>rd</sup> grade or higher. (Students must be able to use a non-scientific calculator without assistance.)
- The applicant must be able to sit through an entire class period which consists of 60 minutes to a maximum of one hour and 30 minutes, depending on the course.
- Applicant must also have the capacity to function independently for a minimum of 2 hour blocks of time.
- The applicant must be independent in handling his/her own specialized dietary and/or medical needs, as well as in the use of his/her own medication.

**Note: There is no staff available to manage/administer medications. The CHOICE staff takes no responsibility for specialized diets or medical needs.**

#### **For acceptance into the CHOICE Program**

The Admissions Committee will review/and score application packets, select applicants for an interview will be notified by the Admissions Committee.

- Student will also be required to participate in an interview (with the Admissions Committee). Students are encouraged to participate in this interview without a parent/support person present. If the student desires an interview with a parent/support person, a second interview may be scheduled.
- The admissions committee's rating of the applicant's materials along with the results of the interviews will form the basis for admission to the CHOICE Program.
- The applicant must agree to attend all classes, help sessions, study halls, etc.
- Applicants accepted into the program must be available to attend a 2 day CHOICE Orientation.

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**Please complete all sections of this application. It is acceptable for the applicant to receive support (if needed) in completing the application. You may attach additional information and pages for writing space if needed. All information is confidential and will not be shared with any outside agencies unless written agreement is provided by those filling out the application.**

- ✓ Interested students, parents, and high school staff meet with CHOICE Program staff to share information, including the expectations of CHOICE students and credential requirements.
- ✓ Campus visits and tours are completed by interested students, parents, and high school staff by scheduled appointment.

**Note:** Students will be accepted to East Georgia State College as non-degree seeking students. Upon successful completion of requirements for program certificate, exiting students will receive a CHOICE Certificate of Career Development. **This is a Certificate not a degree-conferring program from East Georgia State College.**

All applicants less than 22 years of age are encouraged to consider opportunities available in your current school system under Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) before committing to this fee based program.

### **Application Selection Process**

The Admissions Committee will review/score applications and select students for interview. Selected applicants are interviewed. The Admissions Committee will collaborate on admission decision and will notify parents/students by letter notifying of their decision. ***Note: A limited number of applicants will be admitted each year.***



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**Note:** Due to limited space, not all applicants who successfully complete the application process and meet the “criteria for admissions” may be accepted into the CHOICE Program for Inclusive Learning; however, these students may be placed on a waiting list.

### **Acceptance Process**

- ✓ Completed Application packet, those submitted with required and supporting documentation, are reviewed by the Admissions Committee. This committee makes recommendation for applicant interview.
- ✓ Applicant contacted to schedule face-to-face student interview with Admissions Committee. During interview of applicant, the Admissions Committee uses a rating scale to score applicant in following areas: independent living skills, social skills and communication, and academic skills
- ✓ Upon completion of the student interview, the Admissions Committee will meet and make a decision to accept/deny the applicant into the CHOICE Program.
- ✓ The applicant/family will be notified within 5 business days of decision by the Admissions Committee.

**Note:** Upon acceptance, the student begins the admissions/enrollment process with EGSC, with the support of the CHOICE Program Director.

All applications received after the deadline will be considered on a space-available basis.