

Bridge to Career Courses

- Healthy Relationship
- Self-Determination
- Money Management
- Healthy Cooking
- Exercise
- Library
- Volunteer Day
- Community Day
- Assistive Technology

PATHS Courses

Fall Courses:

- Content
- Professionalism
- Practicum Preparation
- BVCIL
- Communication Through Movement
- Healthy Relationships
- Library

Independent Study:

- Attend 2 hours each week with instructional assistants

Volunteer:

- 30 hours at assigned location
- Additional community opportunities throughout the semester

Observations:

- Different sites observed throughout the semester

Brazos Valley Center for Independent Living (BVCIL):

- 2 BVCIL Classes each week (money management; cooking; assistive technology, etc.)

Trainings:

- Person Centered Practices TAMU CDD
- CPR/First Aid – TAMU EMS
- Benefits Counseling – BVCIL
- Medicaid Waivers – BVCIL
- TAMU Disability Services Presentations
- TAMU Career Center Presentations and Workshops

Spring Semester:

- 135 practicum hours
- Core Competency Course

Spring Courses:

- Content
- Field-Based Experience
- Communication Through Movement



“There is a **critical need** for qualified professionals to support people with disabilities to live in a variety of community settings. As a statewide employer of Direct Support Professionals, I am very excited about the PATHS certificate program and believe the graduates will make **excellent employees.**”

— Nancy Newberry, President and CEO
American Habilitation Services

Quick Facts

- People with disabilities and their families overwhelmingly **choose community settings** over institutional settings in which to live.
- Qualified, proficient direct support professionals, para-professionals and child care professionals are in **constant demand.**
- Community service providers are **willing to pay more** for a direct support professional who is already trained.

For More Information Or To Apply

email: paths@tamu.edu

paths.tamu.edu



PATHS is a certificate program offered through the Center on Disability and Development at Texas A&M's College of Education & Human Development and is supported by a partnership with the Texas Workforce Commission.



BRIDGE TO CAREER
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY



PATHS PROGRAM
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Postsecondary Access and
Training in Human Services

Your path to a successful
career as a

**Direct Support
Professional - General**

working with people with
disabilities or as a

**Direct Support
Para-Professional**
working with the schools or as a

**Child Care
Professional**
working with children.





Are you ready to get on the PATH?
<http://paths.tamu.edu>



What is PATHS?

PATHS stands for Postsecondary Access and Training in Human Services. The PATHS Certificate Program prepares individuals for jobs as Direct Support Professionals, Direct Support Para-Professionals, and as Child Care Professionals. Students are required to complete the summer Bridge to Career program prior to entering the PATHS program. After completing two semesters at the PATHS Program, participants earn a certificate that combines classroom instruction with practical career building experiences.

What is Bridge to Career?

The Bridge to Career in Human Service Program is a summer program that works in collaboration with the Brazos Valley Center For Independent Living. The Program provides qualifying students access to a post-secondary education program along with special educational supports.

What can PATHS graduates expect?

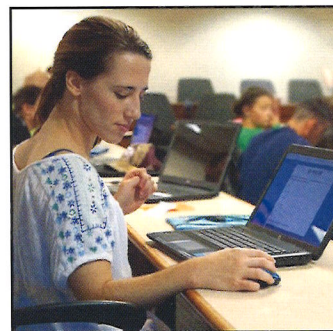
PATHS graduates will be well-equipped for employment as a Direct Support Professional - General (DSP-G), Direct Support Para-Professional (DSP-P), or as a Child Care Professional (CCP).

What is a Direct Support Professional - General (DSP-G)?

A student in the Direct Support Professional - General (DSP-G) career track is trained to support people with disabilities and older people to live in their homes, with their families, or in other community settings. A DSP-G

can be employed by a provider of community services, a family member, or a person with a disability who needs support and assistance. DSP-Gs play key roles in the lives of the people they serve and their families. DSPs are instrumental in supporting a person to live a valued life in his or her community. As a part of their job, DSP-Gs may:

- Assist a person with mobility needs to complete everyday tasks
- Help a person to become active in community settings of their choice (for example: workplace, recreational activities and social functions)
- Assist a person in developing independent living skills (for example: shopping, acquiring transportation and preparing meals)
- Support more than one person with disabilities in a community home



What is a Direct Support Para-Professional (DSP-P)?

A student in the Direct Support Para-Professional (DSP-P) career track is trained to support teachers and students in the classroom. A DSP-P can be employed by school districts or other educational facilities.

As a part of their job, DSP-Ps may:

- Assist with Instruction
- Run errands
- Escort students to out-classes
- Help prepare materials
- Assist with lesson planning
- Help collect data

What is a Child Care Professional (CCP)?

The PATHS Child Care Professional (CCP) track is available to students who have been accepted into the PATHS program who have an interest in working with children ages 0-5 in a child care program.

This track will closely align with the six competency standards set by the CDA Council (CDACouncil.org). Upon graduation, graduates will have knowledge to begin/continue working with children ages 0-5 in the classroom setting.

The Child Care track prepares students for responsibilities:

- Supervising and monitoring the safety of children in their care
- Organizing toys and materials to ensure a tidy activity area
- Helping children keep good hygiene
- Changing the diapers of infants and toddlers
- Teaching children to use touch screens and computers
- Developing schedules and routines to ensure that children have enough physical activity, rest, and playtime
- Keeping records of children's progress, routines, and interest

How do I earn a Certificate?

People who have a sincere career goal to support people with disabilities, older people in community, and children in child care settings should apply for admission to the PATHS Certificate Program. Successful candidates in the program will take one semester of required coursework. During the second semester, students will be placed in a supervised practicum in our community. Students are on-site, learning hands-on skills to prepare them for their career. PATHS instructors provide a broad base of training based on professional experience.