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## ORGANIZATION AND LEADERSHIP

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

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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**Help support the PATHS Program and other programs in the School of Education and Human Development and with the Center on Disability and Development at Texas A&M University.**

Students enrolled in the program will pay over \$50,000 for the duration of the program for non-state supported academic and support fees. For those who are eligible Texas Workforce Commission Services are available. Private funding is needed to support the organizational structure. Philanthropic support is critical to ensure this initiative is on a path to success. To partner with us on this life-changing effort, contact Leticia LaSota at [paths@tamu.edu](mailto:paths@tamu.edu).



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
Center on Disability  
& Development

[cdd.tamu.edu](http://cdd.tamu.edu)



# PATHS Program

[paths.tamu.edu](http://paths.tamu.edu)



# PATHS Program

Postsecondary Access and Training in Human Services



Your path to a successful career as a Direct Support Professional - General working with older populations 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>



"I'm so grateful for your support and what the PATHS Program has done for me. I never dreamed that I would go to college. I'm so blessed and grateful!"

— Elle Hefner, '19

## What is PATHS?

The Postsecondary Access and Training in Human Services (PATHS) Program is a two-year certificate training program that prepares individuals for employment as a Direct Support Professional - General (DSP-G), Direct Support Professional - Paraprofessional (DSP-P) or as Child Care Professionals (CCP). Students are required to successfully complete the Summer I semester prior to entering the PATHS Program. After completing six semesters at the PATHS Program, participants earn a certificate that combines classroom instruction with practical career building experiences.

## What can PATHS graduates expect?

Students can expect an education that provides them not only with employment skills but also independent living skills, self-determination training, and self-advocacy training as well as various support systems to help each student achieve maximum success. The PATHS Program curriculum is rigorous and expectations for success are high.

## How do I earn a Certificate?

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

## Classroom and Practicum

Over the course of the 2-year program, students will have an opportunity to take a combination of rigorous academic coursework related to their chosen field of study and hands-on practicum at one of our local partner sites.

By the completion of the program, the students will have received over 600 hours of both core and enrichment coursework and a minimum of 480 hands-on hours applying the competencies they learn in the classroom. Community classes, independent living skills practice, and a variety of support using appropriate strategies tailored to the student's needs are also a part of the PATHS experience designed to help the student along their independent journey. PATHS staff members work in different capacities to support students in acquiring the necessary skills. We mentor students in job skills, professionalism, life skills like learning to budget money, preparing a meal, build social skill, navigating bus routes.



## CAREER TRACKS

### Direct Support Professional - General

Students on the DSP-G career track are trained to support the elderly and other people with disabilities to live in their homes, with their families, or in other community settings. DSPs are instrumental in supporting a person to live a valued life in his or her community.

### Direct Support Para-Professional

A student in the 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.

### Child Care Professional

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