Recognition

VAST-Eagles Club student leaders are recognized at HCC Central Awards Ceremony each year receiving awards such as, “Student Leader of the Year” and “Student Organization of the Year”.

Student Life

Student life is centered around independence. Students are encouraged to become active on campus by joining various organizations such as Eagles Club, Student Government Association, and other college campus activities.

Central College Location

Sue Moraska
Director of VAST Academy
713.718.6833
sue.moraska@hccs.edu

Barbara Fields
Director of Admissions/Counseling Services
713.718.5194
barbara.fields@hccs.edu

Northwest College Location

SammyLeaston
Program Director
713.718.5034
sammy.leaston@hccs.edu

vast.hccs.edu

Certificate Programs for Students with Disabilities

“All that I can, I will.”

-- Anonymous
The VAST Academy

The VAST Academy provides comprehensive transition postsecondary certificate programs, pre-college “bridge” courses and support services to individuals with disabilities. Students with “ability” levels ranging from 2nd-8th grade level and above benefit from our comprehensive student support services and vocational courses. Students receive reasonable accommodations, counseling, advising, registration assistance, seminars on Job Readiness topics, and a Certificate of Completion.

Required Courses:

**TERM I**
- Business Writing
- Business Communications
- Intermediate Word
- PowerPoint

**TERM II**
- Intro to Office Skills
- Intermediate Spreadsheet/Excel
- Job Preparation
- Career Readiness

**TERM III Employment Training – Internship**
Upon successful completion of the required courses, students are placed at a 10-week (200 hr.) internship site, either on campus or in the business community. Student interns are visited weekly by VAST staff to monitor progress. Job placement assistance is offered upon successful completion.

Student Requirements

- Must be between the ages of 18-25.
- Must be able to function independently in a classroom setting and follow College Code of Student Conduct.
- Must have a min. 2.5 reading level, 3rd Gr. overall academic level based on TABE Score.
- Min. 4th Gr. reading level for Office Skills.
- Min. 5th-8th and above for Pre-College and Bridge courses.
- Must provide his/her own books and supplies.

Follow these easy steps to enroll:

1. Apply for Admissions at www.hccs.edu.
2. Complete VAST Academy Admissions forms at vast.hccs.edu.
3. Schedule an In-take Interview with VAST Director of Admissions, Barbara Fields at barbara.fields@hccs.edu, or call 713.718.5165 to make an appointment.
- Bring completed admissions forms, application, parent questionnaire, 2 letters of recommendation.
- Bring copy of high school transcripts.
- Must provide 2 copies of acceptable documentation of disability.
- Complete “ADA-Ability Services” required forms.
- Review goals and accommodations needed.
- Get signed accommodation letter for testing.
- Schedule an appt. to take TABE Test.
4. Take TABE Placement Test and bring a copy of test results to VAST Academy Director of Admissions.
5. When Admissions packet is completed, it will be reviewed for acceptance into the VAST Academy. If accepted, student will be notified to schedule an appointment with a VAST Advisor to select vocational/degree plan and courses.
6. Attend a mandatory orientation two weeks prior to classes.

Occupational Skills Certificate (Level I or II)

The Occupational Skills Certificate Program is a two-year career readiness workforce credential, offering courses that enhance functional reading, math and writing as they relate to workforce skills, develop basic computer/financial literacy and develop human relations skills for the workplace. Students receive assistance with identifying a realistic career goal through a “person centered planning” approach, developing a vocational degree plan and upon successful completion of their courses are placed on an internship with an employer partner based on their career interests and skills.

Career Readiness

- Life Skills Math
- Independent Living/Financial Management
- Reading/Language Arts
- Career Readiness
- Personal/Social Development
- Computer Technology
- Pre-College
- Job Readiness

Office Skills Training Certificate

The Office Skills Training Certificate Program offers customized training to students with disabilities in the Office Occupations Area. Students are trained for entry-level positions in the following areas: office assistants, data entry, clerical, receptionist, and mail center clerks, based on the student’s abilities.

Student Success

Vanessa Bautista is a former VAST Student in the Graduating Class of 2012. Vanessa has transferred to mainstream courses to fulfill her dream of becoming a Nurse. Vanessa stated, “VAST Academy helped her find herself and provided the one on one support she needed without feeling as though she was being left behind in the classroom.

VAST Scholarships

VAST students may apply for a VAST Scholarship funded by the Assistance League of Houston to cover tuition and books. Scholarships vary in amount and all VAST students are encouraged to apply.