



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What does P.A.C.E. stand for?

Path to Academics, Community and Employment.

How long has P.A.C.E. been providing services for post-secondary students?

P.A.C.E. at NLU has been providing services for post-secondary students since 1986.

Where is P.A.C.E. at NLU?

P.A.C.E. is located in the vibrant city of Chicago.

How long does it take to complete the program?

P.A.C.E. at NLU is a three year program where student receive a certificate of completion and over 1,500 hours of employment experience.

What are the main components of the program?

The P.A.C.E. curriculum has three objectives

- Education and professional training necessary to be workforce ready
- Development of independent living skills
- Development of age-appropriate social skills

The P.A.C.E. objectives are achieved through student engagement in four core areas of learning:

- Employment preparation
- Independent living skills coaching
- Functional academic courses
- Socialization and community living

What is the P.A.C.E. at NLU experience like?

Our students receive a full post-secondary education that concentrates on the whole person, with instruction in the areas of functional academics, employment preparation, independent living skills instruction and student life. P.A.C.E. students are expected to be active and engaged members of their community. They use public transportation, eat in public restaurants, work in local businesses and participate in community activities with their friends.



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Who is the typical P.A.C.E. student?

The typical P.A.C.E. student is between the age of 18 and 28 and has an identified intellectual, learning or developmental disability. Frequently, students accepted into P.A.C.E. would have a high probability of difficulty successfully navigating in a standard college curriculum, even with the provision of various support services. Eligible candidates' qualities include the ability, willingness and emotional stability to participate in and to adjust to all aspects of the program. They have a desire to live independently of their family, and has a family who supports the goals and philosophy of P.A.C.E. at NLU.

What role do internships play in the program?

P.A.C.E. students complete three internships to accumulate over 1,500 hours of actual work experience. They prepare for employment in fields such as adult care, early childhood, food service, general office, supply and distribution, housekeeping, animal care, retail, health care and hospitality. Employment skill development includes classroom instruction, workshops/trainings, as well as on-the-job coaching from supervisors and job coaches. All aspects of instruction are designed to help P.A.C.E. students find employment interests and skills to succeed in the world of work. Students receive college credit hours for employment seminar and employment experience courses. The program operates from a base of more than 30 career partners and continually recruits new contacts.

How much support is provided?

At P.A.C.E., the safety of the students is one of the highest priorities. Students must sign-in and sign-out of the dorm and are expected to follow curfews and behavior guidelines. Staff support is available while students are expected to be in the dorm, in the mornings, evenings, weekends and in the case of overnight emergencies. However, P.A.C.E. students need to be successful living in a residential setting without constant adult supervision.

What is the admission process?

Applications and supporting materials are accepted throughout the academic year. The application and interview process evaluates the match between an applicant's academic standing, life skills, and job preparation with the goals of the program. P.A.C.E. highly encourages all applicants and their families to participate in a program tour before beginning the admissions process. Following receipt and review of all required admissions materials, selected candidates and their families will be invited for an interview and/ or a shadow day. Decisions for the following school year are made on a rolling basis; however, all admissions materials must be submitted by May 1st to be considered for the following school year.

Who to contact for more information?

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