

Dear STU Center of Learning Differences Applicant:

St. Thomas University (STU) boasts a diverse campus, making it an ideal environment for starting your college journey. We are pleased to present this program to help you achieve independence.

As a student at the STU - Center for Learning Differences (CLD), your primary identity will be that of an STU Bobcat student. You will receive a Bobcat Card, which provides access to various campus events, student activities, and football games. This enriching college experience will foster a sense of community and belonging.

The CLD Bobcat Pathways and Bobcat Trailblazer 2 Work program offers a well-rounded package integrating college courses, practical work experiences, campus life, and various college activities. The program offers rigorous courses culminating in a bachelor's degree in culinary science, as well as certificates in Criminal Justice and Culinary Arts, equipping you for a successful career. Every academic or certificate program is designed to cultivate self-determination skills, ensuring you are well-prepared and confident in your capabilities.

The Bobcat Pathway necessitates a bachelor's degree in both culinary arts and criminal justice. The culinary arts program provides opportunities to learn about hospitality, food safety, and various culinary techniques. Students can interact with exceptional culinary instructors in the newly established chef's experiential dining room. Meanwhile, the criminal justice degree offers insights into law enforcement, the court system, probation and parole. Students can share their experiences with knowledgeable criminal justice instructors, each possessing years of professional expertise in the field.

The Bobcat Trailblazer 2 Work program requires a Culinary Arts and Criminal Justice certificate. This initiative will provide practical work experience, starting on campus and gradually expanding into the local community, ultimately leading to competitive employment opportunities. The Culinary Arts and Criminal Justice certificate will equip you with essential skills for navigating your community independently. You can choose to pursue one or all of the available certificates.

This is a crucial step that deserves your full attention. As you work on the application, consider the significance of the process and engage with it thoughtfully and sincerely. Please carefully review all instructions and complete the application packet before submitting it. We appreciate your application and will conduct interviews with the final candidates during our selection process. We look forward to the opportunity to meet with you in person soon.

ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR LEARNING DIFFERENCES

Bobcat Pathways Degree and Bobcat Trailblazer 2 Work Program

Application Checklist.

1.	Completed Center for Learning Differences (CLD) Applicant Packet. (Select the Bobcat Pathways degree or Bobcat Trailblazer to Work non-degree program)
2.	Copy of most recent Individual Education Plan (IEP)
3.	A copy of the most recent psychological or academic evaluation (within the past three years)
4.	High school transcript showing proof of graduation
5.	Recent photo/headshot of applicant
6.	Two letters of recommendation: one (1) should be professional (e.g., clergy, community leader, or teacher), and one (1) should be personal (no immediate family).
7.	Personal video statement (digital copy of the applicant's response to questions on page 12 of this application)
8.	Signed the applicant contract
9.	Signed Parent/Guardian/Caretaker memorandum of understanding
10.	Signed research consent form
11.	Signed photo/media release form

Application Deadline: August for Fall Semester Admission

November for Spring Semester Admission

April for Summer Semester Admission

Please send questions to learningdifferences@stu.edu

Applicant Information:

Last Name	First Name	
Date of Birth	Gender	Email Address
Home Address		
City	State	Zip
Home Phone	Cellular Phone	Additional contact information
How did you hear about our program?		

I currently live			
With my Family/Parents/Caregivers	Group Home	Independently	Other
I get around town. (check all that apply to you)			
With my family	Using public transportation	By walking	By driving myself
Other			

I identify as (circle what applies)		
Hispanic	Non-Hispanic	
I identify as(circle what applies)		
Asian	American Indian	Black
White	Pacific Islander	

Educational History

School Name	City, State	Years Attended

Have you previously attended a Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program (FPCTP)? _____ Yes _____ No

If YES, please specify the name of the program. _____

What were your favorite subjects in high school?
What subjects in high school were the most difficult for you?
How do you learn best (in small groups, hands-on, etc.)?

Employment History:**Paid Employment**

Employer Where did you work?	Job Responsibilities What did you do there?	Dates How long did you work there?

Volunteer Experiences:

Volunteer Site Where did you volunteer?	Responsibilities What did you do there?	Dates How long did you volunteer there?

What would it be if you could volunteer anywhere and do any job?

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What type of job do you hope to have in the future?

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Family Information**Guardian #1**

Last Name		First Name	
Relationship to Applicant			
Guardian Home Phone		Guardian Cellular Phone	Guardian Business Phone
Home Address			
City		State	Zip
Guardian email address (s)			

Guardian #2

Last Name		First Name	
Relationship to Applicant			
Guardian Home Phone		Guardian Cellular Phone	Guardian Business Phone
Home Address			
City		State	Zip
Guardian email address (s)			

Medical Information **

Do you wear glasses?	Yes No
Do you wear contacts?	Yes No
Do you wear a hearing aid?	Yes No
Do you have any physical limitations or disabilities we must be aware of for the program or future employment? Yes No	If yes, please explain.
Do you have any medical concerns that we should be aware of for this program? Yes No	If yes, please list them

**** If admitted, STU CLD will request detailed information regarding medication, insurance, and emergency contacts.

Required Documentation

The STU Center for Learning Differences offers a postsecondary education program tailored for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. To confirm your eligibility for the program, you are required to submit two documents:

1. Individualized Education Plan (IEP): Please submit your most recent IEP documentation. You probably remember high school, even if it was ten years ago or more.

2. Recent Evaluation: You must submit your latest (within the past three years) psychological, educational, and/or employment evaluation. Students should be able to access their high school records and acquire the evaluation report from their institution. Individuals may collaborate with the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) and can request an employment evaluation through their case manager.

Please include your Individualized Education Program (IEP) and the most recent assessment in your application packet.

3. Verification of Graduation Documentation: *Participants in the Bobcat Pathways program and the Bobcat Trailblazer 2 work are required to submit proof of high school graduation. All students must provide a copy of their diploma or certificate, as well as a copy of their transcript, to verify high school completion. Kindly ensure that your school transcript is included with your application packet.*

4. Letters of Recommendation: Please request two individuals to provide letters of recommendation for your application to the Center of Learning Differences. Consider selecting personal references, such as employers, educators, or individuals familiar with you, who can provide insights into your character and capabilities. Within the letter of recommendation, your reference should include the following information:

- Reference name and contact information
- Reference's relationship with the applicant
- Length of time reference has known the applicant
- The applicant's most positive traits or strengths
- Areas that could be developed or improved upon
- Any concerns the reference might have about the applicant in college
- Reasons why this applicant is or is not a good candidate for a postsecondary program.

Please include the letters of recommendation with this application packet. If the

Reference would prefer to email their recommendation; they may send it to:

STU- Center for Learning Differences

Email: learningdifferences@stu.edu

