



DISCOVERING ABILITIES IN EACH OF US.



It's About Independence, Empowerment and Friendship.

Intellectual disabilities should not be a barrier for living life to its fullest – or to having the benefit of a college experience.

ClemsonLIFE (Learning Is For Everyone) is a post-secondary education program with the specific purpose of helping young adults with intellectual disabilities obtain the life skills necessary to gain employment and live independently.

The LIFE program opened its doors in 2008 as a two-year program with three staff members and an initial cohort of six LIFE students. Since then, the program has grown into a nationally recognized four-year program with 19 students, four full-time staff members, eight part-time staff and more than 150 student volunteers.

LIFE Students are Clemson Students.

LIFE students live on campus, attend classes, eat in the dining halls, workout at FIKE, attend sporting events and interact with other students. They contribute to the overall Clemson experience through their enthusiasm and inspiration.

We are More Alike Than We are Different.

A public university setting is ideal for this kind of training for young adults with intellectual disabilities because:

- All young adults go through a similar development process that requires certain activities, experience and support.
- All young adults must develop skills and understanding about themselves and the world around them in order to fully participate in society and to become successful, contributing adults.
- Higher education is a vehicle for self-empowerment, access to social networks, employment and independence.
- Group membership provides essential motivation and support for learning and participation in community life.

ClemsonLIFE incorporates academics, independent living, employment and social/leisure skills in a university setting with the goal of producing self-sufficient young adults. Courses include functional mathematics, banking and budgeting, functional literature, independent living skills, social skills, self-advocacy and safety, employment skills and supervised job placement and internships.

LIFE students live in four-bedroom apartments with an on-site resident assistant in each apartment who helps to reinforce independent living skills. Each day, students learn to manage a busy schedule of classes, jobs, fitness, cooking and more.

ClemsonLIFE Can Grow and Thrive with Your Support.

Initially supported through a three-year grant from the College Transition Connection, the LIFE program does not receive any funding externally or through the University and is completely self-sustaining through student tuition and private donations. It is dedicated to providing a structured, high-quality, well-supervised program focused on vocational independent-living success for young adults with disabilities. This requires significant financial resources.

The total cost for a LIFE student to attend the program for one academic year is \$36,730, excluding academic fees (\$1,068 for in state and \$2,265 for out of state). This cost is prohibitive for most families, especially in light of the fact that many have exhausted savings on special care needed during the K-12 years.

One of the long-term goals for the program is to grow the student population to 40 students by 2020. This will require additional funding for personnel, scholarships, research and facilities.

Clemson University is committed to continuing and expanding this successful program and is in need of private funding to support these dedicated students. Your financial support ensures that ClemsonLIFE continues to encourage, guide, mentor and foster the abilities of these young people – abilities that will serve them for a lifetime.



Clemson Forever is dedicated to strengthening the University by building a solid financial base of private giving, providing exemplary stewardship of those gifts and clearly communicating to donors the impact of their gift and the gratitude of the Clemson Family. To this end, the Will to Lead for Clemson is a \$1 billion capital campaign to support students, faculty, engagement and facilities.

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