

## APPLICATION PROCESS

- Complete the Polk State College student application.
- Submit a completed Empower to Employ program-specific application found on **polk.edu/EmpowertoEmploy** with all required documentation by June 1.
- Attend a virtual interview with Empower to Employ program staff.
- Selected candidates will be invited to a follow-up interview on campus.
- Accepted students will receive additional information about orientation and registration.



## WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Students who meet the following minimum criteria are encouraged to apply.

- Be 18 years of age or older.
- Have the legal authority to make their own decisions, allowing them to fully participate in the program.
- Have been diagnosed by a licensed psychologist or psychiatrist with Intellectual Disability (ID).
- Graduated high school with a standard diploma or equivalent (proof of diploma/GED required).
- Have the ability to navigate the campus and maintain personal hygiene independently.
- Desires to attend college and enter the workforce.



**polk.edu**

Polk State College is committed to equal access/equal opportunity in its programs, activities, and employment.  
For additional information, visit [polk.edu/compliance](http://polk.edu/compliance).

P O L K   S T A T E   C O L L E G E

# Empower to **EMPLOY**

STUDENT ACCESS AND INCLUSION



Educating individuals with unique abilities,  
from empowerment to employment.

## SERVICES

Empower to Employ is a free two-year inclusive postsecondary program designed to prepare students with intellectual disabilities for independent living and employment.

Empower to Employ is an approved Florida Post-Secondary Comprehensive Transition Program (FPCTP), recognized by the Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities (FCSUA).



## BENEFITS

Empower to Employ helps students prepare for independent living by focusing on adult life skills, such as budgeting, housing, transportation, self-determination, and self-advocacy.

Students prepare for the workplace by completing Empower to Employ workforce classes and earning industry certificates and micro-credentials.

Each semester students participate in paid or unpaid internships on or off campus. During the final semester, students work off campus, prepare professional resumes, and apply for post-graduation employment.

Program graduates earn the **Empower to Employ Certification of Completion** and participate in commencement.

Students may be eligible for federal financial aid and FPCTP scholarships (through the FCSUA) to help cover the program's cost.



## EMPOWER TO EMPLOY CAREER PATHWAYS

Following person-centered planning, students select a pathway based on career goals, talents, and interests. Pathway elective courses are inclusive, allowing students to learn from one another, forge friendships, and gain new skills.

## PATHWAY OPTIONS

- Art & Design
- Business/Entrepreneurship
- Education/Childcare
- Gaming/Digital Media
- Hospitality/Tourism



## WE ARE POLK.

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