



INTEGRATION INTO COLLEGE LIFE

Students have the opportunity to be socially integrated into the fabric of campus life and eat lunch on the Main Campus. They may bring their lunch from home or purchase lunch or beverages at one of our onsite food providers (Papa Johns, Subway, and Meg's Daily Grind). There is also a microwave available in the Student Center/SC and various vending machines located throughout the campus.

In addition, students are encouraged to participate in campus events and are eligible for campus services such as use of the Library (including public computer lab), ParaTransit (transportation), Disability Support Services (accommodations), and Fitness Center.

SCHOLARSHIP RESOURCES

A variety of scholarship opportunities are available through the Rock Valley College Foundation. Students who wish to apply may do so during the regular application period which runs from February 5 - March 19 each year. Awards are typically announced by May 1.

To apply, or for more information on scholarships, contact the Foundation office via telephone: (815) 921-4500, Email: RVC-Foundation@RockValleyCollege.edu, or visit their website: RockValleyCollege.edu/Scholarships.

RockValleyCollege

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES (DSS)

Student Center | Ground Floor

3301 N. Mulford Road | Rockford, IL 61114-5699

(815) 921-2371 | Fax: (815) 921-2379

RockValleyCollege.edu/Raise

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RAISE

An alternative
Post-Secondary Educational Program
for Students with Intellectual Disabilities

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RAISE

AN ALTERNATIVE POST-SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

The **Rock Valley Academic Institute for Successful Employment (RAISE): program** is a collaborative initiative involving Rock Valley College, local not-for-profit organizations, and local school districts to provide opportunities for young adults who have intellectual disabilities to participate in inclusive post-secondary educational opportunities, gain independent living skills, and develop work readiness skills for competitive employment.

This 2-year Certificate Program is designed to address student's unique learning needs by providing a comprehensive approach that includes career exploration, specialized vocational and academic instruction, and reasonable accommodations.

The RAISE: program is based on a learning environment which takes advantage of the social aspects of campus and community life, and as such most courses are held on the RVC Main Campus located at 3301 N. Mulford Road, Rockford, Illinois 61114.

The specific program goals are to:

- Increase independence
- Promote self-determination and self-advocacy
- Encourage lifelong learning
- Improve job readiness skills



ELIGIBILITY

RAISE is designed for individuals who would find traditional post-secondary education programs challenging. To be eligible program participants must:

- Submit Rock Valley College enrollment application and other forms included as part of the RAISE application process;
- Be and other forms included as part of the RAISE application process
- Provide results of the most recent diagnostic testing specifying reading, math, and written language skills to be at or above a 3rd grade level;
- Have a documented intellectual disability;
- Be able to follow the required college code of conduct;
- Be able to manage all self-care needs and demonstrate sufficient emotional stability to participate in and adjust to all aspects of the program;
- Be motivated and have realistic and tangible career and outcome goal; and
- Be able to focus and participate in all program requirements. *Final candidate selection is at the discretion of the RAISE program staff.

VISION

All individuals with disabilities deserve to live rich, meaningful lives and to be integrated into their community as fully as possible. RAISE prepares students with intellectual disabilities for higher education and workforce opportunities through academics, work skills development and social skills training.

RAISE ENDEAVORS TO PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH:

- An enriched collegiate experience
- An interactive and inclusive environment
- Learning activities that transfer to lifelong independent living skills
- Work ethics necessary for gainful employment
- Self-respect and knowledge of individual strengths

COURSEWORK

Coursework focuses on specific independent living, vocational, and social skill development, with the goal of helping students to live and engage in the community independently and/or to obtain competitive employment. Students who successfully complete all required coursework receive a Certificate of Achievement in Career Readiness.

RAISE program topics include:

- self-advocacy & civic engagement
- communication
- basic computer skills
- healthy relationships
- cooking & nutrition
- independent living
- public transportation & community safety
- healthy environment
- community resources
- career exploration
- work readiness
- career skills development

Courses are offered on Wednesday and Friday mornings during the fall and spring semesters. Courses are typically held on the RVC Main Campus, but on occasion may be held at RVC satellite sites and other community locations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

or to enroll in the RAISE program, please contact MaryAnne Ax, Program Coordinator, at (815) 921-2371, ext. 2365 or visit our website: RockValleyCollege.edu/Raise.

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