

"93% of Burkhart Transition Academy students successfully achieve competitive employment in the community upon completion of the program. It is a joy to see young adults on the autism spectrum fulfilling their potential."

- Janice Magness
Director of Burkhart Transition Academy

"The Burkhart Center has been a life changing opportunity for my daughter. Her willingness to try new things has amazed me...and as a result, her confidence has soared. I am so thankful for the Burkhart Center because they provided the 'next step' for my daughter and she got to realize her dream of having a college experience at Texas Tech University...just like her brothers; and therefore she learned she's like everyone else. Mission accomplished!"

- Cathy S. (parent)



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

The Burkhart Center for Autism
Education & Research

Transition Academy



In 2005, The Burkhart Center for Autism Education & Research located on the campus of Texas Tech University was established in the College of Education through a generous donation given by Jere Lynn and Jim Burkhart in honor of their grandson, Collin Burkhart. In 2013, the Center celebrated its Grand Opening of its new \$10.8 million facility. The building's 28,000 square feet of innovative training space features state-of-the-art technology and equipment designed to stimulate student learning. The Burkhart Center is the leader in autism education and research in West Texas, featuring the Transition Academy as a model program for successful employment for students with autism.

For more information on the application process, contact Janice Magness, Director of the Transition Academy at janice.magness@ttu.edu or call 806.834.3725.

www.burkhartcenter.org



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Possibilities for Life...

The Transition Academy

The Transition Academy works to fill the need of young adults 18 to 30 years of age who are diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and aspire to be competitively employed. The Transition Academy is a non-residential program that emphasizes job and social skills that lead to productive, dignified employment as well as life skills that enrich the overall lifetime experience. Students attend classes Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and follow the Texas Tech University academic calendar.



The Experience

Vocational and Job Skills

Vocational and job skills instruction assists our students to: identify personal strengths, develop a résumé and portfolio, prepare for job interviews, participate in on-site job internships every semester, understand the importance of following rules and directions in the workplace, practice punctuality, and cultivate commitment to employment.

Social Skills

Social skills training teaches our students to: learn to accept constructive criticism, give and receive compliments and apologies, develop and maintain friendships and relationships, establish short- and long-term goals, learn effective problem-solving and conflict-resolution skills, learn appropriate behavior for various social settings, and accept alternative opinions and points of view.



Quiznos Partnership

The Burkhart Center's fully-functional Quiznos restaurant offers paid vocational opportunities for individuals with ASD and other disabilities. Employees gain valuable working experience toward their goal of becoming independent in a supervised environment under the guidance of Burkhart job coaches and Texas Tech Hospitality Services personnel.

Creativity through the Arts

Artistic self-discovery is achieved by: making jewelry, painting on canvas, creating animals and figures using papier-mâché; entering artwork in Lubbock's First Friday Art Trail; participating in weekly music classes taught by a licensed music therapist; and showcasing creativity and talent in an annual talent show.

Independent Living Skills

Independent living skills training includes: personal hygiene, household chores, money management, nutrition and healthy food preparation, personal safety and first aid, dressing for success, telephone etiquette, and fitness classes and activities.

Citizenship and Leadership Skills

Citizenship and leadership skills training includes learning how to: show respect for others and self, take responsibility for actions and self-control, express forgiveness; learn from mistakes, and work as a team.



Family and Community

Annual Autism Conference: Jointly sponsored by Region 17 Education Service Center and The Burkhart Center to provide education and training to educators and parents in the South Plains.

The Burkhart Family Endowed Lecture Series: Brings distinguished speakers in ASD education to Texas Tech University and the greater Lubbock community.

Burkhart Walk for Autism Awareness: Held annually to promote ASD awareness.

Dillard's Spring Style Show: Students featured at the South Plains Mall location.