

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. This 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 Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and follow the Texas Tech University academic calendar.



"93% of Burkhart Transition Academy students successfully achieve and maintain 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 officially opened in October of 2005 with the mission to increase the quality of life for individuals with autism and their families. For each person, the Burkhart Center looks at their abilities and strive to prepare them for life-long education and training, independent living to the greatest extent possible, meaningful and interest driven employment and career, and relationships.



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY




The Burkhart Center for Autism Education & Research™

"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 life everyone else. Mission accomplished!" - Cathy S. (Parent)



For more information or to apply please email the Transition Academy at transitionacademy.educ@ttu.edu or call (806)742-4561.

www.burkhartcenter.org

 Burkhart Center
 @ttu_burkhart
 @ttu_burkhart



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

The Burkhart Center for Autism Education & Research™

Possibilities for Life...



Transition Academy

The Burkhart Center's mission is to increase the quality of life for individuals with autism and their families by providing services, preparing educators, and conducting research.

The Experience

VOCATIONAL AND JOB SKILLS

Vocational and job skills instruction assists our students to:

- identify personal strengths
- develop a resume and portfolio
- prepare for job interviews
- participate in on-site internships every semester
- understand the importance of following the rules and directions in the workplace
- practice punctuality
- cultivate a commitment to employment

SOCIAL SKILLS

Social skills training teaches our students to:

- accept constructive criticism
- give and receive compliments and apologies
- to 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
- accept alternative opinions and perspectives

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
- 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
- work as a team



CREATIVITY THROUGH THE ARTS

Artistic self-discovery is achieved by:

- making jewelry
- painting on canvas
- creating animals and figures using papier-mâché
- exhibiting artwork in Lubbock's First Friday Art Trail
- participating in weekly music classes taught by a licensed music therapist
- showcasing creativity and talent in an annual talent show



FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

Annual Autism Conference

The conference is jointly sponsored by Region 17 Education Service Center and the Burkhart Center to provide continuing education and training to educators and parents in the South Plains area.

The Burkhart Family Endowed Lecture Series

The lecture series brings distinguished speakers in ASD education to Texas Tech University and the Lubbock community.

Burkhart Walk for Autism Awareness

The walk is held annually to promote ASD awareness in the community.

Dillard's Spring Style Show

Students style and showcase Dillard's fashion at the South Plains Mall location.

Ongoing Service Projects

Annual community volunteering at various non-profits benefiting members of the South Plains area.

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.

