



STAR (Student Transition and Resource) Academy
Program Application Packet
2025-2026

March 17, 2025



Dear STAR Applicant,

We are excited to offer you the opportunity to apply to STAR Academy, a program designed to provide a pathway to independence for students with intellectual disabilities. While enrolled in STAR Academy, students have the chance to attend college and earn a College Credit Certificate and industry certifications at the Wolfson Campus, known for its diversity and vibrant academic community. It is the perfect place to begin your college journey.

STAR students, are official Miami Dade College (MDC) students first and foremost! STAR students receive MDC student IDs and have access to campus events, clubs, and student activities, ensuring a well-rounded and full college experience.

STAR Academy integrates college coursework, job training, campus engagement, enrichment opportunities. The program features a curriculum that leads to a Culinary Arts Management Certificate or Rooms Division Operations, while incorporating career development sessions, socialization, and daily life skills training; equipping students with the vocational and social skills necessary to pursue meaningful employment.

As you complete your application, please take the process seriously and ensure that all information is accurate and complete. Carefully review the instructions and verify that your application packet is fully prepared before submission. The deadline to submit your application is **July 25, 2025**. Finalists in the application process will be invited to participate in an interview as part of the selection process.

We look forward to reviewing your application and learning more about you!

Sincerely,



STAR Academy Administration
Miami Dade College, Wolfson Campus

Program Overview

Miami Dade College's (MDC) STAR Academy is a post-secondary comprehensive transition program for individuals with intellectual disabilities as designated by the Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities (FCSUA). The FCSUA was created by the Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program Act (FS 1004.6495). This legislation articulated the responsibilities of the FCSUA and its executive director and established Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program (FPCTP) parameters and accountability requirements.

Individuals enrolled in MDC's STAR Academy will have the opportunity to earn college credit certificates, industry certifications, and program endorsements/badges while taking continuing education and college credit courses to enhance their academic and vocational skills.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Must be 18 years of age or older
- Proof of high school completion (unofficial transcripts accepted until official transcripts are available) or equivalent (e.g., high school diploma, GED)
 - All accepted participants will be required to submit official transcripts or proof of equivalent as part of the admission process: <https://www.mdc.edu/transcripts/>
- Documentation of intellectual disability documentation may include:
 - A psychological, psychoeducational, or neuropsychological evaluation by a licensed school psychologist, a licensed clinical psychologist, or a licensed neuropsychologist.
 - A letter from a physician on letterhead, including their signature and license number
 - Copy of most recent Individual Educational Plan (IEP), 504 Accommodations plan, or other school (or educational based) accommodations planning document
 - Documentation must include a diagnosis of intellectual disability or a FSIQ of 75 or below
- Photo of applicant
- Ability to navigate campus independently
- Ability to maintain personal hygiene independently
- Ability to engage in 50 to 90-minute lecture courses independently
- Ability to participate in extended lab courses independently
- Ability to participate in extra-curricular activities and programming independently
- Ability to function independently without supervision, this includes attending college classes, making decisions and managing time unaided for at least 3 consecutive hours
- Desire to obtain competitive employment upon completion of program
- Demonstrate basic mathematics understanding and the ability to use a calculator
- Ability to read and understand English at a 3rd grade level or demonstrate practical reading and comprehension skills.

Application Process

1. Complete and submit MDC STAR Academy application and gather required documents.
2. Email all completed application packets (application, photo, and required documents) to StarAcademy@mdc.edu by or before **July 25th, 2025**.
3. Qualified applicants will be contacted to schedule an in-person informational meeting with program staff who will share program information and allow applicants to share information about themselves and their goals, and gain a greater understanding of MDC STAR Academy.
4. Selected applicants will be notified of acceptance and invited for a comprehensive intake appointment at which they will have the opportunity to complete the MDC admission process, apply for FAFSA, and declare in-state residency.
5. Participants and parents/guardians will engage in a mandatory orientation to meet program staff, build connections with other program participants, learn about program requirements and become familiar with the campus.

***Application Deadline: July
25th, 2025***

To succeed in STAR Academy, candidates should demonstrate proficiency in the following areas:

- Make and receive calls or texts to/from individuals outside of their family independently
- Identify appropriate actions to take if lost on campus and seek help when needed.
- Provide their email address, check emails regularly, and respond when necessary.
- Participate in campus activities before or after classes.
- React appropriately in the event of a fire alarm and evacuate safely.
- Self-regulate emotions and refrain from verbal or physical outbursts.
- Communicate basic personal information when requested by staff members.
- Answer fundamental questions, such as who, what, where, when, and why when asked.
- Demonstrate safe and appropriate behavior in public restrooms.
- Keep personal belongings secure and in their possession.

Applicant Information				
Last Name:		First Name/Middle Name:		
Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY):		Gender:		
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female
Street Address:				
City:		State:	Zip Code:	
Student Phone Number:		Email Address:		
I currently live:				
<input type="checkbox"/>	By myself		<input type="checkbox"/>	With my parents or guardians
<input type="checkbox"/>	With a roommate		<input type="checkbox"/>	In a group-home
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other, please explain:			
I get around by (please check all that apply):				
<input type="checkbox"/>	I drive myself		<input type="checkbox"/>	My parents/guardian drive me
<input type="checkbox"/>	STS		<input type="checkbox"/>	Uber and/or Lyft
<input type="checkbox"/>	I walk or ride my bike		<input type="checkbox"/>	I use public transportation (bus, metro, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other, please explain:			

Educational History		
School attended:	Years attended:	Graduation date:
What was your favorite subject in high-school and why?		
What subject in high-school was most challenging for you and why?		
How do you learn best (hands-on, listening to a lecture, watching videos, etc.) and why?		
Do you prefer working in a group or individually, and why?		

Employment History		
Employer: Where did you work?	Responsibilities: What did you do there?	Employment dates: When did you work there?

Volunteer History		
Employer: Where did you volunteer?	Responsibilities: What did you do there?	Employment dates: When did you volunteer there?

OJT (on the job training) History		
Employer: Where did you do OJT?	Responsibilities: What did you do there?	Employment dates: When did you train there?

Please answer the following questions in your own words:

Why would you like to participate in STAR Academy?

What would you like to learn while attending Miami Dade College?

What are you most looking forward to about going to college?

What jobs or career fields are you interested in?

What do you do in class if you are confused or don't understand something?

Please answer the following questions in your own words:

What do you do if you don't understand or need help on a homework assignment?

What do you do if you feel angry, anxious, or overwhelmed?

What are your goals for the future?

How often do you use technology? What kind do you use and for what reasons?

What makes you a good candidate for STAR Academy?

Applicant Contract

I understand that as a student of STAR Academy, I must abide by the following terms and conditions:

- I will follow the Miami Dade College Code of Conduct.
<https://www.mdc.edu/procedures/Chapter4/4025.pdf>
- I will read the MDC Students Rights and Responsibilities
<https://www.mdc.edu/rightsandresponsibilities/>
- I will follow all the rules established by Miami Dade College and STAR Academy
- I will follow my course schedule and attend classes, tutoring, and enrichment activities on time
- I will attend scheduled meetings with my advisor and program staff and will actively participate and communicate any issues at our meetings
- I will be responsible and complete course assignments to the best of my ability and submit them on time; if absent, I will make up assignments that I missed
- I will inform my instructor or program staff if I will be absent or late
- I will join and participate in at least two (2) campus engagement activities offered by Student Life each semester
- I understand that I am responsible for all tuition, fees, and related expenses not covered by my scholarship
- I understand that I am responsible for transportation to and from MDC
- I understand that the program does not provide meals
- I understand that the goal of STAR Academy is to prepare me for the workforce and connect me to meaningful employment, and I will actively work with program staff at MDC to secure employment upon completing the program
- I will participate in volunteer and/or paid internships throughout the program
- Upon graduation, I will keep in contact with STAR Academy for up to 5 years to report on my employment.

I have read the above and understand that this program is voluntary, and I must agree to these terms for acceptance into STAR Academy.

Student Name:	Date:
Student Signature:	

Program Pathways:

MDC STAR Academy offers the opportunity to earn one of two different College Credit Certificates: Culinary Arts Management or Rooms Division Operations				
Culinary Arts Management	The Culinary Arts Management Operations College Credit Certificate is designed to prepare students with an in-depth study of food production, and a practical foundation in international cuisine for a successful career in the culinary industry.		Some classes for the program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Culinary Terminology ○ Basic Baking ○ International Cuisine ○ Garde Manger ○ Food Production 1 ○ Food Production 2 	
Rooms Division Operations	The Rooms Divisions Operations College Credit Certificate is designed to prepare students with a theoretical and practical foundation for a successful career in the lodging industry. Students enrolled in this certificate are prepared for positions such as Front Desk Supervisor or Guest Relations Supervisor.		Some classes for the program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Intro to Hospitality ○ Human Resources ○ Executive Housekeeping ○ Front Office Procedures and Lodging Operations ○ E-Business for Hospitality 	
Which program are you interested in joining?		Culinary Arts Management		Rooms Division Operations

Parent/Guardian Information	
Last Name:	First Name:
Relationship to applicant:	
Phone Number:	Email Address:
Parent/Guardian Information	
Last Name:	First Name:
Relationship to applicant:	
Phone Number:	Email Address:

Non-Discrimination Statement

Miami Dade College is an equal access/equal opportunity institution which does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, marital status, age, religion, national origin, disability, veteran's status, ethnicity, pregnancy, sexual orientation or genetic information. To obtain more information about the College's equal access and equal opportunity policies, procedures and practices, please contact the College's Equity Officer: Cindy Lau Evans, Director, Office of Equal Opportunity Programs and ADA Coordinator, at (305) 237-2577 (Voice) or 711 (Relay Service). 11011 SW 104 St., Room 1102-01; Miami, FL 33176. EquityOff@mdc.edu

Film and Photography Consent and Release

I acknowledge that I am 18 years old or older* and hereby voluntarily give my consent to the District Board of Trustees of Miami Dade College, Florida ("College") as follows:

1. To record my likeness, voice, art work, possessions and other content in any medium, including, but not limited to: print, video, audio, photograph, digital, electronic or any other method of publication/communication (collectively referred to as "Recordings"); and
2. To use, reproduce, exhibit, distribute, advertise, broadcast, edit, promote, record, webcast, podcast, market or otherwise commercially utilize any or all of these Recordings, in whole or in part, in perpetuity by any and all means, media, devices, processes and technology whether now known or hereafter developed, including, but not limited to, television, radio, online/internet, mobile, wireless, theatrical and home distribution, sound recording, publishing, commercial, and merchandising.

I understand that these Recordings may be used for commercial purposes, but solely for the use of the College. The College may edit, use and republish/rebroadcast such Recordings for educational purposes including, but not limited to, use as classroom instruction; closed-circuit television or digital transmission on campus, MDCTV, or to off campus class meetings, assemblies or events; independent instruction; recruitment; marketing and promotion; news and, any other purposes of the College. I explicitly waive any rights I may have under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") and/or § 1002.22, Fla. Stat., or any other right to privacy as it relates to these Recordings.

Student Name:	Date:
Student Signature:	