

Hiram G . Andrews Center & Commonwealth Technical Institute

Training programs and support services preparing individuals
with opportunities for future movement & growth

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Hiram G. Andrews Center



To assist Pennsylvanians with **disabilities**
to secure and maintain
employment and independence.

To offer quality post-secondary education, pre-employment transition and support services to customers as they determine and pursue individualized goals of employment and independence.



- Opening in 1959, HGAC was the world's first and largest rehabilitation center, specially designed to provide comprehensive services under one roof.
- Recently celebrated our 60th Anniversary of services to individuals with disabilities
- HGAC is one of only 8 state-operated comprehensive rehabilitation centers in the nation.

- Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling
- Vocational Evaluation
- Cognitive Skills Enhancement Program (CSEP)
- Center for Assistive and Rehabilitative Technology (CART)
- Wellness Center, Physical, Occupational & Speech Therapies, Psychiatry
- Individualized and Group Therapeutic Support Services
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing Services
- Services to Students with Visual Impairments
- Disability Support Services
- Attendant Care/Transitional Living Coordination
- Adaptive Driver Education
- Student Enrichment Programming
- Recreation Programming

VRC's at HGAC coordinate a rehabilitation program to meet each student's unique needs

- Communicate with referring agencies, parents, and others as necessary
- Gather input from a multi-disciplinary team
- Identify necessary accommodations
- Arrange necessary support services



- 2-3 week evaluation process conducted individually or within small group setting
- Achievement, Aptitude, Interest testing
- Career Research/Program Tryouts in CTI programs
- Determine training areas and employment with greatest potential for success

May also include:

- Psychological Testing
- Assistive Technology Evaluation
- Driver Evaluation
- Physical or Occupational Therapy
- Speech and Hearing



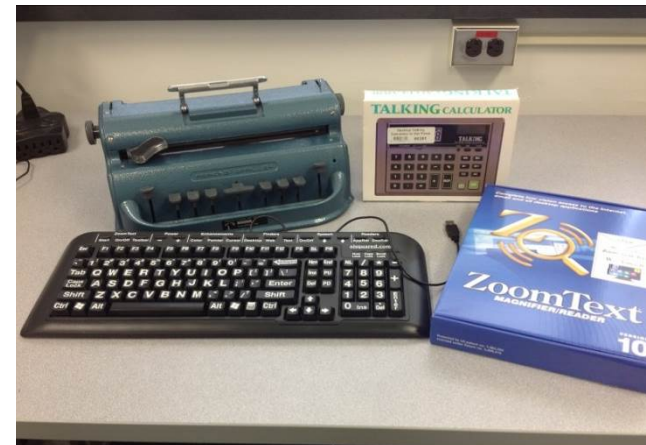
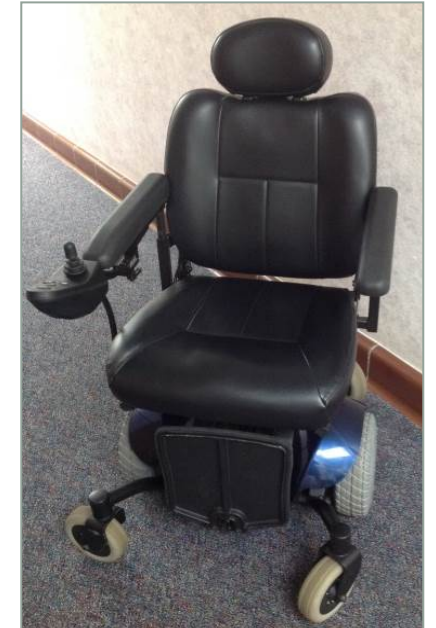
- Intensive 15-week program for individuals with cognitive disabilities
- Identify strengths, weaknesses, and obstacles to goal attainment
- Identify and use effective strategies & accommodations to address obstacles
- Develop self-advocacy and empowerment skills



“COGNITIVE SKILLS ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM”

- **Tier I:** Students currently participating in the full time semester–long program
- **Tier II:** “Graduates” of the CSEP program now currently enrolled in a CTI Vocational Training Program
- **Tier III:** Referrals for consultation either with instructors or students in CTI training programs

- Computer Access
- Activities of Daily Living
- Environmental Control Units
- Cognitive Devices
- Home/Worksite/School Modifications
- Mobility/Positioning
- Custom Devices
- Visual/Hearing Loss
- Transitional Living Coordination



- Therapeutic services are provided by three Psychological Services Associates. Students have the opportunity to maximize their potential by addressing social and emotional issues that may hinder the vocational process.
- Psychological Services Associates also coordinate support groups such as the Autism Group which consists of HGAC students with an Autism Spectrum diagnosis. This group meets weekly to educate and discuss topics relevant to the spectrum – including any difficulties the students may be having related to the spectrum.

Week Long Programs:

Career Readiness, Employment and Transition Exploration (CREATE)

To provide opportunity for students to discover their strengths and abilities in both individual and group settings. With the knowledge gained from vocational testing and psychoeducational groups, they can “create” their vocational future.

Working on Readiness and Careers Academy (WORC)

To offer students the opportunity to grow in the domains of leadership and work readiness. They gain exposure to teamwork, communication, self-advocacy and self-determination.

Access, Planning, and Strategies Academy (APS)

To provide students with a foundation of knowledge and experience related to the crucial skills and strategies needed as they transition from high school to post-secondary education or work.

Hybrid program that involves both psychological testing and psychoeducation related to life after high school

Themes discussed on a daily basis: Coping strategies, communication, teamwork, self-advocacy, disability disclosure, empowerment, and building independence

Schedule:

- Morning/Afternoon – Testing
- Evening – Psychoeducation groups
- Night - Experience student life

Group size: 5 customers per week/one time per month

Working on Readiness and Careers Academy (WORC)

Program revolves around psychoeducation groups that relate to the areas of work, community engagement, post-secondary education, and adult services.

Themes discussed on a daily basis: Disability disclosure, self-advocacy, empowerment, knowledge of self (i.e. strengths and weaknesses).

Schedule:

- Morning - Psychoeducation groups
- Afternoon - Community outings and guest speakers
- Night - Experience student life

Group size: 12 customers per week



Program involves a variety of lessons and hands-on demonstrations of technologies to assist with post-graduation life

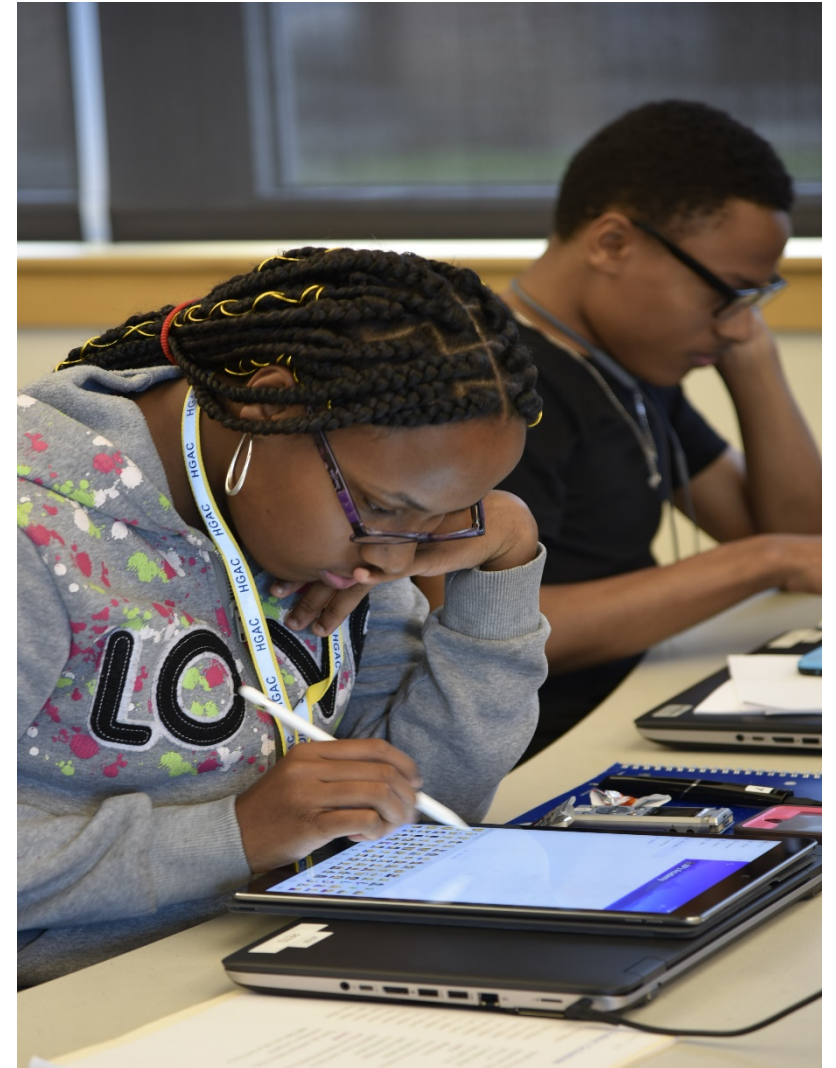
Technologies related to note-taking, reading, time management and organization

Other topic areas discussed: Self-advocacy, internet safety, teamwork, disability disclosure, empowerment, and public speaking

Schedule:

- Morning/Afternoon - Assistive technology exposure & hands-on learning
- Evening/Night - Experience student life

Group size: 10 customers per week



- Annual Career & Transition Fair: Typically every October-2020 TBD
- Autism Awareness & Resource Fair: Typically every April-2021 TBD
- Barrier Awareness & Resource Fair: Typically every May-2021 TBD
- Job Shadowing Day: 2020/2021 TBD

Virtual Services during Covid-19

- Virtual instruction and case management provided by CTI instructors and HGAC Counselors
- CART providing virtual assistance in One Note and Read & Write
- CSEP providing virtual workshops & groups in a variety of topics as well as some individual cognitive rehab topics
- Career Guidance Center providing job prep classes and resume/job placement assistance virtually
- Academic Success Center providing tutoring services and study tips/financial management workshops remotely
- Therapeutic Activities Services Worker providing tips & strategies in variety of areas

Virtual Services during Covid-19 that may continue following a return to campus

CART services & evaluations are considered on a case-by-case basis and many of these can be performed remotely. These types of remote evaluations would still be an option following return to campus

Licensed by the Pennsylvania State Board of Private Licensed Schools

Approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education

Accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC)



- Diploma or occupational associate degrees (AST and ASB) will be issued from CTI
- HS Diploma or GED required for AST & ASB
- Three terms per year - no summers off
- Programs vary in length from 1 to 5 terms, 4 months per term
- Occupational School -
70% lab time/30% classroom



Diploma

- Automotive Technology
- Building Maintenance
- Business Retail Sales
- Culinary Assistant
- Materials Management & Distribution
- Nurse Aide
- Administrative Assistant
- Welding Technology

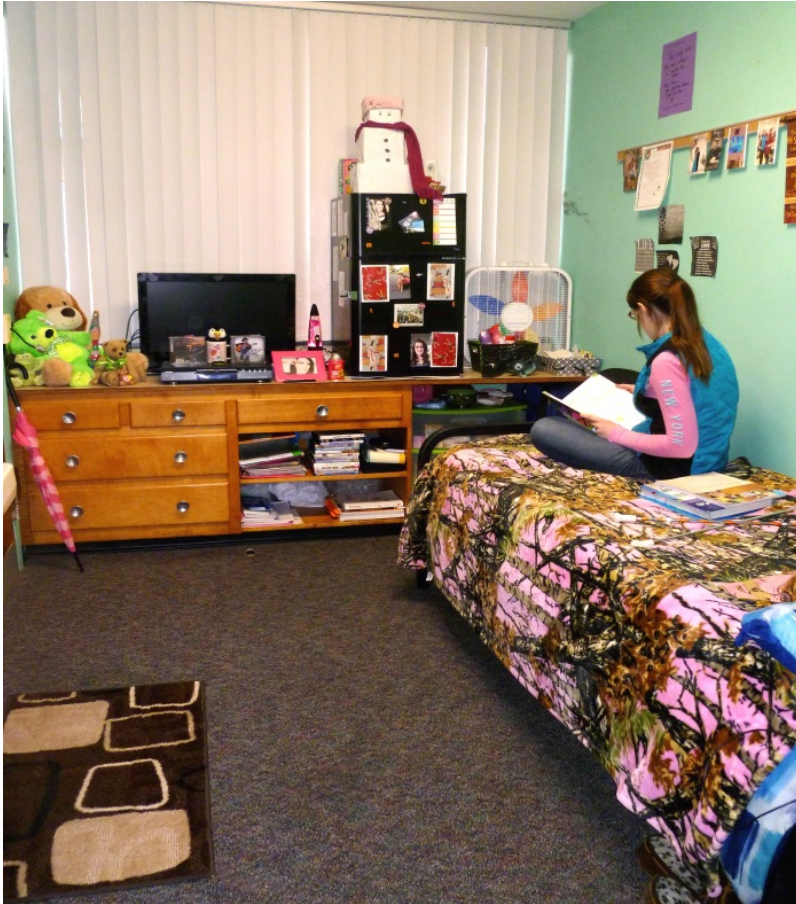
Degree

- ASB Medical Office Assistant
- AST Architectural Drafting
- AST Culinary Arts
- AST Dental Laboratory Technology
- AST Mechanical Drafting
- AST Networking and Telecommunications Technology

Job Preparedness

- Resume development
- Career portfolio development
- Interview skills
- Information on the Americans with Disabilities Act
- Information on employer tax credits and incentives
- Current Federal and State Civil Service job listings and incentives
- Post-graduate job placement referrals
- Free post-graduate resume service
- Job Gateway job search

Dorm Counselors



Independent Living Skills



Mission:

- To offer people with severe disabilities the opportunity to develop skills needed to function more independently and to obtain or continue employment.
- To enable participants to take control of their lives based on a self-directed curriculum which includes basic life skills such as: personal care attendant management, self care, financial management, consumer affairs, transportation and mobility.



- Anger Management
- Stress Management
 - Self-Esteem
- Conflict Resolution
- Building Good Relationships
 - Diversity
- Student Activities Committee
 - Cooking
 - Mentorship
- Transportation Training

- Billiards/Tournaments
- Shuffle Board
- Ping Pong
- Board Games & Puzzles
- Ceramics
- Painting
- Movies & Sports on the big screen
- Dances/Karaoke
- Bingo
- Volleyball
- Basketball
- Softball
- Kickball
- Dodgeball
- Archery
- Adaptive Snow Skiing, Water Skiing & Horseback Riding
- Free Weights, Treadmills & Cardio

Recreation and Physical Fitness Activities



Tours & Exhibits!



- National Consortium of State Operated Comprehensive Rehabilitation Centers (SOCRC)
- University of Pittsburgh—Department of Rehabilitation Science and Technology
- Veterans Leadership Program/Veteran Community Initiatives

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