

Mission Statement

The mission of Next Step is to provide transformational learning experiences, within an inclusive educational setting, for young adults with intellectual disabilities, university students, faculty, staff, and community leaders.



Please contact us for more information or visit our website at <http://NextStep.Vanderbilt.edu>

Our office is located at Hobbs 407 – stop by!

MENTORS

INTEREST SESSIONS

Email for current dates

BECOME A PEER MENTOR!

Starting Spring 2010

Be a part of the international movement of bringing equity and excellence to higher education!



VANDERBILT KENNEDY CENTER
FOR EXCELLENCE IN DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Next Step

Postsecondary Education Program

Vanderbilt Kennedy Center

Peabody PO Box 40

230 Appleton Place

Nashville, TN 37203

Next Step AMBASSADORES

VANDY COMMODORES
OPENING DOORS FOR NEXT
STEP STUDENTS

Postsecondary Education
Program



Ways That Ambassadors Serve:

Ambassadors are assisting Next Step students in every facet of their 2-year college experience. Ambassadors help students in their academic classes, and in one-on-one or small group tutoring sessions on academic tasks. They are needed to help Next Step students learn to use various types of technology, from email to PowerPoint to on-line job searches, and using Flip cameras to document their experiences.

Ambassadors can expand Next Step students' abilities to complete daily living tasks independently through regular activities on campus. Ambassadors also are needed as exercise workout partners and lunch dates. Finally, Ambassadors will help vastly enrich Next Step students' social skills as they accompany them to social, sporting, entertainment, and student club/organization events.

Applicants selected as Next Step Ambassadors are expected to serve a minimum of 5-hours per week for one full semester, to complete the mandatory training, and to participate in minimal, online training discussions with the Program Director and the other Ambassadors.

There are many ways you can serve as an Ambassador. The three main ways are:

- Academic Ambassador
- Internship Ambassador
- Social Ambassador

Q&A

Who can become an Ambassador?

Any Vanderbilt student who is committed to building a strong one-to-one relationship with a Next Step student and being part of their circle of support.

Is experience required to become an Ambassador?

No, experience is not required because mentors will be extensively trained in specific roles and given an overview training of the different ways you can serve.

What will the selection process for mentors include?

Mentor applications will be evaluated and references will be checked prior to acceptance.

Why should I become an Ambassador?

College is as much a preparation for adulthood as it is academic preparation for a career. Students with disabilities should be given the same opportunities to grow in the college environment. You would be an integral part of this international movement.

This opportunity has the potential to be a life-changing experience for you. This commitment could nurture your ability to receive ALL people with open eyes and arms.

What qualities are you looking for in an Ambassador?

Next Step Ambassadors must be caring, responsible people that have a strong desire to help others to reach their full potential.

Why haven't I heard of Next Step in the past?

Vanderbilt received a grant from the Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities in January 2009. The first year was devoted to planning, and our first class of students will begin January 2010. While similar programs exist across the country, Next Step at Vanderbilt will be the first program in Tennessee. Hopefully, before long everyone will have heard about Next Step and want to get involved with our program in one way or another.

How do I find out more information?

Please visit our website at <http://NextStep.Vanderbilt.edu>

Who should I contact if I'm interested in becoming a mentor?

Program Director:
tammy.day@vanderbilt.edu | 615-343-0822

Program Coordinator:
alice.gh.kim@vanderbilt.edu | 615-322-0196

Email: NextStep@vanderbilt.edu