



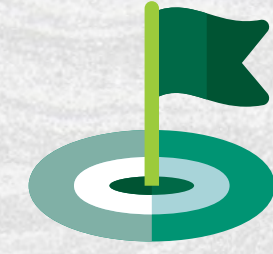
Eileen Hoffman Hafer

UMatter

PROGRAM

What is **UMatter**?

UMatter is an innovative inclusive postsecondary education (IPSE) program created to provide young people with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to experience higher education and campus life.



Program Goals

The program aims to help students increase their skills in the **five program components** based on their individualized goals and tailored program of study:

1

Academic Access and Enrichment

2

Career Development and Employment

3

Campus and Community Engagement

4

Self-Determination

5

Independent Living

Students will complete their program of study by earning a certificate of completion and accomplishment and a Career Readiness Badge from USF based upon their individualized career goals and program of study. The Career Readiness Badge addresses **eight essential skills** employers look for when hiring interns or new employees:

- | | | | |
|----------|--------------------|----------|-----------------|
| 1 | Career Management | 5 | Leadership |
| 2 | Communications | 6 | Professionalism |
| 3 | Critical Thinking | 7 | Teamwork |
| 4 | Global Citizenship | 8 | Technology |

Students who successfully complete the program will obtain competitive employment aligned with their selected program of study.



Who Should Apply?

People with intellectual disabilities (must be at least 18 years old) who have a personal desire and support, if applicable, to gain skills related to academics, career development and employment, campus and community engagement, self-determination, and independent living at the USF St. Petersburg campus. Students in U-Matter express a strong desire to continue their education in an inclusive postsecondary setting, explore careers and engage in work-based learning opportunities, and live independently.



Admissions Criteria

Applicants who meet the criteria below will be considered for the U Matter Program:

- A documented intellectual disability that impacts progression in a standard curriculum in pursuit of a postsecondary degree or certificate
- Exited the K-12 system, either through graduating with a regular or special diploma, or high school equivalency
- Is at least 18 years old
- Has a desire to attend college courses and participate in a university campus experience, including a willingness to audit two (2) college courses during each semester (at minimum)
- Has employment and community participation as personal goals, with a commitment to becoming competitively employed during the program and upon exiting the program
- Is capable of mobility on adult campuses, including transportation to and from campus, or be willing to receive travel training to navigate to the campus daily during weekdays
- Displays a level of social maturity conducive to an adult environment (i.e., employment and educational settings)
- Has the ability to maintain self-care and personal hygiene independently

- Has a support system committed to a collaborative partnership, such as the parental/guardian/family support of the student's participation in the program (including commitment to competitive employment during and after program)
- Has a reliable means of communication, including willingness to acquire required technology to participate in program (smart phone with texting and navigation capability)
- Willingness to follow program and university's code of conduct
- Clear discipline/incident record (as applicable from high school or previous employment or other community setting)
- Strong attendance record (as applicable from previous high school, employment, or community setting)
- Willingness to work with an academic mentor/tutor and peer mentor(s)
- Willingness to participate in service/volunteer opportunities in the community as part of the college experience

For detailed admissions criteria, please visit the U Matter website at www.usf.edu/umatter.



How to **Apply**

To apply to the U Matter Program, please visit:

www.usf.edu/education/umatter/program-application.aspx

For more information about the Eileen Hoffman Hafer U Matter Program, please visit the U Matter website at

www.usf.edu/umatter or contact the U Matter Leadership Team at U-Matter@usf.edu.



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