

Vision

> **ReThink Higher Ed™** sees past traditional attitudinal and academic barriers by consulting with educational institutions with like-minded student populations to replicate and implement—**Passport: The Degree Program for Unique Learners.™**

When given the opportunity, students with learning and intellectual challenges can live more self-determined, fulfilled lives with gainful employment. We ignite students with the power to create a successful future.

Goals

- Prepare students for the workforce through academics, social and life skills, and workplace development
- Increase independence
- Promote self-determination and self advocacy
- Promote lifelong learning
- Improve job placement
- Promote higher expectations for students and parents
- Benefit the community



"My son is proving to himself that he has the ability to learn at this level, and his confidence to continue learning has grown immensely. He is no longer afraid of the idea of college, of future workplace participation, or of the future in general." — Parent

ReThink HigherEd™

ReThink Higher Education
Consulting
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"I believe the reason we need academic classes as well as life skills and workplace skills is so that we can be fully rounded individuals, and counted as contributing members of society." — Student



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Passport: The Degree Program for Unique Learners™

ReThink Higher Education Consulting

is about a bold change in higher education —
a degree program designed for highly motivated
young adults challenged with learning, cognitive,
and intellectual disabilities for careers and
independence through academics, social and life
skills, and workplace development.

The Idea

► The American education system is not intended to be a dead end road, yet the inclusion of students with learning, cognitive, and intellectual challenges in elementary and secondary education has not automatically transferred to their inclusion in higher education. Students graduate high school with weaker academic, foundational, social, and workplace skills than they are capable of achieving.

Research shows that postsecondary education is becoming a vital prerequisite for independent adult living and meaningful employment. **ReThink Higher Ed™** serves this unique student population for whom there is little if any college preparation and no serious or viable postsecondary option with a challenging degree program —

Passport: The Degree Program for Unique Learners™

“Community colleges profess to serve adult learners in the community. Such a definition should be inclusive of adults who want to learn. The burden cannot be singly on the students to conform to a static curriculum. Relevant interventions need to be constructed to engage every learner. To exclude learners with disabilities of any sort is to deem them uneducable, an inconceivable and unforgivable label in education.

***ReThink Higher Ed's Passport Program** shows us that all adults should find the community college a welcoming place to be trained in work and life skills by instructors and curriculum designed for them.”*

— Jonathan Deutsch, Ph.D., Assistant Professor,
Kingsborough Community College, City University of
New York

Passport Program*

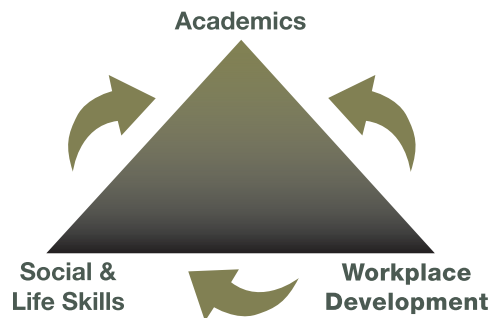
Passport: The Degree Program for Unique Learners™

► **Passport** is a model program designed to help prepare highly motivated young adults challenged with learning, cognitive, and intellectual disabilities for careers and independence. Typically, students have received extensive special education services in K–12 but would have difficulty navigating in a traditional college program. Most participants in this selective program generally attain

scores below the typical range on specific standardized tests of intellectual ability and academic performances.

Passport's strategy for success begins with its focus on the “whole person” in three critical domains: academics, social/life skills, and workforce development. It uses a curriculum with 52 courses and culminates in an Associate in Essential Studies degree with 90 term credits.

*The PASSPORT Program information was based on curriculum developed at Bellevue Community College



How is Passport Unique?

- Small, integrated classes
- Faculty expertise in educating unique learners
- Experiential learning environment
- Classes emphasize problem solving, critical thinking, and self advocacy
- Alternative assessment system
- Formal admission procedure
- Field experiences

Sampling of Core Courses

Academics

Essential Reading and Writing:
World Literature
Learning Strategies
Changing Surface of the Earth
Math Skills
Critical Thinking through Film

Social and Life Skills

Conversations
Brain Basics
Nutrition and Personal Health
Healthy Relationships
Yoga

Workplace Development

Problem Solver in the Workplace
Self Advocacy
Conversations in the Workplace
Computer Applications
Field Experiences

