

UNH-4U Comprehensive Transition Program & Bridges Training Series



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UNH-4U BRIDGES

BRIDGES TO COLLEGE AND CAREER TRAINING SERIES



Introduction

The mission of UNH-4U is to build inclusive higher education capacity in New Hampshire and provide educational experiences that address the unique gifts and talents of individuals with intellectual disability (ID) that result in career and independent living opportunities.

UNH-4U piloted their 2-year Comprehensive Transition Program (CTP), this 2021-2022 academic year, focusing on academic enrichment, campus involvement, independent living skills, and work experiences/career skills. Students have goals that are person-centered, and work toward digital badge obtainment, which are issued by UNH and document the student's learning, competencies, and experiences that can be used for future employment opportunities.

Bridges to College and Career Webinar Training Series

UNH-4U Bridges Webinar Series consists of 4 virtual training courses offered to young adults with intellectual disabilities previously eligible for special education under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Trainings aims to prepare students for higher education, independent living, career goals, and healthy aspects of college life. The Bridges Series can be taken to prepare for a career pathway and are a prerequisite for the 2-year CTP, UNH-4U.

Importance of Transition Programs

- Consider individual's strengths, preferences, and interests
- Promotes independence, competence, employment opportunities, power of experiences, inclusion, and expectations
- Measurable postsecondary goals

UNH-4U Team

- Student and Family (guardians)
- Inclusion facilitators
- Academic coach
- Peer Mentor/Campus Ambassador
- Residential Support Assistant

Strengths of Pilot Year

- Communication, flexibility within roles
- Staff with a background in disability, vocational rehab, area agencies, or occupational therapy
- Students are meeting goals and involved in the campus community

UNH-4U Funding:

- TPSID Grant
- Vocational Rehabilitation: goals related to career exploration
- Area Agencies/Medicaid: goals related to independent living skills
- Family/Guardians: housing and meal plan

Leadership Activities

Served as a UNH-4U Peer Mentor: support student in academic and campus involvement

Facilitated small group discussions in Bridges course, Setting and Realizing Goals

Presented at Bridges information sessions related to campus and social opportunities of UNH-4U

Collaborated in multiple team meetings for student

Conducted annotated bibliography on digital badges and micro-credentialing

Next Steps

- Develop/Improve advising and curriculum structure of the Bridges Series
- Continue to develop UNH-4U structure for academic coaching and campus ambassadors
- Continue to make connections with UNH academic faculty, and campus services/resources to support inclusion of students.
- Communicate with UNH-4U team members to monitor academic progress and communicate with faculty as needed.
- Continue to develop criteria and standards of the program in measurable data for analysis and program development.

References

- <https://iod.unh.edu/unh-4u/unh-4u-bridges>
- <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/tpsid/index.html>
- <https://iod.unh.edu/unh-4u>

UNH-4U 2-year CTP

Bridges Webinar Series

- Authentic campus and academic opportunities
- Independent living skills
- Advising & peer mentoring support

Digital Badge Obtainment, Employment Opportunities