

When our admission process was created, we used resources from Think College and adapted resources that other schools use. Clemson Life was a big resource!

Visit days: Ready For Life (RFL) has two sets of visit days. The first is in the fall and is geared more towards people who are interested in applying in December. The day consists of a campus tour, attending a RFL class led by the RFL instructor, lunch on campus, and question and answer session with staff.

The spring visit day is geared more towards juniors in high school who are considering their options for their future.

Application

RFL applicants access our application from our website. <https://rflnetwork.org/ready-for-life-academy/>
We have several requirements listed in the application and require a lot of paperwork from families!

Students also fill out a life skills inventory. We adapted this from the Casey Life Skills Inventory. This inventory allows us to get a good picture of how the student views their lives and abilities.

Students provide two academic references in their application. We email references a condensed version of the life skills inventory that is focused on the academic components. We are looking for reading, writing, and math levels. We are also looking for current accommodations the student might use and what they are like in a classroom.

Admission team review

Our admissions team then reviews all the applications to ensure the students meet our base requirements. If a student does not meet a requirement, for example, does not have intellectual/developmental disability we would reach out to the applicant and deny them. We then reach out to families and applicants that meet requirements to set up an interview time.

Interview/assessment

Applicants attend an interview and assessment with the admissions team. We interview the student without parents present! The interview helps us to see if the student is passionate about attending college and has goals to live independently and get a job one day. We also assess the students' ability to text and write a paragraph. We also issue a small math and reading assessment. While the student is in the interview the parents meet with another member of the admissions team. Parents fill out a parent readiness scale. This form gives us a picture of their expectations and helps us identify areas where their expectations might not meet what we offer in the program. For example, if a parent expects staff to walk with their son/daughter to class every day we know we need to re-explain the level of independence students have on campus. This time also allows for families to ask the staff any questions they may have.

Admissions 2nd team review

Our team look through the files, interview transcript, and assessments for each student and after reviewing, fills out a rubric. We do this work separately from each other. This process allows us to take everything into consideration while keeping the process equitable. Once we have completed all the rubrics, the team joins up again and compares scores. We then list out the applicants with their score and debrief. Letters of acceptance and "denial" go out!