

**E4Texas Frequently Asked Questions**

# **What is E4Texas?**

# E4Texas is an employment-focused post-secondary opportunity at the University of Texas at Austin for people with or without a disability, who are over the age of 18, have a high school diploma (or equivalent), and are employment-focused.

# The program combines classroom instruction with practical hands-on experience to help students gain professional and independent living skills, become self-determined & independent, and pursue employment in the career field of their choice. By the end of the program students receive several certifications to stand out in the hiring process, and are supported as they find employment in their final semester.

**E4Texas has four goals:**

**Empower** Texans to become self-determined & independent.

**Educate** Texans to gain employment, professional, and independent living skills.

**Employ** Texans in the areas of caregiving.

# Give Texans the tools they need to **Excel** in life!

# How long does it take to complete the program?

# E4Texas has three semesters that must be completed:

# **Summer Semester** – Students live on campus at University of Texas at Austin and learn independent living and self-determination skills. Students will attend classes, familiarize themselves with the city of Austin through public transportation, and engage in special E4Texas outings. Students will learn about disability history, legislative advocacy, healthy relationships, budgeting and independent living.

# **Fall Semeste**r – E4Texas: Educate. Empower. Employ. Excel.

# Students build upon the skills learned over the summer and audit classes on the University of Texas campus, volunteer at community partner organizations, and take classes for their chosen Career Training Track(s). The Fall semester combines classroom instruction with practical career building experiences.

# **Spring Semester** – E4Texas Internship

# Students secure and complete internships, as well as maintain community involvement and take additional classes.

# After successful completion of all three semesters, E4Texas students receive a Certificate of Completion from the Texas Center for Disability Studies at the University of Texas Austin.

# What career training tracks does E4Texas offer?

# We offer 3 career training tracks:

# **Personal Care Attendant (PCA)**: Participants learn essential skills related to providing personal care assistance to individuals with disabilities, including bathing, dressing, mobility assistance, medication administration, and maintaining a safe environment.

# **Child Care Attendant:** Participants gain the necessary knowledge and skills to work as child care attendants, including understanding child development, implementing age-appropriate activities, ensuring safety, and fostering a nurturing environment for children.

# **Paraprofessional:** Participants learn techniques for supporting teachers and students in the classroom, assisting with lesson plans, and providing educational support to students with disabilities.

# **How do I apply for E4Texas?**

# The application process consists of four parts:

# Complete the program application on our website.

# This includes a brief questionnaire, application essay, and resume (including two references).

# Submit the $50 application fee.

# References complete a short survey.

# Qualified students are invited for an interview to further determine program eligibility.

# For more information and the application: [DisabilityStudies.utexas.edu/e4texas](http://DisabilityStudies.utexas.edu/e4texas)

# How is admission determined?

Because students are trained to work with some of the world's most vulnerable populations, the E4Texas curriculum is rigorous, and high expectations are placed upon our students. To maintain program standards, all applications are evaluated to determine program eligibility. Upon review, qualified students are invited for an interview to further determine program compatibility. All students will be notified of acceptance into the program once interviews are completed.

# Applications are accepted October through January (or until the E4Texas class reaches capacity). As admission is competitive, apply early.

# Can I apply for the E4Texas program if I have a disability?

E4Texas is an inclusive program for students with and without disabilities. However, applicants must have their high school diploma (or equivalent), and be their own guardian or utilize Supported Decision Making to be eligible. To find out more information and alternatives to full guardianship, please visit [this website](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fhhs.texas.gov%2Flaws-regulations%2Flegal-information%2Fguardianship&data=05%7C01%7C%7C5fc4c8ab2d06404ace6008db7272cb27%7C31d7e2a5bdd8414e9e97bea998ebdfe1%7C0%7C0%7C638229609578356289%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=NuXDsWbqnL7xqXYCCRXLmQziWRdmN5OIHQq%2FC6jlnNQ%3D&reserved=0).

# What post-secondary educational support will I receive while I am in the program?

# The E4Texas program provides different types of support to students. Universal Design for Learning is utilized during instruction. Instructional materials will be in accessible formats regarding presentations, videos and/or audio. Students can choose to use multiple means to demonstrate their knowledge, such as written, oral, and demonstration. Assistive technology such as a screen reader and speech-to-text training is available for students who need accommodations via the Texas Technology Access Project on a loaner basis as available. In addition, tutoring and mentoring will be provided on an as-needed basis.

# Is there mentor support?

# Each student will have access to mentors over the course of the program to encourage progress towards clearly defined individual goals, which are set during one-on-one meetings with each incoming student prior to the start of the program.

# How much does the program cost?

# The academic portion of tuition is $8,000 per semester ($24,000 for 1 year)

# E4Texas Program tuition does not include housing or meals, however participants must live on designated housing on campus while part of the program. E4Texas works with UT Housing and Dining to reserve rooms. However, the cost of housing and dining is a separate cost payable to the program. Housing/dining costs vary depending on dorm choice. (We typically use [Dobie](https://housing.utexas.edu/housing/dobie-twenty21) or [Jester East](https://housing.utexas.edu/housing/residence-halls/residence-hall-locations/jester-east-hall) dorms.)

# Are there financial resources available for the cost of the program?

# E4Texas is a tuition-based program. Participants may self-pay, apply for scholarships, or apply through the Texas Workforce Commision (TWC). If you are an existing TWC customer, please contact your TWC counselor to determine if the E4Texas program is appropriate for your employment goals. To become a TWC customer, please see the [TWC website](https://www.twc.texas.gov/jobseekers/vocational-rehabilitation-youth-students) and click on “Start My VR” to do a [self-referral.](https://twcgov.service-now.com/com.glideapp.servicecatalog_cat_item_view.do?v=1&sysparm_id=e05bd29c1bf5e41016a1caab234bcb94&sysparm_preview=true&sysparm_domain_restore=false&sysparm_stack=no)

# What are the program dates?

# E4Texas Summer Semester 2023:

# Move in date: Saturday July 1st

# Classes begin: Monday July 3rd

# Independence Day – No Classes: Tuesday July 4th

# Last day of class: Friday July 28th

# Move out date: Saturday July 29th

# E4Texas Fall Semester 2023:

# Move in: Saturday August 19th

# Classes begin: Monday August 21st

# Thanksgiving – No Classes: November 20-25th

# Last day of classes: Friday December 8th

# E4Texas Spring Semester 2024:

# Classes begin: Tuesday January 16th

# Spring Break – No Classes: March 11 – 16th

# Last day of classes: Friday May 3rd

# E4Texas Graduation: Saturday May 4th

# \*E4Texas follows the [UT Academic Calendar](https://hr.utexas.edu/current/leave/holidays) for the Fall and Spring semester

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