



Florida
Consortium
on Inclusive
Higher Education

FCIHE Brief I.17

What is a CTP and FPCTP *and* Why are they Important?

The purpose of FCIHE Brief I.2017 is to provide an explanation of the Comprehensive Transition Program (CTP) and the Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program (FPCTP) certifications, their importance to educators, families and students, and resources to more detailed information.

CTP: Comprehensive Transition Program is a *federal certification* earned by Institutions of Higher Education (IHE) who wish to implement a Comprehensive Transition Program, specifically for students with intellectual disabilities, that meets the requirements of Higher Education Opportunity Act, [HEOA, 2008 Section 760](#) and thereby enabling students with ID to be eligible for Pell, work study, and the Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (SEOG) financial support.

- The federal CTP information can be found at <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/eligibility/intellectual-disabilities>.
- Find a sample CTP application and more information at <http://fcihe.com/resources/policy-financial-aid/ctp-and-fpctp-certifications/>
- On the Participating Schools page of the [FCIHE.com](#) website (<http://fcihe.com/participating-colleges/>) each Florida IHE's CTP and Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program (FPCTP) certification status is listed.

To identify the requirements of a CTP, one must refer to HEOA, 2008 Section 760. The law defines CTPs as:

- “(1) Comprehensive transition and postsecondary program for students with intellectual disabilities.--The term ‘comprehensive transition and postsecondary program for students with intellectual disabilities’ means a degree, certificate, or non-degree program that is—
- “(A) offered by an institution of higher education;
 - “(B) designed to support students with intellectual disabilities who are seeking to continue academic, career and technical, and independent living instruction at an institution of higher education in order to prepare for gainful employment;
 - “(C) includes an advising and curriculum structure; and
 - “(D) requires students with intellectual disabilities to participate on not less than a half-time basis, as determined by the institution, with such participation focusing on academic components and occurring through one or more of the following activities:
 - “(i) Regular enrollment in credit-bearing courses with nondisabled students offered by the institution.
 - “(ii) Auditing or participating in courses with nondisabled students offered by the institution for which the student does not receive regular academic credit.
 - “(iii) Enrollment in noncredit-bearing, non-degree courses with nondisabled students.
 - “(iv) Participation in internships or work-based training in settings with nondisabled individuals.

FPCTP: Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program is a Florida certification earned by IHEs who wish to implement a Comprehensive Transition Program, specifically for students with intellectual disabilities, that meets the requirements of [1004.6495\(5\)\(c\)3, Florida Statutes](#) (FS). FPCTP applications are available through the Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities (FCSUA), and students enrolled in FPCTP certified programs may receive state financial aid through student scholarships. The FCSUA is also authorized to award competitive start-up and enhancement grants for inclusive postsecondary education programs which meet the FPCTP requirements. The Center website is at <http://fcsua.org>).

To be approved as an FPCTP, 1004.6495(6), Florida Statute mandates that an institution have been approved, applied for, or indicated a date for applying for federal CTP approval from the US Department of Education. Once CTP approval of the federal electronic application is obtained, students with intellectual disabilities enrolled in these programs can apply for certain federal financial aid that they may not otherwise qualify for: Pell, work study, and Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (SEOG) from the higher education institution.

- The federal CTP information can be found at <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/eligibility/intellectual-disabilities>.
- On the *Participating Schools* page of the [FCIHE.com](http://fcihe.com) website (<http://fcihe.com/participating-colleges/>) each school's CTP and FPCTP certification status is listed.

Additional resources include:

- Think College at www.thinkcollege.net
- Florida Consortium on Inclusive Higher Education at <http://fcihe.com/resources/policy-financial-aid>.