



- **What is Integrated Studies?**

Integrated Studies is a non-credit certificate curriculum for students with an intellectual disability who otherwise would not be able to attend college. Integrated Studies students complete courses following a traditional liberal arts pathway and select a concentration that aligns with their vocational interests. Courses will primarily be audited, and internships will be frequent to prepare students for competitive community-based employment in an area of interest.

- **What are the key elements of the Integrated Studies Program?**

**Academics** - Students will audit three to four inclusive courses per semester related to their academic and employment goals. Students will receive a certificate of Integrated Studies and a SJC transcript that includes the courses and internships completed. Students will have access to Accessibility Services and Tutoring Services in the Academic Center for Excellence if applicable. Additionally, students will have Peer Partners' support, and academic coaching for enhancing study and organizational skills.

**Employment** - Students will explore career interests and learn employment skills through partnerships with the Career Studio and community / college partnerships. These activities will occur outside of class time, on an individual and group basis. Students will complete individualized on-campus and community-based internships (paid or unpaid), that can count towards audit credit with the ultimate goal of paid employment. Students will be required to attend campus workshops and webinars that relate to their individualized goals (e.g. building a resume, interview skills, career exploration, etc.)

**Social Participation** - Students will participate in campus and community activities like all Monks, including extracurricular activities, intramural sports, and community service to promote active membership in the community. Integrated Studies students will be required to participate in at least one campus club / organization per semester. Students will be required to attend campus workshops and events that relate to their individualized goals (e.g. resident hall cooking workshops, group exercise classes, etc).

### **What is the expectation for an Integrated Studies student auditing?**

Prior to the start of the year, students will meet with IS staff and other members of their support team to determine goals for their time at SJC. At the beginning of each new course, the student and IS staff will create a Learning Agreement to determine academic and overall goals. IS certificate expectations require students to adhere to the attendance policy, complete assignments (modified), complete exams and/or an alternate assessment format (agreed upon in the Learning Agreement), and participate in class. When the Learning Agreement is complete additional resources will be made available to all IS students. Student Support Services, such as ADA Accommodations will be available to all students who apply. Integrated Studies students audit so that they have the flexibility to complete assignments and assessments with modifications and modified expectations.

### **What is a modified assignment?**

A modified assignment means that something about the assignment has inherently changed to meet the needs and skills of the learner. A modification could mean a shorter response, a different format (e.g. PowerPoint rather than essay), or changing the format of questions (e.g. multiple choice rather than short answer). Note that modifications are only available for Integrated Studies students auditing, and that these are different from ADA Accommodations provided by the Manager of Student Accessibility Services . ADA Accommodations change the environment without changing content (e.g. providing closed captioning to a video, taking a test in ACE, rather than in class, having additional time to complete a test etc.).

### **Who are Peer Partners? What is their role?**

Peer Partners are paid undergraduate students in class to provide support to Integrated Studies students. It may be as simple as modeling expected classroom behavior or gentle reminders to refocus students. Peer Partners may help answer clarifying questions, take notes to compare with students after class, or provide in-class support during group work. Peer Partners will also provide support for social learning and experiences.

### **What supports are available for Integrated Studies students?**

Prior to the start of a student's first semester, a person-centered planning meeting will take place including the student, Integrated Studies program staff, family members, supports coordinators etc. to discuss and create an individualized plan for a student's time at SJC. Students will have individualized supports to maximize independence and success on campus.

Some examples include:

- Syllabus modification for audited courses – creating assignments to meet student's learning goals within each course;

- Weekly/Bi-weekly meeting with Integrated Studies program staff to review goals and introduce strategies for success;
- Peer Partners- peer students that will provide support within classes, as well as academic support (time management strategies, organization etc.) outside of class time during lunch, at the gym etc.;
- Job coaches- Students will have job coaches provided (either students who have received additional training, or through supports coordination) as needed with the goal of fading supports and introducing strategies to maximize independence;
- Natural supports will be encouraged within the classroom and campus environment.

**Will Integrated Studies Students live on campus? Is transportation provided?**

Students will have the option to live in the residence halls in an inclusive environment. Students will be supported by an RA (Resident Advisor) who has received additional training in strategies to support students with ID. However, students should have sufficient independent living skills that they are able to navigate living with a roommate, doing their laundry, setting their own alarms and establishing routines for bedtime, etc.

Transportation to and from campus for those who choose not to live on campus is **not** provided by SJC.