

Top Ten Reasons To Use the College of Direct Support

1. Access to a curriculum developed by the University of Minnesota's Institute on Community Integration, reviewed by a national board of editors, and cross-walked with the Community Support Skill Standards, developed by a national group of stakeholders and spanning 12 areas of competency for direct support professionals.
2. Access to "anytime, anywhere" training, available online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.
3. Access to 19 courses from the College of Direct Support (CDS) that provide essential foundational training for direct support professionals, with 2 new courses added each year.
4. Access to 5 courses from the CDS College of Frontline Supervision and Management Courses that provide training for supervisors and senior staff members of the direct support workforce to promote recruitment and retention of workers.
5. Access to management tools that allow supervisors to assign courses and monitor staff training progress.
6. Access to a variety of online tools, including a personal journal to take notes while training, and On-the-Job Training Assessments and Portfolio Samples to put the training into practice.
7. Access to training that follows the principles of adult learning, using multiple modes of learning and interactivity: listen to narration and stories, read supplemental information, watch videos, analyze the graphic materials and participate in practical exercises.
8. Access to online testing and transcripts, certificates of completion and continuing education credit.
9. Access to "Iowanized" courses that meet the state's mandatory training requirements for direct support professionals: "Maltreatment of Vulnerable Adults and Children" and "Documentation."
10. The opportunity to participate in a system of training to demonstrate the need to provide ongoing training for Iowa's direct support workforce to assure they are able to provide all Iowans with the care they need.