

**Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center (CCRC)**  
**Frequently Asked Questions**  
(revised May 8, 2017)

**1. Is there a cost for CCRC training?**

No. CCRC training programs are funded through federal vocational rehabilitation funds, so there is no cost or tuition for the training and residential room. Students will need spending money for outings, personal items and some training and medical needs. Examples of training cost include paying for optional recreational activities offered by Criss Cole. Examples of medical costs include purchasing personal medications or paying for medically related emergencies while at the center.

**2. How do I enroll for training?**

If you meet the eligibility requirements, a staff member who works as a vocational rehabilitation or transition counselor will send a training referral to the CCRC admissions department. You will be asked to submit admissions paperwork, which includes an eye report stating legal blindness results of a physical exam (current within one year), and results of a TB test. After reviewing your paperwork, CCRC will notify you of acceptance or denial into the program. If you are accepted, you will receive your admission date to begin your training.

**3. Can students who use American Sign Language participate in CCRC programs?**

Yes, services are individualized to meet the communication needs of individuals served. This may include providing assistive listening devices, touch signals or the use of American Sign Language.

**4. What expectation does CCRC have of students?**

Students are expected to:

- Work in partnership with their CCRC counselors
- Participate in Initial Assessment/Evaluation and take part in developing the Individual Center Services Plan
- Attend and actively participate in scheduled classes
- Apply basic blindness skills as they are learned
- Follow CCRC standards of conduct
- Complete recommended programs

**5. When do admissions intakes occur?**

CCRC offers weekly intakes every Sunday with exceptions being the months of December (when the center closes for Winter break) and Spring break in May/June. These dates fluctuate yearly, so it is best to check with your referring staff member or refer to the CCRC calendar for the most up-to-date information.

**6. What is training like?**

Students will participate in evaluations and attend recommended classes for training. Some classes are required, such as basic blindness skills, and others are elective or based on individual need. During the evenings and on weekends, the student may attend scheduled classes, planned activities or engage in activities of their choice.

**7. What is the average length of training time?**

CCRC offers short and long-term training, depending on the student's needs and availability. The average training time for a student enrolled in long-term training is three to six months. Short term-term training can extend from one week to a month.

**8. What if a student decides CCRC isn't a good fit for them?**

Students are encouraged to complete the evaluation/training planned and to discuss their concerns with CCRC counselors. However, students are free to leave CCRC training at any time.

**9. Will the referring staff member be involved with the student's training while they are at CCRC?**

Yes. The student and CCRC counselor will maintain close contact with the referring staff member throughout the student's stay at CCRC.

**10. How does a student get to CCRC and back home again?**

The referring staff member will assist the student in arranging transportation to CCRC in Austin. The student makes arrangements for transportation home after completing CCRC training, as coordinated by the student's CCRC counselor.

**11. Where do students stay while training?**

Students are housed in our residential dormitory style rooms. Typically, students will share rooms. However, we may be able to accommodate single room

requests on a case-by-case basis if rooms are available. Our residential staff is on site 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

**12. Can family and friends visit the student at CCRC?**

Yes. Family and friends are encouraged to visit after classes in the evening and on weekends. In coordination with CCRC, families may arrange visits during class time to observe skills learned by the student.

**13. Can a student go home to visit during their training?**

Yes. However, students are responsible for the cost and arrangements for these trips. Students are encouraged to coordinate visits home with their CCRC counselor.

**14. Can students come and go as they please while attending training?**

Students are expected to attend classes. Students are free to come and go as they like when their class schedule allows. All students are required to sign out when leaving the facility for safety and security purposes.

**15. Does CCRC find jobs for students?**

Although some students are employed during or immediately after CCRC training, CCRC services do not include job placement. CCRC staff will assist students with self-assessment, occupational exploration and job-preparation skills/post-secondary education guidance. CCRC also offers a Work Experience Program toward the end of the training program. Through the Work Experience Program, students can volunteer in the community in a position that is closely related to the field of employment they are seeking. Students have the opportunity to network, practice what they have learned, and gain valuable work experience.