



# Alternative & Special Education

## At Lincoln Academy

Students have a rich diversity of strengths, skills, and life experiences. We believe that these differences create a stronger learning environment for all students. We are committed to meeting the needs and supporting the aspirations of all students within their wide range of cultures, learning styles, socioeconomic backgrounds, and national and individual identities.

## Alternative Education Program

The Alternative Education program provides students who are not identified with special needs (in other words, students who do not have Individualized Educational Plans) but who may not be thriving in the traditional high school classroom with a more experiential, individualized learning environment. Our program is based on the “Empowerment Model,” which teaches students to assume primary responsibility for their own actions, behaviors, and workload, while providing them with a nurturing and highly individualized experience. Currently offered for students in grades 11 and 12 and accepting 10th grade students on a space-available basis, Alternative Education serves a wide range of students, working with each to develop disciplined work habits while maintaining a community based on respect and self-advocacy.

Meeting  
students  
where  
they are.





# Special Education Programs

All Special Education programs at LA are designed to address the needs of students for whom Individualized Educational Plans (IEPs) have been constructed. The process of determining which program best serves a student begins with an IEP meeting that includes the student, his or her parents or guardians, the Director of Special Education, teachers and other members of LA's Student Services Team (SST) as needed.

Programs to support our special ed population at LA range from developmental classes, to support in the Learning Center, to individualized learning in IDEAL, to our Life Skills program, which provides additional support for students enrolled in mainstream developmental classes, to programs focused on teaching life skills.

## Develop- mental Classes

Developmental Classes are offered in English, Math, Science, and Social Studies at Lincoln Academy. Trained special education teachers teach these content area classes and address specific goals as stated on students' Individualized Educational Plans as part of the course work.

## Learning Center

Content-area support, study skills, reading and writing strategies, and growth in self-advocacy and self-management are among the areas addressed in the Learning Center. Study Skills classes provide special education students with specific instruction as designated on each student's Individualized Educational Plan, including transition planning and support, academic work, test taking, time management, and organization.

## IDEAL (Innovatively Designed Education for All Learners)

IDEAL serves special education students in grades 9-12 who have difficulties finding success in traditional classrooms. Students participate in academics, service learning, vocational programming, and job mentoring in the program. Individually designed, project-based instruction helps students gain credits towards graduation, improve pro-social behaviors, and prepare for college or career readiness.

## Life Skills Program

Life Skills classes serve students with intellectual or developmental disabilities. Teachers provide direct instruction in a number of skill areas within a modified curriculum. The goal is to help these students reach their potential in both academics and other functional areas such as independent living. Independence and self-reliance are the primary goals of all instructional strategies employed in the Life Skills program, which includes skill areas such as money concepts, time concepts, independent living skills, self-care and hygiene, community access, and vocational training.