



THRIVE 2026–2027 Fact Sheet

Mission

THRIVE, a Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary program for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities, helps empower students to be participating members of their communities and helps them gain skills to attain competitive integrated employment.

Philosophy

Focus on self-determination as exemplified by the six threads of the THRIVE Program: Transformation, Health, Responsibility, Independence, Vocation, and Education.

Success is measured by student outcomes that demonstrate equality of opportunity, full participation, vocational readiness, independent living, and self-sufficiency.

What Is THRIVE?

- A 2-year program that earns a Certificate of Success at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, Missouri.
- Experienced instructors, advisors, and counselors to support each student.
- Core classes that emphasize academic enrichment, career development, life and social skills, and independent living.
- Person Centered Planning (PCP), career focus, and internships so students may experience employment opportunities that match their skills and interests.
- Residence hall living on campus supported by THRIVE student mentors.
- Integration into academic, social, residential, and community life.
- Collaborative partnerships with educational departments on campus and community businesses.
- THRIVE also has a 4-year option for students in our 4-year CTP Program.

Guardianship

Students in the THRIVE program do not have to be their own guardians. Individuals under legal guardianship are eligible to apply to the THRIVE program. Some guardianships are inconsistent with some of the THRIVE learning outcomes and the residential learning environment of the THRIVE program. UCM reviews guardianships on a case-by-case basis.

Ideal Candidates for the THRIVE Program

Ideal candidates for the THRIVE Program will:

- Be between 18 and 25 years of age at the time of admission.
- Have been diagnosed with an intellectual or developmental disability before age 18.
- Have been eligible for a free, appropriate public education and have the ability to participate in an independent living environment.

- Demonstrate basic skills in reading, writing, and math.
- Possess a desire and potential to benefit from a post-secondary educational experience, but are unlikely to meet the usual college admission criteria or to be successful in a traditional college degree program.
- Be motivated to become an independent adult.
- Possess sufficient emotional maturity and stability to participate in all aspects of a residential college-based program, with support.
- Demonstrate the ability to accept and follow rules and display respectful behavior.
- Agree to attend and participate in classes and activities related to the THRIVE Program.
- Be able to administer any necessary medications independently.

Admission Process

THRIVE — Making the Next Step Possible: Applications are due by the end of December.

The THRIVE application process is designed to determine whether an applicant's learning, performance, motivation, current life skills, and job interests align with the mission of the THRIVE Program. The application materials may be found at www.ucmo.edu/thrive. Upon review of the completed application, a family interview is required as the second phase of the application process for prospective students who receive a positive review.

The THRIVE admissions committee evaluates the individual's overall abilities, preparedness, and motivation. Neither diagnosis nor test scores alone determines whether a prospective student is a good match for the THRIVE Program.

Costs

The following are the cost estimates for the 2026–2027 school year. Costs are based on UCM standard rates and are subject to change.

Application Fee: \$50

Cost Item	Fall Semester	Spring Semester
THRIVE Fee (due by August 1)	\$5,550	—
Tuition	\$5,473.50	\$5,473.50
Housing	\$3,500	\$3,500
Meals (3 Access Plan options)	\$2,153–\$2,446	\$2,153–\$2,446
Semester Total	\$16,676.50–\$16,969.50	\$11,126.50–\$11,419.50

Estimated total for the school year: \$27,803–\$28,389.

Families are encouraged to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov to be considered for need-based financial assistance, including Pell Grants and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants. UCM's federal school code is 002454.

More Information

For more THRIVE information, visit www.ucmo.edu/thrive or call the THRIVE office at [660-543-4636](tel:660-543-4636) to make an appointment for a THRIVE campus visit.

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