

The Community Skills class was created as a way for students to practice independent living skills in the community. The students go off campus weekly to various places to practice their skills as they learn through first hand experiences in the community. Students will visit various places such as: home improvement stores, banks, grocery stores (including BJ's), post office, Braintree Town Hall, public transportation, RMV, etc. The details of the curriculum vary depending on the needs of the students. As an example, the class may visit Target and have to ask a salesperson where to find a particular item, listen to the answer, thank the salesperson, and then navigate the store to find the item. In the next class students may go to a grocery store with a shopping list and decide what brands, sizes of packages to buy and how to navigate sales in order to get the best deals. Students will also go to the Braintree T station, buy a Charlie card, figure out the right platform to board the T, practice ways of managing anxiety that doesn't make them stand out, arrive at a location and then find the correct platform to take the T back to Braintree. These are examples of the types of activities students are able to participate in. The exact curriculum for any given trimester is based on the specific needs of the class roster. The goal is for the students to be able to apply and adapt their skills in the community to promote independence and self confidence.