



Direct Support Professional

Median Pay

\$31,948 per year / \$15.36 per hour

If you want a career caring for others, a career in Special Education may be right for you.

What does a Direct Support Professional do?

They care for individuals experiencing developmental or intellectual disabilities. Their main duties include helping individuals complete daily living skills and provide guidance on a range of developmental goals from community participation, household budgeting, exercise, nutrition and supporting vocational responsibilities.

Duties:

- Assist clients in their daily personal tasks, such as bathing or dressing
- Perform housekeeping tasks, such as laundry, washing dishes, and vacuuming
- Help to organize a client's schedule and plan appointments
- Arrange transportation to doctors' offices or other outings
- Shop for groceries and prepare meals to meet a client's dietary specifications
- Keep clients engaged in their social networks and communities

What is their work environment like?

Most Direct Support Professionals work in a variety of settings, including group homes, residential facilities and day services programs.

How do you become

a Direct Support Professional? They earn the Certificate of Initial Proficiency. This program requires sixty (60) hours of classroom instruction





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which covers 20 modules including an overview and history of developmental disabilities, providing personal care with dignity, augmented communication, behavioral supports, self-determination, etc. In addition, candidates are required to demonstrate their proficiency of skills by earning badges during volunteer opportunities out in the field at various agencies that serve people with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities.

What is the Career Outlook for Direct Support Professionals?

Overall employment of Direct Support Professionals is projected to grow 49% and is considered to be the second fastest growing occupation in the country and is much faster than the average for all occupations.

Earn Credits toward Graduation!

Your Career Technical Education classes will not only teach you skills you can apply to a career, but they will also count towards graduation!

