



**What to Expect at COS &  
How your IEP/504 Plan  
Transitions to Accommodations/  
Services with the AAC**



# Who Are We?

**AAC is a resource for students, staff, faculty, and our community.  
We are here to support you!**

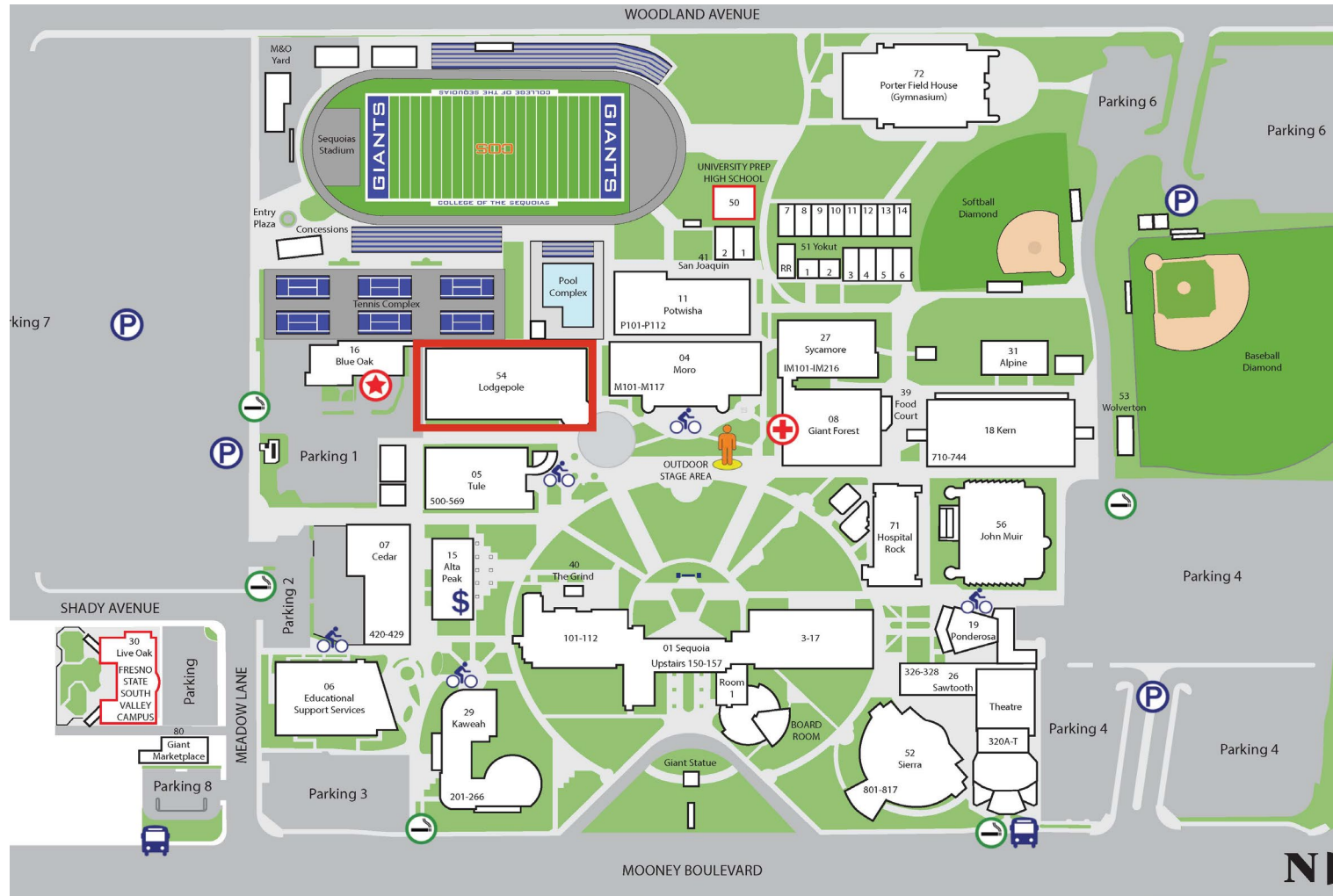
## Access and Ability (AAC) Staff:

<b>AAC Director:</b>	Lyndsi Litten	<b>Interpreting Services Coordinator</b>	Catrina Campbell
<b>AAC Counselors:</b>	Maria Hamid Matt Bentley Chong Yang John Hedrington	<b>Testing Center</b>	Kristen Richetta ( <i>Visalia</i> ) Lladira Cisneros ( <i>Visalia</i> ) Cassi Bear ( <i>Hanford</i> ) Theresa Rocha ( <i>Tulare</i> )
<b>Learning Specialists:</b>	Matt Bentley Chong Yang	<b>Alt Media &amp; Tech Specialist:</b>	TBA
<b>Support Services Coordinator:</b>	Kyle Campbell	<b>Frontline office team</b>	Laura Delgado Brianna Loera Our wonderful student workers
<b>Data Management Specialist</b>	Melony Henson	<b>Contact info found at:</b>	<a href="https://www.cos.edu/aac">https://www.cos.edu/aac</a>

### COS Legal Affairs

ADA Coordinator/508 Compliance Officer: **John Bratsch** - [johnbr@cos.edu](mailto:johnbr@cos.edu) 559.730.3830

Main AAC office is at the Visalia COS campus, Lodgepole (back of library)





# Differences between K-12 & College

Grades K-12	Community College
Student has the right to a free and appropriate public education	Student has the right to equal access to education; admission and continued participation are dependent on eligibility and satisfactory progress
School district identifies student and documents disability	Student provides documentation of disability and need for accommodation
District is responsible for developing Individual Educational Plan (IEP); 504 plan follows student from elementary school, to middle school, to high school	Student must notify the college regarding disability and need for services
Student is entitled to services identified on IEP; school district ensures that IEP is implemented and services are delivered	No IEP; student is responsible for requesting and utilizing services and/or accommodations; college services are not automatic; each college decides eligibility and services
Parents and teachers advocate for student	Student self-advocates; process is more cooperative, deliberative, and interactive
Program of study may be fundamentally altered to fit the student	Accommodations may not alter fundamental nature of course or impose undue burden on institution
Student may have right to success; institution is responsible for student's success	Student is responsible for meeting requirements for academic success
Personal services are provided (e.g., nurse, personal attendant care, transportation)	No personal services provided
School staff communicates with parents	Students are treated as adults, with confidentiality rights. Information can only be shared off-campus with written authorization; on-campus, it's shared on a "need-to-know" basis.



# Additional Differences

- **Students is responsible for**
  - initiating teacher notification – if you don't let your teachers know about your services, they won't know to let you use them (FNL Form).
  - managing their own time and schedule – there is no bell schedule.
  - meeting the expectations of the course - **No assignment modifications.**
- **Student decides:**
  - their course of study “major”
  - the number of units in which they wish to enroll each semester (0-15)
  - the services they wish to use and when.
- **Remember:**
  - Everyone has different goals in college.
  - Class schedules may vary with time and days.
  - We recommend using the COS Tutorial Center, Math Lab, and Writing Center to help with student success.

# AAC $\neq$ Special Education

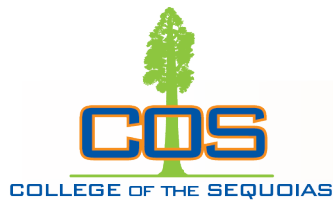
College does not have special education classes; students use accommodations.



# Why Connect with AAC?

The Access and Ability Center works with students with qualifying conditions to ensure equal access to their education by:

- Providing academic accommodations and assistive services to help with barriers to learning
- Encouraging self-advocacy, abilities, and skill development through various services
- Offering Learning Skills (LS) Classes and study skills
- Offering Specialized Counselors and Service Assistance



# AAC Services, Materials & Courses Available

## **Alternate Media**

Audio Books/eText

Braille Books

Large Print

Tactile Graphics

## **Assistive Services**

Assistive Technology (including training)

Alternative Furniture Requests

Faculty Notification Letter (FNL)s

Counseling (academic, career)

Priority Registration

Sign Language Interpreters

Testing Center Services

Readers/Writers (during testing)

Access Lab (also on Zoom)

## **Employment Assistance**

DOR Referrals

## **Learning Assessments**

## **Equipment (Limited Quantity)**

Adjustable Back and Seat Cushions

Otter.ai

Smart Pens

Audio Recorders

FM Systems/Amplification Devices

Luggage Carts

Spellchecker (for exams)

## **Liaison**

Facilitate Student/Faculty Communication

Referral to other COS Programs and Services

Referral to Community Resources

Seizure/Diabetes Notices

Tutoring Referrals

Encourage Self-Advocacy

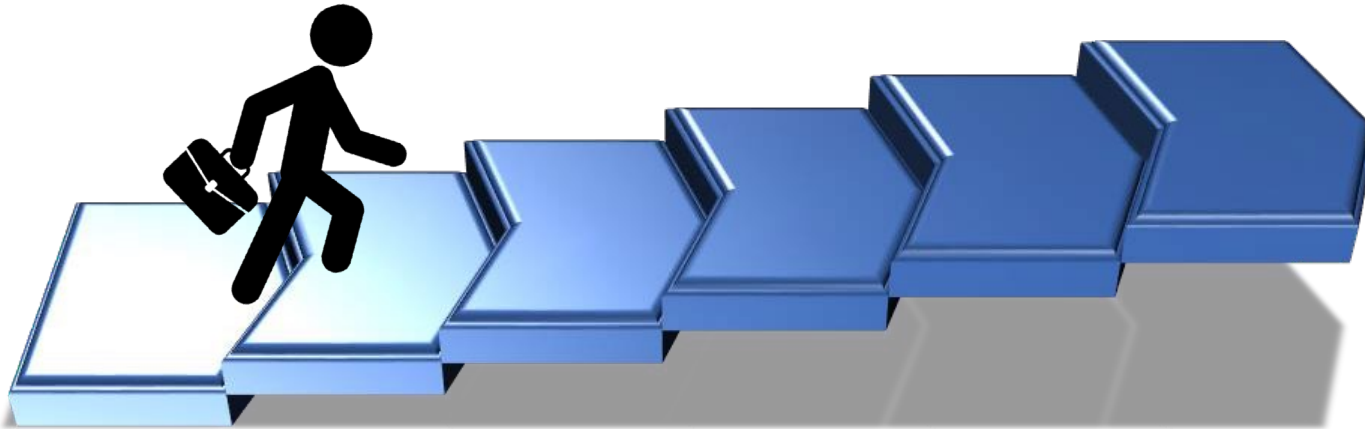
## **Learning Skills Classes**

LS 315: Transition to College

LS 320: Personal Development



# Educational Options at COS



College of the Sequoias			CSU/UC/In-State-Private/Out-of-State		
<b>Certificate</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Major only</i>	<b>Associate Degree</b> (AA/AS) <input type="checkbox"/> COS GE <input type="checkbox"/> Major	<b>Transfer</b> CSU/UC/ Private <input type="checkbox"/> Cal-GETC <input type="checkbox"/> AA-T/AS-T	<b>Bachelor's Degree</b> (BA/BS)	<b>Master's Degree</b> (MA/MS)	<b>Doctorate Degree</b> (Ph.D/Psy.D/ EDD/EDS)

**NOTE:** At a Community College, one's application is not contingent upon "acceptance" like at universities; you may enroll in classes after applying to the college on your assigned date.



# AAC Process

## STEPS TO ENROLL

1. **Apply for COS** via [CCCApply](#)
    - After applying, you will receive an email with MyGiant login credentials and Banner ID
  2. **Apply for AAC**
    - Student logs into [COS MyGiant portal](#) and completes the “Access & Ability Center AIM Application”
- The logo for the Access & Ability Center (AAC) AIM Portal features a green sequoia tree above the letters "COS" in a stylized blue and orange font. Below this, the text "Access & Ability Center" and "AAC AIM Portal" are written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.
- Submit Verification Documents (IEPs, 504 Plans, etc) with the AIM application (**NOTE:** AAC cannot process the application without the verification)
  3. **Attend Intake Appointment to Receive AAC Services**
  4. **Complete FAFSA or the Dream Act Application.**
  5. **Register for classes during AAC STEPS (first week of April) with Zoom help if needed (must have completed steps 1-3)**
  6. **Complete COS Orientation** (Online or by attending Giant Days, end of July/beginning of August)
  7. **Complete AAC Orientation:** Bridge to COS Event (Online or Zoom, beginning of August)

**\*Go directly to this info online at [High School To College at COS](#)**  
**Teachers/Counselors, please email [kyleca@cos.edu](mailto:kyleca@cos.edu) for AAC Outreach Info**



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DEPARTMENT of  
REHABILITATION

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Established 1963

**Vision:** Employment, independence and equality  
for all Californians with disabilities

## **Eligibility Criteria for DOR Services**

- The individual must have a physical or mental impairment
- The impairment(s) constitutes or results in a significant impediment to employment
- VR services are required to secure, retain or regain employment

## **VR Services**

- Career Assessment & Counseling
- Development of Vocational Rehabilitation Plan
- Career Education & Training
- Tuition, Books, Transportation (required to apply financial aid funds first)
- Job Search and Interview Skills
- Assistive Technology

## **Getting Started**

- Call 559-735-3838 to apply for DOR services
- Online: [Dor.ca.gov](http://Dor.ca.gov) > Quick Links > Getting Started



## **Any Questions?**

Visit [www.dor.ca.gov](http://www.dor.ca.gov) for more information on Programs and Services available to Californians with a disability



# Visalia

## ADULT SCHOOL

*Changes Lives!*

**VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

English as a Second Language (ESL)

Citizenship

Adult Basic Education (ABE)

High School Equivalency (HSE)

Spanish GED

High School Diploma (HSD)

Vocational Nurse (VN)

Nurse Assistant Training Program (NATP)

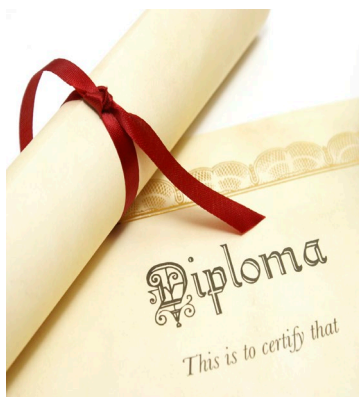
Medical Assistant (MA)

Medical Billing and Coding

Medical Terminology

Care Giver

Child Care





**Visalia**

**ADULT SCHOOL**

*Changes Lives!*

VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Visalia Adult School

Welding

Electrical

Logistics

Basic construction

Office Skills

Microsoft Office

Small Business

Google

Digital Literacy

Custodial Training

Adults with Disabilities (AWD)

Jail Program – HiSet, Electrical, Logistics



VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Visalia Adult School Locations

**Visalia Adult School Main Campus**  
**3110 E. Houston**  
**Classes Daily 8am-3pm**  
**Tuesday - Thursday 6pm-8pm**

**Downtown Visalia Campus**  
**Located in Proteus**  
**224 NW 3rd**  
**Classes Daily 8am-3pm**

**Tulare County Connections**  
**3247 W. Noble Ave**  
**Visalia, CA 93277**

**Visalia Adult School @ Conyer**  
**814 S Sowell St**  
**Tuesday - Thursday 4pm-6pm**

**Visalia Adult School @ Crestwood**  
**3001 W. Whitendale Ave**  
**Tuesday-Thursday 4-6pm**

**Visalia Adult School Ivanhoe Campus**  
**16030 Ave 332**  
**Ivanhoe, CA 93235**  
**Tuesday - Thursday 4pm-6pm**

**Visalia Adult School Exeter Campus**  
**Located at Exeter High School**  
**505 Rocky Hill Drive**  
**Exeter, CA 93221**  
**Tuesday - Thursday 5:30pm-8:30pm**

**Visalia Adult School @ Green Acres**  
**1147 N. Mooney Blvd.**  
**Tuesday-Thursday 4-6pm**

**Creative Center & Able**



**ADULT SCHOOL**

*Changes Lives!*

VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Visalia Adult School

## **Enrollment Process**

-Must be 18 years or older

-Contact Visalia Adult School at:

**-559.730.7646**

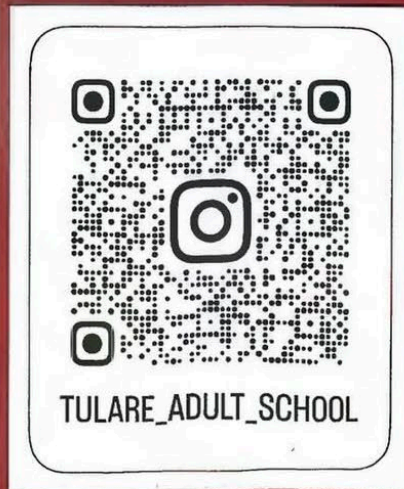
-Schedule a counseling appointment:

**-Lydia Borquez, Counselor**

To enroll online go visit our website:

<https://vas.vusd.org/>

**See our website for enrollment dates!**



The Commission granted TAS with a six-year Accreditation Status through June 30, 2029



# Tulare Adult School

## Enrollment Process

- Must be 18 years or older
  - If first time student, create an account.
  - Orientations required for most programs.
- Contact the **Tulare Adult School at 686-0225** or visit [www.tulareadultschool.net](http://www.tulareadultschool.net) to learn more about our programs, create an account, and enroll into a class or an orientation session.



# Tulare Adult School

## Current Programs

- **Adult Basic Education (ABE):** Tulare, Pixley
  - Work on improving reading comprehension skills
- **Adult Secondary Education (ASE):** Tulare, Pixley
  - High School Diploma
  - General Educational Development (GED) (English and Spanish Classes)
- **English as a Second Language (ESL):** Tulare, Pixley, Earlimart
  - EL Civics and Citizenship Preparation



# Tulare Adult School

- Clinical and Administrative Medical Assisting(MA)
- Combination Welding
- Culinary Arts
- Basic Computer Skills
- Careers in Education
- Paraprofessional
- Nurse Assistant (CNA)
- Office Occupations
- Phlebotomy
- Vocational Nursing
- LVN Prerequisites: Anatomy & Physiology;
- Medical Math; Medical Terminology; Nutrition
- Electrical Theory and Applications of Controls for HVAC



# Tulare Adult School

- **Spring Enrollment** has begun.
- Sign Ups for **Medical Assistant** taking place NOW
- **Nurse Assistant** orientations will take place in April 2025
- **Phlebotomy** orientations will take place in May, 2025.
- **Other Dates for upcoming programs on website.**
- [www.tulareadultschool.net](http://www.tulareadultschool.net)



# Thank you for attending!

## SERVICES WE PROVIDE:

- ➔ Extra time to complete quizzes and exams
- ➔ Audiobooks
- ➔ Out-of-class testing in a distraction-reduced setting
- ➔ Ability to obtain classroom notes and/or record lectures
- ➔ Enlarged print
- ➔ Software that allows you to speak to the computer (instead of typing text)
- ➔ Priority registration
- ➔ Tech/equipment loans
- ➔ AND MUCH MORE...

## SHOULD YOU BE GETTING BETTER GRADES? DO ANY OF THESE APPLY TO YOU?

- ADD/ADHD
- previous alcoholism/drug addiction
- anxiety
- arm or leg injury
- arthritis
- asthma
- autism
- back injury
- bipolar disorder
- brain injury
- cancer/cancer history
- carpal tunnel disorder/overuse injury
- chronic fatigue
- depression
- diabetes
- ear/nose/throat disorder
- eye/vision disorder
- fibromyalgia
- frequent headache/migraines
- hearing loss
- heart condition
- history or receiving special education services/resource assistance K-12
- IBS
- kidney disease
- learning disability (dyslexia, math comprehension difficulties)
- liver disease
- lung disease
- lupus
- seizures/epilepsy
- speech impairment
- thyroid condition
- valley fever
- any physical/mental/sensory condition that impacts school
- if none of the above apply, learning assessments are available

We look forward to hearing from you!

[www.cos.edu/aac](http://www.cos.edu/aac)  
aac@cos.edu  
(559) 730 – 3805



<https://www.cos.edu/aac>

## CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

AAC VISALIA CAMPUS  
Lodgepole 105  
(559) 730-3805  
AAC@cos.edu

AAC HANFORD CAMPUS  
VOC Building  
(559) 583-2515  
AACHanford@cos.edu

AAC TULARE CAMPUS  
Building A  
(559) 688-3000  
AATulare@cos.edu