Students admitted into the CICE program must possess the following essential skills to succeed. Although they receive academic support, support is not provided during placement shifts or between classes. The following list outlines the skills that students should work to achieve before starting the program to support their success in both their courses and community placements.

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| **Skills** | **Examples** |
| Communicate thoughts, ideas, and needs clearly and in a focused manner (verbal, writing, ASL, or other augmentative communication method) | * Answering questions about course content, completing tests or assignments, or participating in group discussions * Communicating to placement site supervisor if there are questions or if they require support * Communicating with college services to receive assistance (Student Wellness and Accessibility, IT, Food Services, etc.) |
| Understand foundational level information provided in verbal, written, ASL, or other method of communication | * Following along with course lectures and remembering some of the information taught * Learning modified class material through reviewing notes, listening in class and in tutoring * Following instructions provided by placement supervisor to complete assigned tasks * Receiving and responding appropriately to safety information, instructions, and warnings at placement or in lab-based classes |
| Present self in a professional manner | * Maintaining good hygiene and accessing available hygiene supports as needed * Using appropriate language * Following the Student Code of Conduct |
| Attend placement independently | * Taking the bus, driving, or arranging a ride to get to placement * Completing assigned tasks without having someone from the CICE program present * Being professional at placement |
| Navigate college spaces | * Finding class/tutoring locations independently (after transitional supports the first few weeks) * Spending time between classes in appropriate college spaces and activities |
| Demonstrate self-motivation to learn in a college setting | * Regularly going to class, tutoring sessions, and placements * Showing an interest in wanting to learn * Accepting modifications and help with learning |
| Be present and engaged in 3-hour college courses, including lectures with access to breaks | * Staying off phones/social media during learning * Listening to faculty and learning specialists * Participating in activities * Using focus tools and strategies |
| Use of technology to communicate with teachers, peers, and college staff | * Checking email regularly * Comfortably sending and replying to emails * Learning new communication platforms used by the college, such as Teams and Blackboard |
| Use of digital tools to support success | * Comfortably logging into a computer and navigating basic functions (internet search, word processing software, saving files, etc.) * Setting alarms for time management * Using digital reminders or calendars * Using assistive technology, as required |
| Demonstrate problem solving skills | * Responding to disagreements or conflict appropriately * Actively trying to solve a problem – Using strategies and models to solve problems independently as a first step * Using time appropriately to ensure schoolwork is complete |
| Demonstrate self-advocacy skills | * Asking for clarification * Speaking up if there is a question/concern |
| Use of some stress management strategies | * Demonstrating coping strategies when faced with stressors |
| Cope with mature content in an adult environment | * Sitting in lectures where mature content, such as sex, drugs, or violence are discussed |