Application Process

Please use the following list to help you complete the materials and steps required to apply for admission to Clemson HOPE, as well as monitor your progress throughout the Application Process:

- Complete and submit the Application packet, including a non-refundable $50 application fee.
- Submit High School Transcripts
- Educational & Psychological Evaluations including most current IEP
- Submit letters of recommendation, 3 total representing the following areas: Teacher (Case Manager preferred), Employer (if applicable), and Personal (not a relative or peer)
- Submit results of a current physical examination (has occurred within one year)
- Attend an open house

After review of the paperwork, an interview will be scheduled with the applicant and parents/guardian.

Applications will be reviewed by a screening committee and at that time students will be selected for admission. Applicants will be notified by email, phone call or letter upon acceptance. Please note that a limited number of applicants will be admitted.

Admission to Clemson HOPE will be based on the following criteria:

- Applicants must be between the ages of 18-23.
- The applicant must have a cognitive and/or intellectual disability “characterized by significant limitations both in intellectual functioning and in adaptive behavior as expressed in conceptual, social and practical adaptive skills.” (AAIDD, AAMR, 2002)
- The applicant is able to manage basic self-care skills such as eating, dressing, toileting and personal hygiene.
- The applicant must have maturity and stability to participate in all aspects of the Clemson HOPE program such as group learning activities and projects, including those that take place outdoors.
- The applicant must demonstrate the ability to follow rules set forth by the Clemson HOPE leadership and behave respectfully towards other students and leaders. The applicant must be able to participate in work and play activities without needing significant medical or behavioral support. Clemson HOPE does not have the personnel to manage difficult behaviors or to dispense medication.
- The applicant must demonstrate a commitment to work and a desire for personal independence.