

NEWSLETTER

OCEAN COUNTY ACHIEVEMENT CENTER



About Us

The Ocean County Achievement Center (OCAC) is a collaborative partnership with Ocean County College, Ocean County PIC, Inc., and Georgian Court University. The OCAC is located on the Toms River campus of Ocean County College and provides free comprehensive individualized services to out-of-school young adults and adults. The services address academic, career, and financial goals, including high school equivalency preparation.



About Ocean County College

Ocean County College, an innovative academic leader, provides affordable, student-centered, high-quality educational experiences that empower diverse learners to succeed. To achieve its mission, OCC invests in and fosters academic, economic, and cultural excellence and ensures financial strength by generating multiple revenue streams, engaging in national and international university and corporate partnerships, and cultivating a technologically progressive and entrepreneurial spirit.

OCEAN COUNTY ACHIEVEMENT CENTER

STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

"Attending the Ocean County Achievement Center has improved my life and gave me opportunities both for personal growth and educational growth. I learned and continued to build upon skills that would help me not just career-wise, but also altogether in life. Working together with others and expressing innovative ideas was a major part I took with me. Where once I may have struggled with making my voice heard in a group setting, I now put my ideas out there and don't fear rejection or constructive criticism. Since being in this program my social life has flourished and I have made many friends, something that I had been struggling with prior.

I gained job seeking skills, which I had no idea of how to navigate before joining the Achievement Center. Not only were the topics of cover letters, resumes, and job interview etiquette covered, but also the idea to never give up no matter how many times you may run into a wall and feel defeated. When one's efforts don't have the ideal outcome, keep getting back up. When one door closes, another door opens. I carry this sentiment with me as I job search and seek new opportunities and experiences.

During my time at the Achievement Center, I had the pleasure of meeting some of the most kind and considerate people. The instructors, advisors, and the people who I job-shadowed for always made me feel supported and secure in my abilities. I always felt welcome to ask questions and request help if I needed it. I feel so lucky that I had the opportunity to further my knowledge and better myself at the Achievement Center with these people by my side to support me and my growth. If there is one thing that I want to say to you from my personal experience, it's that it is never too late to learn new skills. Life is a journey, not a race, and not everyone has the same journey. As long as you keep trying and putting your best foot out there, you're succeeding."

Shelby Baskan, 2024 Graduate & Former WRAP Student

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STUDENT HIGHLIGHT



The Learner Writing Contest from NJ ALL is open to anybody who is a student in an Adult Education Program. This year there were over 80 submissions across six categories - memoir, fiction, non-fiction, poetry, photography and art. This student submitted in the poetry category and won! Each submission is reviewed by a mix of teachers, tutors, and students. First place winners receive \$100, second place receives \$50 and third place receives \$25. They all also get a certificate and a printed copy of the magazine. The PDF version of the magazine will be available for free download in the Fall.

WORK READINESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (WRAP)

Program

The Work Readiness Assistance Program (WRAP) is for out-of-school young adults between the ages of 16 and 24 living in Ocean County. WRAP provides free services to address academic, career, and financial goals. Services are also provided by various community partners to engage young adults and adults in educational programs, career exploration, work readiness training, internships, on-the-job learning, leadership development, job placement, adult mentoring, and work experience opportunities.

The WRAP grant has built-in support services to also assist young adults struggling with mental health, food insecurities, and more.



Exploration of Career Pathways & Entrepreneurship

Twenty-one students completed the Exploration of Career Pathways and Entrepreneurship course since October 2024. Students obtained a CPR and Basic First Aid Credential, a Teen Mental Health First Aid Certificate, OSHA-10 Hour General Industry Certificate, Bloodborne Pathogens, Microsoft Fundamentals, and a Customer Service and Sales Credential.

Leadership Academy & Service Learning

Twelve students completed the Leadership Academy and Service Learning course since October 2024. Students learned about making smart choices, setting goals and changing negative habits. They also participated in service learning at Ocean County's Trunk or Treat as well as at JBJ Soul Kitchen.

WRAP EVENTS

Career Exploration NYC Trip & Broadway Play



WRAP NYC Trip

WRAP students took part in a career-focused day in New York City! They explored various career paths in Broadway, gained insight into salaries, and discussed the cost of living in NYC. The day included a fine dining experience at Carmine's and concluded with a Broadway performance of & Juliet. It was a successful trip filled with both education and fun!

ADULT EDUCATION, CIVICS, AND WORKFORCE PREPARATION (TITLE II)

High School Equivalency

High school diploma equivalency classes assist individuals in preparing to take the GED exam to earn a State of New Jersey High School Diploma. Classes are run 4 times a year for a minimum of 10-weeks per term. Attendance is mandatory with a maximum of 3 unexcused absences. The programs are designed to assist individuals in reaching their educational and career goals effectively. All individuals are required to attend orientation; complete and intake and forms; and take a pre- & post assessment.

Course Details:

- Mandatory Orientation
- In-Person Placement Testing
- Registration Required

Length:

- 10 Week Terms (Summer, Fall, Winter & Spring);
 - 6 Instructional Hours
 - Morning and evening schedules available*



English as a Second Language

English as a Second Language (ESL) classes provide instruction to enhance, develop, and strengthen your ability to read, write, listen, and speak in English. The classes are provided in English two mornings or two nights a week in person. There are six levels for students to enroll in; however, not all levels are offered at all locations. Classes run for 10 weeks each semester (summer, fall, winter, and spring). Attendance is mandatory with a maximum of 3 unexcused absences. All individuals are required to attend orientation, complete an intake and forms, and take a pre- & post assessment.

The Achievement Center also provides Civics/ESL and Integrated Education Training (IET). These classes are designed to provide occupational career and education training together. IETs are offered in conjunction to Civic courses. Training hours vary depending on the type of occupation training, and a certificate or credential can be earned. We currently offer IETs in Customer Service & Sales, Culinary Foundations, and Medical Terminology. As with ESL classes, IETs run for 10 weeks per semester and requires 6 in-person instructional hours per week (morning and evening schedules available).

ACHIEVEMENT CENTER EVENTS

NYC Trip & Broadway Play ESL



Students with President, Dr. Monaco

After attending a trip to NYC and see the Broadway play, English, English as a Second Language students attended Ocean County College President, Dr. Monaco's house to discuss the play and the impact it made on the students. The play English is a comedy that unfolds in an Iranian classroom where adult English learners practice for their proficiency exam. As they leapfrog through a linguistic playground, their wildly different dreams, frustrations, and secrets come to light. Can they overcome the limits of language to discover what they really want to say.

UPCOMING ACHIEVEMENT CENTER EVENTS



SAVE THE DATE
Ocean County Achievement Center
GRADUATION

Come celebrate your accomplishment!

JUNE 18 2025 | CEREMONY STARTS : 10:30 AM
PARTICIPANT ARRIVAL : 8:00 AM

LOCATION : 1 College Drive, Toms River
Gateway Building 101 Room 104

FOR INQUIRIES PLEASE EMAIL : achievementcenter@ocean.edu

Photo credit: Photo by [unreadable]

UPCOMING ACHIEVEMENT CENTER COURSES

Adult Education, Civics, and Workforce Preparation Program (Title II)

Summer 2025 Session

Our Summer 2025 waitlist is full, please email or call us at the email/number below to get registered for our Fall 2025 waitlist.

*Must register prior to attending courses

Work Readiness Assistance Program (WRAP)

Exploration of Career Pathways & Entrepreneurship (7-week course)

- July 14th to September 5th

Leadership Academy & Service Learning (1-week course)

- July 7th to July 11th

*Open enrollment to pre-approved program participants



For more information about our programs, services, and enrollment, please visit go.ocean.edu/ocac or call at 732-255-0400 ext. 2354

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OCEAN COUNTY

Achievement Center

NEWSLETTER

IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!



What to Expect:

- Create content for the newsletter
- Participate in the creation of the newsletter
- Tap into your own creative potential
- Engage with your peers to exchange ideas

Join Us for Newsletter Planning!

 WEDNESDAYS AT 3:00 PM TO 4:00 PM
 BUILDING 4, ROOM 111

For More Information

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JOIN US FOR OUR NEWSLETTER MEETINGS EVERY OTHER
WEDNESDAYS
AT 3 PM, IN BUILDING 4, ROOM 111

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Achievement Center