



Virtual – Open House
THRESHOLD PROGRAM

threshold@lesley.edu



Virtual & ONLINE

Experience our Threshold Open House *VIRTUALLY*.

As we deal with the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), the health, wellbeing, and safety of our students, faculty, and staff, as well as members of our extended community, are always first. In full support of the recommended guidelines we have moved our Threshold Open House to an online event.

Threshold CLASSES ONLINE

As of March 23, we have moved our Threshold courses online.

We will resume face to face classes once the university determines it is safe and appropriate to do so. This will be done in consultation with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and in accordance to CDC and WHO guidelines.

AGENDA

- ▶ [An overview of the Threshold Program & Alumni Center](#)
- ▶ [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) web page](#)
- ▶ [Virtual student panel](#)
- ▶ [Virtual walking tour of our campus](#)
- ▶ Visit our [Virtual Open House](#) web page to access all virtual events

We hope you will:

- Become familiar with the 3 programs that Threshold offers
- Learn about the profile of the students we accept
- Learn about the supports that Threshold students and alumni are offered
- Get information about the application process

THRESHOLD'S MISSION

- ▶ To provide a comprehensive post-secondary educational experience for motivated students with diverse learning challenges.
- ▶ To help students maximize the potential of their unique learning styles by integrating academics with practical, professional experience, social engagement, and self-advocacy.
- ▶ To provide graduates [*\(Dudley William's story\)*](#) with the skills necessary to advocate for themselves, obtain meaningful employment, pursue opportunities for continued life-long learning, and become independent, responsible, and socially connected adults.

HISTORY

- ▶ Serving our student population since 1982
- ▶ First, longest running college based transition program of its kind in the nation that combines employment training with a residential component
- ▶ 700 graduates from over 3 dozen countries



WHO WE SERVE

Students with diverse learning differences who:

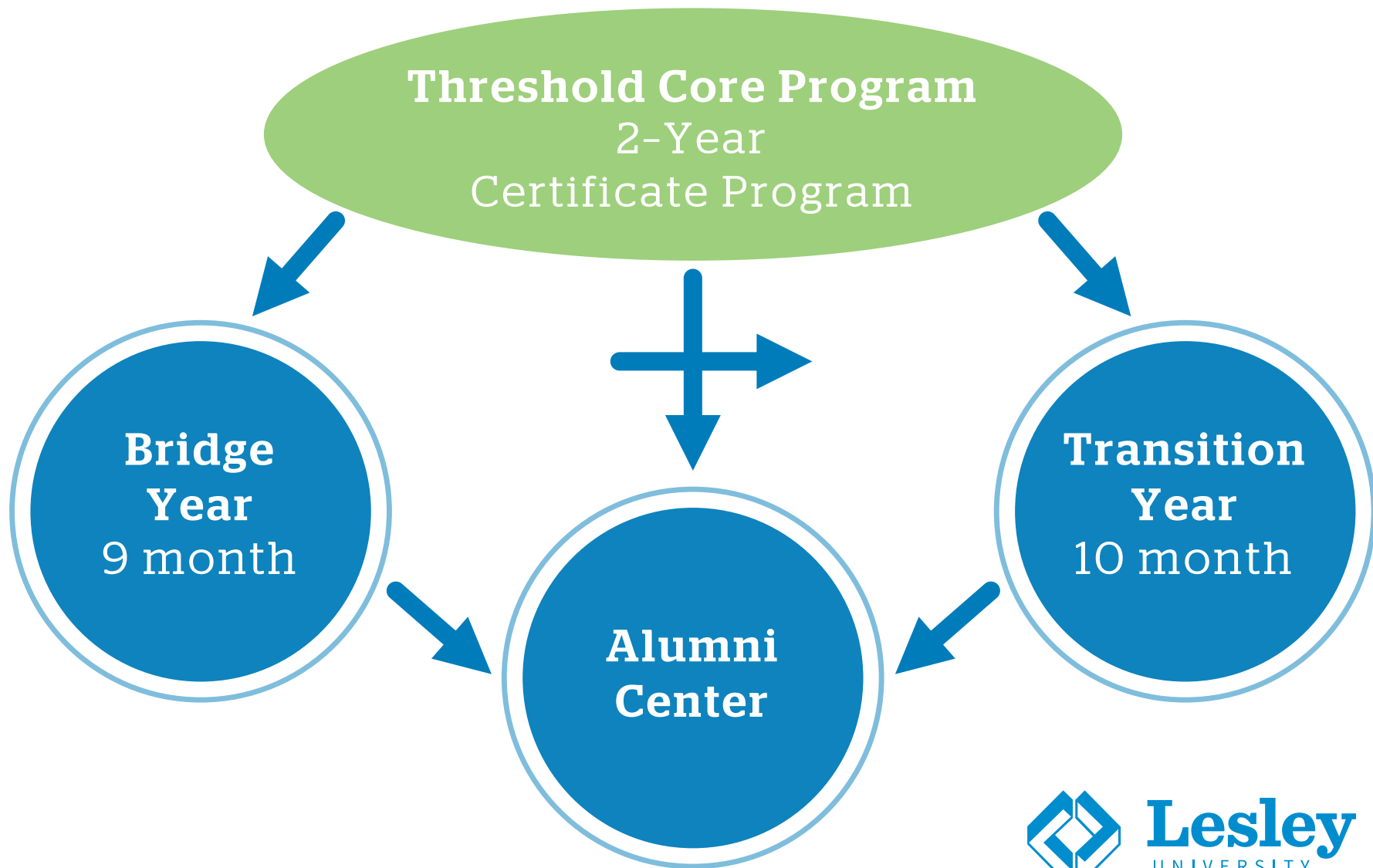
- ▶ Have completed high school and have received special education services in public or private schools (H.S. diploma, certificate of completion OR are on a current IEP Transition Plan).
- ▶ Score below the average range on specific standardized tests of achievement.
 - WAIS: Full Scale IQ scores generally in the 70's or 80's, however, we consider much more than the number!



WHAT WE ARE NOT

- ▶ **Not** a psychiatric facility or residential treatment facility
(We do not do bed checks or head counts. We treat the students like typical college students and provide college level supervision. That being said, we do ask student to let us know where they are going and when they are returning if they are leaving campus for extended periods of time).
- ▶ We are **not** successful working with young people with thought disorders, violent/aggressive behavior, personality disorders, substance abuse issues, eating disorders, or other significant mental health issues requiring intensive therapeutic intervention.
- ▶ **Not** a special education high school school—we are more than that. We are a college based transition program.
- ▶ **Not** a 12 month program. We follow the Lesley University calendar which consists of (2) 15 week semesters during the academic year.

THRESHOLD'S 3 PROGRAMS



PROGRAM DESIGN

Threshold prepares students for the world of **work** and **independent living**

- ▶ Curriculum focuses on **employment training**, **independent living**, and **social development**
- ▶ Students reside in **residence halls** on campus
- ▶ Students are fully engaged in **campus life** (clubs, team sports, & events)
- ▶ Students earn 6 **college credits** and a certificate of completion, and have the opportunity to take **undergraduate classes**
- ▶ Graduates can continue on into Bridge and/or Transition Year, and receive on-going supports from our Alumni Center

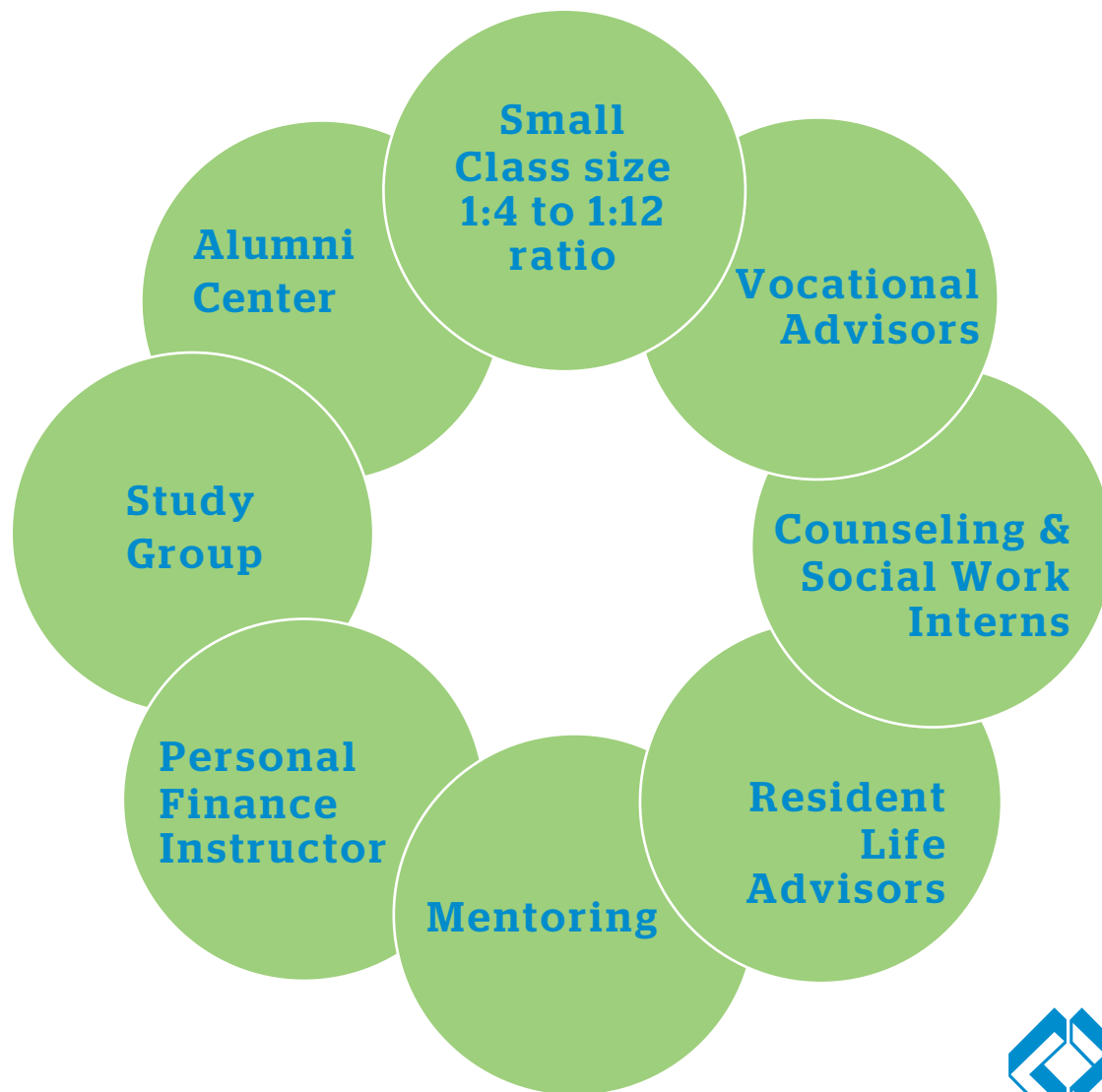


HOW WE DO IT

- ▶ 4 core areas of study: Employment training, independent living skills, social/emotional development, and creative electives
- ▶ Combination of **classroom, internship, social, and dormitory** experiences
- ▶ 1st year curriculum designed to provide **career exploration and fundamental work skills**
- ▶ 2nd year students select an **employment** path and **learn more advanced independent living skills**



STANDARD SUPPORTS



SAMPLE SCHEDULES

*Sample First Year - Fall Semester

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8-8:30					
8:30-9					
9-9:30					
9:30-10	First Year Seminar		Personal Finance	Medical World	Organization Skills
10-10:30					
10:30-11	9:35 AM-10:50 AM		9:35 AM-10:50 AM	9:35 AM-10:50 AM	9:35 AM-10:50 AM
11-11:30					
11:30-12		Community Meeting 11:10 AM-12 PM		Employment Concentration 11:10 AM-12:25 PM	Employment Concentration 11:10 AM-12:25 PM
12-12:30					
12:30-1					
1-1:30	Computer Literacy			Computer Literacy	Introduction to Work World
1:30-2					
2-2:30	12:55-2:10 PM			12:55-2:10 PM	12:55-2:10 PM
2:30-3		Human Sexuality 2:30-3:45 PM	Personal Growth 2:30-3:45 PM		
3-3:30					
3:30-4			Understanding Learning Strengths & Challenges 4-5:15 PM		
4-4:30					
4:30-5					
5-5:30		Fitness 5:05-6:05 PM			
5:30-6					
6-6:30			Study Group 6-7:30 PM		
6:30-7				Elective 6:45-7:45 PM	
7-7:30					
7:30-8					
8-8:30					

*Sample Second Year - Fall Semester

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8-8:30		Computer Literacy	Computer Literacy	Practicum & Seminar Advising	
8:30-9					
9-9:30		8:00-9:10 AM	8:00-9:10 AM		
9:30-10	Internship	Apartment Living	Work World Seminar	Internship	Internship
10-10:30					
10:30-11		9:35-10:50 AM	9:35-10:50 AM		
11-11:30					
11:30-12		Community Meeting 11:10 AM-12 PM			
12-12:30					
12:30-1					
1-1:30		Employment Concentration 12:55-2:10 PM	Employment Concentration 12:55-2:10 PM		
1:30-2					
2-2:30		2:30-3:45 PM	2:30-3:45 PM		
2:30-3		Consumer Education	Personal Growth		
3-3:30					
3:30-4		2:30-3:45 PM	2:30-3:45 PM		
4-4:30	Food Lab				
4:30-5					
5-5:30	3:45-5:15 PM				
5:30-6					
6-6:30			Fitness 6-7 PM		
6:30-7				Elective 6:45-7:45 PM	
7-7:30					
7:30-8					
8-8:30					

*Schedules are subject to change.

INTERNSHIP EXAMPLES

- ▶ Preschools & Daycares
- ▶ Massachusetts Eye & Ear Infirmary
- ▶ Metro Café, Boston
- ▶ Cambridge Consumer Council
- ▶ Renee's Cafe
- ▶ MG Fitness
- ▶ Bon Appetite Food Service
- ▶ Cambridge Rehabilitation and Nursing
- ▶ Hyatt Regency Hotel
- ▶ Skendarian Pharmacy
- ▶ Dickson Brothers
- ▶ True Value Hardware
- ▶ Riverdog Doggie Day Care
- ▶ Cambridge Cablevision
- ▶ Courtyard Nursing Care Center
- ▶ Institute for Human Centered Design
- ▶ Walgreens



RESIDENCE LIFE

- ▶ Students live in residence halls **on campus**
- ▶ Resident Director & 3 Graduate Resident Assistants
- ▶ Supervision comparable to typical college residence hall, this is *not* a therapeutic residential program
- ▶ 1 Director/Graduate Resident Assistant on duty nightly (high profile + nightly log notes)
- ▶ Duty phone for emergencies
- ▶ Swipe card access
- ▶ Security 24/7/365
- ▶ Dry residence hall
- ▶ 19 meals a week meal plan
- ▶ Dry campus (*no alcohol, smoking legal or illegal drugs regardless of the student's age*)



POST-GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Bridge Year

- ▶ 9-month program for 2-4 graduates of the 2-year core program. Designed to help students continue strengthening vocational, independent living, and social skills in a structured setting (residing in the **residence halls**)

Transition Year

- ▶ 10-month independent living program that most graduates enroll in
- ▶ During Transition Year, you'll live in an **apartment off campus** and work toward gaining **paid employment**
- ▶ When you finish Transition Year, you'll earn 3 college credits and a certificate of completion



ALUMNI CENTER SERVICES

We provide continuing support to graduates of the Threshold Program in the areas of:

- ▶ Employment
- ▶ Education
- ▶ Social & travel opportunities
- ▶ Independent living
- ▶ Resource and benefits assistance
- ▶ Referrals to outside agencies



Sample of ALUMNI CENTER OFFERINGS

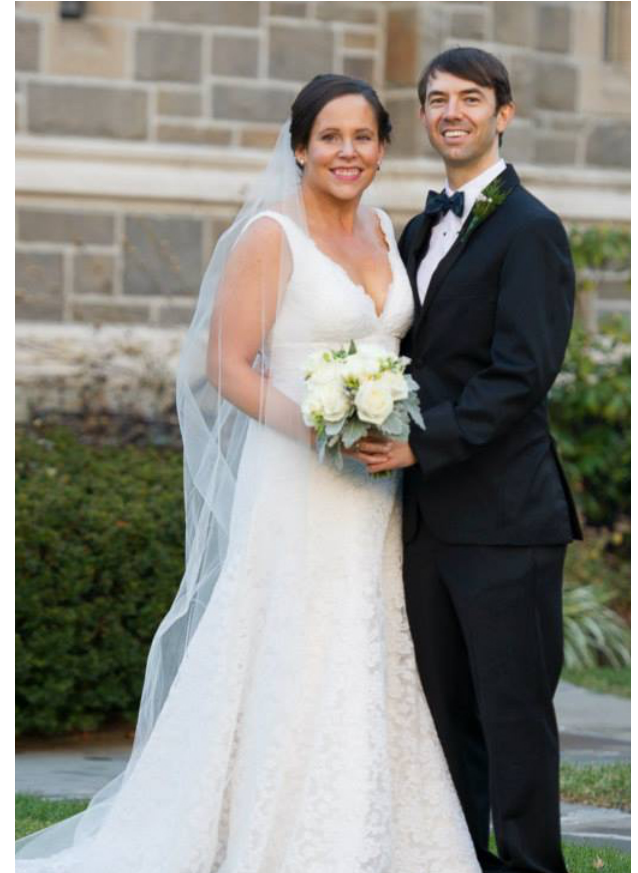
- ▶ Local and international trips
(*destinations have included France, Spain, Italy, Disney World, and New York City*)
- ▶ Walk-in independent living/
benefits support
- ▶ Fitness classes, basketball,
and yoga
- ▶ Monthly brunch club
- ▶ Theater, musical, & ballet trips
- ▶ Face-to-face and online courses
- ▶ Professional and personal
development workshops
- ▶ Employment supports
- ▶ Group & Individual counseling



THRESHOLD'S IMPACT

- ▶ **85%** of graduates are **employed**
- ▶ **77%** **live independently**
- ▶ Nearly **50%** are with long-term partners or married (Many met their significant other through Threshold)

Data was collected from a web based survey sent to Threshold alumni who were not enrolled in a post graduate program at the time of the survey (i.e., were not Bridge or Transition Year Students)



THRESHOLD'S IMPACT

- ▶ **68%** of alumni live within an hour of Cambridge (by train, bus or car)
- ▶ **29%** of respondents had **taken a college class** for credit following graduation
- ▶ **22%** have received **additional certificate or degree** (These include associates degrees, early childhood certificates food handling certificates)
- ▶ **37%** report they **pay** all of their own **rent/mortgage**

Data was collected from a web based survey sent to Threshold alumni who were not enrolled in a post graduate program at the time of the survey (i.e., were not Bridge or Transition Year Students)



WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE?

One of the few programs of its kind that combines a college residential experience with employment training.

- ▶ We have collected **outcome data** since the inception of the program almost 40 years ago. *(Our employment rate of our graduates is the inverse of the national unemployment number for people with disabilities)*
- ▶ Truly **integrated**...2/3 of our over 700 graduates live within 60 minutes of our Alumni Center. Yet they hail from all over the world
- ▶ A vibrant sense of community...Our students join the over 50+ **undergraduate clubs**
- ▶ One of the only universities in the country that has a **NCAA waiver** allowing students with disabilities to participate in NCAA Division III sport
- ▶ The only University in the nation with an **alumni center** specifically dedicated to supporting the graduates of a college based transition program for individuals with disabilities. Thanks to grants and donations currently those services are free for life. You are joining the Threshold and Lesley family

ADMISSIONS PROCESS

- ▶ Attend an Open House in person or *virtually*
- ▶ Discuss as a family whether or not to apply
- ▶ Submit the application materials
- ▶ The admission committee invites qualified applicants and their families to an interview. Currently we are conducting those interviews remotely.
- ▶ Within a week applicants receive their admissions decision
- ▶ Admissions are rolling. Please submit your applications early as we receive many more applications than we have openings.

ADMISSIONS MATERIALS

- ▶ Completed online application
- ▶ 3 completed Threshold recommendation forms from professionals that have known the applicant for at least 6 months
- ▶ Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale (WAIS)
- ▶ Completed student and parent questionnaires
- ▶ Educational Evaluation that includes reading, writing and math score and grade equivalents. Adaptive behavior assessment scales like the Vineland BASC, or ABAS etc. are very helpful in determining the student's ability live in a dormitory like environment and should be included in the educational evaluation.
- ▶ Most recent Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
- ▶ Most recent educational transcript

ALUMNI & PARENT QUOTES

“Threshold was an amazing experience for me. I met a lot of new friends, many of which I still have 25 years later.”

—Traci F., Class of '92

“I always wanted to work with children. Coming to Threshold gave me a great education and taught me how to be a toddler teacher. I love my job. My internships really helped me.”

—Sarah K., Class of '08

“If someone had told me that my son would be doing all the things he's doing today, I couldn't have imagined it. It blows us away how far he's come.”

—Threshold parent, Class of '10

For more testimonials visit this [YouTube link](#).

[Threshold Program YouTube Playlist](#)



QUESTIONS?



To submit a question please [complete this form](#) or email us at THadmissions@lesley.edu

Visit our [Virtual Open House](#) web page to access all virtual events.