Augmentative Communication and Empowerment Supports, or "ACES," is a program for young adults who use communication technology (speech generating devices or "SGD") transitioning from school to work, to help develop and refine their communication, including computer access and use for daily living/job skills.

Developed in 1990 at the Institute on Disabilities at Temple University by Diane N. Bryen, PhD, ACES is staffed by communication professionals and other qualified experienced personnel - including mentors who are SGD users themselves.

ACES
Augmentative Communication
Empowerment Support

Those who participate in ACES as students should be...

- Young adults focusing on 'transition'
  School to postsecondary education, employment, and independent living
- Current users of a speech generating device
- Able to maintain focus and energy for 6 hour training days
- Must have a tutor / power partner to support learning and caregiving
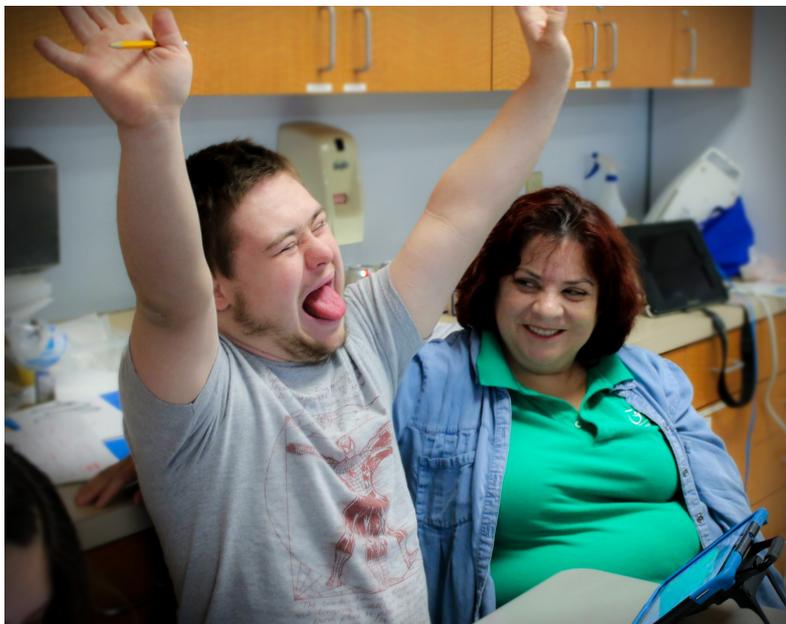
What's the schedule like?

- A large amount of material is covered during coursework, which makes **ACES** go quickly! However, all classes will move at the pace that benefits individual program participants.

- The schedule at **ACES** will require attentive participation throughout the day. You are expected to attend and participate in all classes during the day. There are multiple instructors, counselors, and volunteers to help clients learn.

What am I going to learn?

- **All classes** will provide you opportunities to use your communication device and practice the skills you are learning at **ACES.**

- **Operational Competence with your Communication Device:**
  In these classes, you will learn to operate and customize your device, including special advanced features. You will learn how to store new vocabulary, create page sets, use integrated computer skills (e.g., MP3 music player, text messaging) and apply a variety of strategies to improve your communication rate and effectiveness with your device.

- **Effective and Strategic Communication Classes:**
  You will learn public speaking skills, interviewing skills, and how to prevent and repair communication breakdowns.

- **Empowerment for Your Transition:**
  You will increase your knowledge of your rights and responsibilities as a person with disabilities. You will learn about the ADA, self-advocacy, future planning and goal-setting (including higher education and/or employment). You will also learn about key topics such as independent living and how to find and access resources and supports to facilitate your transition.

- **Computer Classes:**
  You will learn how to interface your device with your computer and/or use adapted computer equipment, if needed. Topics may include using a computer to transfer and back-up device memory, using word processing, sending emails, searching the internet, and other common computer applications.