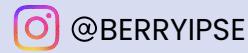


Newsletter

Berry IPSE

Inclusive Postsecondary Education Program

* WWW.BERRY.EDU/ACADEMICS/IPSE* IPSE@BERRY.EDU

APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN!

Applications for the 2026-2027 academic year are now open! Scan the QR below for more information about the program and to access the application:



'25 SPOTLIGHT

Berry IPSE wins National Rookie of the Year Award!



Read More on Page 3

OVERVIEW

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Welcome to Berry IPSE

We invite you to celebrate an incredible 2025 with us this holiday season!

"Welcoming the opportunity to nurture the human potential to learn, explore, connect with others, and contribute meaningfully to one's community."

Who We Are: The Berry College Program for Inclusive Learning is a non-degree program designed to support students with intellectual disabilities to develop academic skills, explore and develop career readiness skills, and to build interpersonal, self-advocacy, and independent living skills with the goal of obtaining competitive integrative employment and a fulfilling life realizing the potential of each student, **fully engaged and integrated into their community.**

More about IPSE Programs: Inclusive Postsecondary Education (IPSE) programs provide opportunities beyond high school to students who have historically been denied access.

Over the past decade, IPSE programs have grown rapidly across the United States. As of 2023, there were over 330 programs across 49 states at the highest enrollment levels to date.

IPSE programs have been incredibly successful across the nation. They have helped students become more independent and integrated into their



communities as well as improving outcomes of meaningful employment. As of 2022, there was a 58 percent employment rate for students with intellectual disabilities who had attended an IPSE program, compared to nineteen percent who had not.

Berry IPSE: We are the 10th program in Georgia and the very first private college program in the state. We just completed our inaugural year and are honored to be award-winning!

Spread the Good News! The Berry College Program for Inclusive Learning has now been fully approved as a Comprehensive Transition Program!

Director's Corner

"We have had a busy and exciting fall semester during our second year of the Berry College Program for Inclusive Learning, the first (and only) private school in Georgia to host an Inclusive Postsecondary (IPSE) program! ...We are so grateful for the support of our amazing peer mentors and volunteers, as well as Berry work supervisors, course instructors, student organization leaders and members that open their arms and hearts to include us..." more on p.5

Michelle Haney, Ph.D.

Director Berry College Program for Inclusive Learning
Henry Gund Professor of Psychology



Our Community - Meet the Berry IPSE Students!



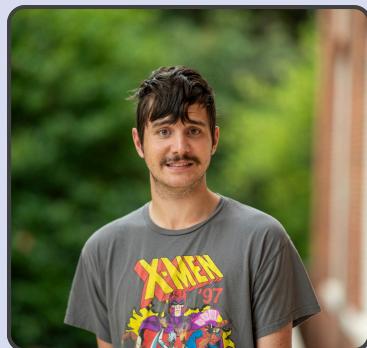
Will Again, 26'c

Major of interest: Agriculture, Works at: Berry Bees
Fun Fact: Will enjoys playing Wolf Quest and watching (not playing) Minecraft!



Kate Jarrett, 26'c

Major of interest: Nursing, Works at: Sports Medicine
Fun Fact: Kate is super organized, advocated for her own job at Berry, and is Ketchup's biggest fan!



Griffin Mashburn, 26'c

Major of interest: Creative Tech, Works at: B.I.T.S
Fun Fact: Griffin runs a 3D printing business and enjoys reading Percy Jackson books!



Campbell Hunt, 27'c

Major of interest: Theatre
 Works at: The Child Development Center
Fun Fact: Campbell loves Cookies & Cream ice cream and enjoys watching Stranger Things!



Ellie Rapp, 27'c

Major of interest: Ministry
 Works at: Berry Memorial Library
Fun Fact: Ellie is learning multiple languages including Japanese, Greek, Italian, and German!



Sidney Ruddell, 27'c

Major of interest: Undecided
 Works at: Viking Fusion
Fun Fact: Sidney can memorize anyone's birthday!

Faculty Fellow Spotlight



"What I love most about the IPSE program is seeing my students bring fresh perspectives and powerful insights to our discussions, creating a richer and more inclusive learning community for everyone."

- Mia Escott, Ph.D

"Teaching has always been my passion, and I strive to inspire students to reach their fullest potential both in and beyond the classroom. When Dr. Haney introduced the IPSE fellowship in August 2023; I was immediately drawn to the program's commitment to access and inclusion. As a Black woman teaching at a PWI, I know the value of representation and the impact of mentorship, and joining IPSE gave me the chance to support students with diverse learning experiences in a meaningful way. Since becoming a fellow, I have welcomed an IPSE student into my course, and the experience has been transformative, not only for them but also for me as an educator. Each semester reminds me that while professors may lead the classroom, we remain lifelong learners, constantly challenged and inspired by our students. What I love most about the IPSE program is seeing my students bring fresh perspectives and powerful insights to our discussions, creating a richer and more inclusive learning community for everyone. I am deeply grateful to Berry for bringing the IPSE program to campus, as it has created a more inclusive and dynamic learning environment. Programs like IPSE matter because they ensure every student's voice is valued, and their perspectives enrich the entire classroom community."

Griffin is currently taking Dr. Escott's British Literature course!



Students Ellie and Sidney interview Jamie Grace for Solidarity Week

Student Highlights: IPSE students Sidney and Ellie interviewed Grammy Award nominee, Jamie Grace, before her performance during Solidarity Week.

→
Ellie becomes ambassador for the Vikettes!



Berry College IPSE is honored by National Down Syndrome Congress and Wins Rookie of the Year Award



An Award Winning Year

The National Down Syndrome Congress (NDSG) is the leading national resource of support and information for anyone touched by or seeking to learn about Down Syndrome. They "exist with the **purpose** to promote the interests of people with Down Syndrome, to **educate** through awareness, to **advocate** and ensure their rights are recognized and protected, to **empower**, and to inspire and reshape the way people understand and experience Down syndrome." This year, NDSG hosted the Big Game Ball, an event dedicated to honoring and promoting IPSE programs across the Nation. Berry College accepted the prestigious "Rookie of the Year" award and was named **best new IPSE program** throughout the nation. We are honored to represent Berry and our IPSE community. We look forward to more great years!

Our Community - Meet the Senior Peer Mentors



Ananya Achari
Psychology major, Spanish and Chemistry minors



Sara Alexander
Psychology major, ABA and Creative Writing minors



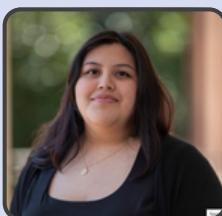
Nick Bartolomei
Exercise Science and Spanish double major



Taylor Berkbigler
Psychology major, ABA minor



Cate Carson
Psychology major, Women's and Gender Studies minor



Cely Prieto
Psychology major, ABA and Family Studies minors



Amanda Magle
Physics and Secondary Education double major, Dance minor



Elli Moraitakis
Psychology major



Josie Pfendler
Psychology major, ABA and Biology minors



Charlie Stokes
Sports Leadership and Strategy major, Business minor

"Serving as a peer mentor with the IPSE program has been the highlight of my Berry journey. I've learned so much and feel like I'm contributing to something truly meaningful. I'm honored to be part of the program here at Berry and a member of the broader IPSE community. Along the way, I've made so many friends, both among our students and my fellow mentors, and I'm grateful to be part of something so much bigger than myself. I'm looking forward to another great semester, and I know I'll carry my IPSE experience with me always. It has been life-changing!"

- Sara Alexander, Senior Peer Mentor

Interested in
becoming a
peer mentor
or volunteer? 

Scan the QR Code to
learn more!



Happy Thanksgiving from IPSE

From our Family to Yours

On November 20th we celebrated our annual IPSE Friendsgiving!



A Special Shoutout!

Congratulations to Thomas Chesnut for completing the fall 2025 semester learning experience with the Berry College Program for Inclusive Learning! We are so excited for your next chapter and all the amazing things to come!

 On November 6th, we held our IPSE Open House. We are thankful for the incredible turnout and all the interest that was shared. A big **Thank You** to everyone who came out to see us and learn more!



Fall Festival Each school year, the Psychological Society hosts a departmental fall festival. **DIGS (Developing Independence, Growth, & Security)**, a local nonprofit that "provides safe housing, leisure activities, and work opportunities for adults with developmental challenges", has become a regular part of this annual celebration. This year, IPSE and DIGS co-sponsored the event along with the Psychological Society. Learn more about DIGS here: <https://digsrome.org/>



To stay up to date on all the latest IPSE news, follow us on Instagram!



Memories - A Look Back on 2025

Director's Note

We have had a busy and exciting fall semester during our second year of the Berry College Program for Inclusive Learning, the first (and only) private school in Georgia to host an Inclusive Postsecondary (IPSE) program!

We welcomed 3 full time and one part-time students including: Sidney Rudell, Ellie Rapp, Campbell Hunt, and Thomas Chesnut. Our 7 students in the IPSE program are taking classes across campus based on their interests including Christian Ethics, British Literature, World Music, Mass Communication, Experiencing Theatre, Internship with the Intramural Sports/Recreation, Weightlifting, and Self Defense. Our new full time IPSE students are also participating in the Berry College Freshman Seminar with their Freshman peers. All of our students have paid jobs on campus in areas including the student run Multimedia- Viking Fusion, the Child Development Center, the Library, Berry Bees and Season's Harvest, Berry IT Department, the Cage Athletic Center, and the Women's Volleyball Team/Sports Medicine. On August 27th we traveled to the College Hall of Fame in Atlanta to attend the Big Game Ball hosted by the Peach Bowl and the National Down Syndrome Congress and were honored to receive the award of the IPSE Rookie Program of the Year, for the most impactful program launch! We were so excited to have our new President, Dr. Mazumder, Provost Slade, and Dean Hughes join us for an exciting and fun night! We had a visit from the state auditors as they traveled to all the IPSE programs in Georgia, and enjoyed sharing about our program with them, along with a site visit from the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities (GCDD). Our program was invited to cosponsor an event during Berry's annual Solidarity Week. Ellie and Sidney volunteered to interview Jamie Grace, a Grammy nominated neurodivergent musician, before her performance. Ellie and Sidney practiced all week and did an amazing job! Our program was invited to participate in the Ability Fair at the Parker Center in Rome to share with the community. Berry IPSE students and peer mentors welcomed high school students from the Bartow County CTI program. We shared about the IPSE program and enjoyed lunch together in the Berry D-Hall! Kate and I, along with several peer mentors and volunteers, hosted dessert at the ESP family dinner to talk about college and the Berry Program. Kate gave an amazing presentation! We enjoyed the fall festival/Halloween party hosted by the Berry College Psychology student groups, a movie night watching Mean Girls, and so many fun things during Mountain Day weekend. We learned about financial literacy, interpersonal relationships, setting boundaries, and accepting feedback during our IPSE classes, and are working on individual electric portfolios to showcase all we have learned and accomplished. We also enjoyed meeting with our new friends from the Berry Brotherhood. In addition, we were invited to present about the Berry IPSE program to the Chaplain's office, SGA, Daughter's of Berry, and the Marcus Autism Center's Lunch and Learn program. To close out the semester, each student led their own Person-Centered Planning meeting as we begin preparing for Spring 2026.

Michelle Haney, Ph.D.

We are so grateful for the support of our amazing peer mentors and volunteers, as well as Berry work supervisors, course instructors, student organization leaders and members that open their arms and hearts and include us, community friends who donate time and money to support the program, and our fabulous IPSE students and families!! And there is so much more!!! Please stay tuned ❤️

Griffin at Mountain Day Market



A Note from our Coordinator

This semester has been full of growth and exciting opportunities for our students in the Berry College Program for Inclusive Learning. From engaging in campus activities to building new academic and social skills, we've seen incredible progress and confidence in each student. Our partnerships across campus continue to strengthen, creating a truly inclusive environment where everyone belongs. Thank you to our faculty, staff, and peer mentors for making this semester such a success. We couldn't do it without you!

*Anne Bice, M.S.
Program Coordinator*