



# Arrupe Partnerships for Community-based Learning

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## INDEPENDENCE NETWORK

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### Organizational Profile

The Adults with Disabilities Program of Santa Clara Unified School District offers a wide range of classes which address the needs of physically and developmentally disabled students. Independence Network, a program of the Adults with Disabilities Program focuses on developmentally disabled adults.

Independence Network offers classes in life skills for students with developmental disabilities who reside at home or at community care homes in Santa Clara County. The goals of this program are: to provide access to normal patterns of life through building social, vocational, domestic, consumer and leisure skills, to assist students in reaching maximum independence, and to provide critical life skills training in a community integrated setting.

Participants of the program attend classes with class size averaging 12-15 students. Students' ability levels vary from ambulatory to wheelchair-users and low functioning to high functioning. Classes are diverse, including all levels. Instructional activity also includes time spent in the community with teaching activities, such as how to use public transportation and the public library, and how to shop.

### SCU Student's Role

SCU students who choose this placement will be working in small groups with students, under the supervision of the teacher and/or instructional aides. Students must be comfortable working with physically and developmentally disabled adults in an unstructured environment. SCU students will be "coaches" in helping students learn how to be independent through conversations and activities.

### To Do Before Orientation

- Provide the Arrupe Partnerships with proof of a **negative intradermal TB test within the last 6 months**. If you know your TB test is not current, please go to Cowell Health Center immediately to get a TB test at no cost.
- Visit the website listed above to learn more about your placement or the umbrella organization with which it is affiliated.
- Read your course syllabus and be prepared to discuss your learning goals with your placement supervisor at orientation.