Applications are now being accepted for Fall 2020 Admission to AHRC New York City’s Melissa Riggio Higher Education Program at the City University of New York in partnership with the new CUNY Unlimited credential program. Visit www.cuny.edu/unlimited for Part 1 of the application packet and www.ahrcnyc.org/services/school/college/apply for Part 2. The Application Deadline for Fall 2020 Admission has been extended to January 6, 2020.
What is the Melissa Riggio Higher Education Program?
AHRC New York City’s Melissa Riggio Higher Education Program at the City University of New York provides access to higher education for students with intellectual disabilities. Students pursue lifelong learning, explore career goals, gain responsibility, and learn collectively with all members of the college community. The program is designed to prepare students with intellectual disabilities for adult life through higher education coursework, career development, campus life, civic engagement, and self-advocacy curriculum.

Who should apply?
People with intellectual disabilities ages 21 or over who reside in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, or Staten Island may apply for admission to the Melissa Riggio Higher Education Program at the participating CUNY campus in their borough of residence. Applicants must be eligible for services from the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities, enrolled in the Home and Community-Based Services Waiver, and have a Care Coordinator from a Care Coordination Organization.

Who is a good candidate for the Melissa Riggio Higher Education Program?
Applicants are expected to demonstrate some basic literacy skills in reading and writing. They must have a strong desire to become an independent adult, and possess the stability and maturity to participate fully in the program. Applicants must have the desire and motivation to further their education and participate in campus life. They want to identify a career path for themselves, gain volunteer work experience, and build peer relationships. Applicants must be willing to become travel trained.

How long is the program?
The Melissa Riggio Higher Education Program is a three-year program, plus one year of Alumni services at the Borough of Manhattan Community College. It is a four-year program, plus one year of Alumni services at the College of Staten Island, Hostos Community College, and Kingsborough Community College. The program is administered and maintained by AHRC New York City in collaboration with our CUNY partners.

What will I get after completing the program?
Applicants are applying to a post-secondary education certificate program. Admitted students will receive person-centered supports and engage in a fully inclusive college experience. Students who successfully complete the program will be eligible to earn a CUNY Unlimited Achievement Certificate and receive their personal portfolio upon graduation.

How can I apply?
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