

# Fast Facts

centerontransition.org

Center on  
transition  
innovations  
 VCU

## PERT Options for Transition

Are you looking for opportunities for students to explore future career options? PERT may be just what you have been looking for! PERT, or the Postsecondary Education Rehabilitation Transition Program, is a collaboration between the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services, Virginia Department of Education, and Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center (WWRC).

PERT programs support students with disabilities in exploring future career paths and practicing independent living. They offer a variety of programs to meet students' unique needs. Most PERT programs are provided on campus at WWRC, except for a virtual program.

### Introductory PERT Programs

PERT programs support students with disabilities in exploring future career paths and practicing independent living. They offer a variety of programs to meet students' unique needs. Most PERT programs are provided at WWRC in Fishersville, Virginia, except for a virtual program.

**Virtual PERT** is a 2-day interactive online program. Students complete two 4-hour sessions led by WWRC staff with their school support. Students complete training modules to develop independent living and work skills.

**Career Day** is a 1-day, on-campus program where students shadow WWRC staff. Held twice a year with a teacher chaperone, it's an ideal option for students who may be hesitant to stay overnight. Students will have the opportunity to tour the center, meet staff, and explore various career paths such as counseling, recreation therapy, facilities management, law enforcement, and health care.

**Career Seminars** give students a peek into staying overnight on campus. Over three days, students participate in job shadowing and activities focusing on independent living skills.

### Comprehensive PERT Programs

The most well-known PERT service is the Comprehensive PERT Program, a three to five-day on-campus, overnight program. Students engage in hands-on career exploration in areas of their choice. Students also stay in dorms and practice independent living skills. PERT staff write and share a report of student experiences and recommend next steps.

For students who need 1-on-1 support on campus, **Transition Academy (TA)** is a great option. In TA, a teacher or counselor comes to WWRC with the student to support them through the program.

## PERT Options at a Glance



### Virtual PERT



### Career Day



### Career Seminars



### Comprehensive PERT Program

	Length	Overnight	Location	Purpose
Virtual PERT	2 days	No	Online	Introduction to independent living and workplace readiness skills
Career Day	1 day	No	WWRC campus	Experience “a day in the life” of selected career areas and learn about WWRC
Career Seminars	3 days	Yes	WWRC campus	Observe career tasks and activities and practice independent living
Comprehensive PERT Program	3-5 days	Yes	WWRC campus	Try hands-on career skills and practice independent living

## Conclusion

The PERT continuum of services is a great way for students to prepare for life after high school through career exploration, independent living, and workplace readiness activities. By providing this continuum of services, PERT can meet the diverse needs of students with disabilities in Virginia!

In addition to PERT, WWRC offers many more programs that students can access even after graduation. WWRC also provides training in many different career areas. Students can earn credentials, prepare for and learn to drive, and build new skills.

Keep these PERT programs in mind during annual IEP meetings. If you want to be referred, chat with your case manager and Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) counselor!