What’s BUILD?
BUILD is a 2-year postsecondary, residential program for students with intellectual disabilities.

BUILD’s significance
This program provides academic, vocational, residential, and social experiences. The overarching goal is to provide students with the skills and education necessary to live independently, maintain meaningful employment, and value lifelong learning. After successfully completing the program’s requirements, students will earn an Applied Skills Certificate with a concentration in health or human services, business (IT), or education.

BUILD’s goals
1. provide a college experience and 2-year credential
2. provide skills to succeed as lifelong learners
3. provide internships to prepare for employment
4. provide opportunities for integration into campus life and culture
5. provide residential opportunity to gain skills for independence and self-determination

BUILD’s program model
• a required core curriculum (life skills, independent living, and financial literacy)
• electives based on students’ interests and schedules
• a robust student life experience
• internships offered both on and off campus

BUILD’s students
Students with intellectual disabilities who:
• are 18-25 years old when starting the program
• have completed high school with a diploma or equivalent
• complete a comprehensive application process, which includes an independent assessment, interviews, etc.
• have demonstrated interest/motivation in attending the program
• can perform with support in a college setting
• are able to get around campus safely during class transitions, mealtimes, and other extracurricular activities
• have practical reading and writing skills
• can articulate or demonstrate a faith commitment
• have family support and a desire to gain skills for employment and independent living

Why BUILD?
Bethel University values diversity, inclusion, leadership, and service. BUILD meets these principles as its students will add to the breadth of Bethel’s diversity, bring unique skills to the campus climate, and provide opportunities for service to the entire community.

MISSION/VISION
• The Bethel University Inclusive Learning and Development (BUILD) program provides a supportive and comprehensive educational experience to individuals with intellectual disabilities through dynamic and encouraging instruction, career-oriented curriculum, specialized mentorship, and on-campus living that is boldly influenced by the Christian faith.
• The Bethel University Inclusive Learning and Development (BUILD) program will empower individuals with intellectual disabilities to gain meaningful experiences that lead to independent living, economic self-sufficiency, and a passion for life-long learning.

CONTACT US
For more information about BUILD, contact Dawn Allen, Director of BUILD, at 651.638.6804 or d-allen@bethel.edu. Visit www.bethel.edu/build for complete info about the program.