

Created from a partnership between a private non-profit organization and The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Beyond Academics at UNCG provides a post-secondary education option to students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Students in the Beyond Academics program receive 4-year certification from the UNCG Office of Undergraduate Studies and job training that prepares them for:

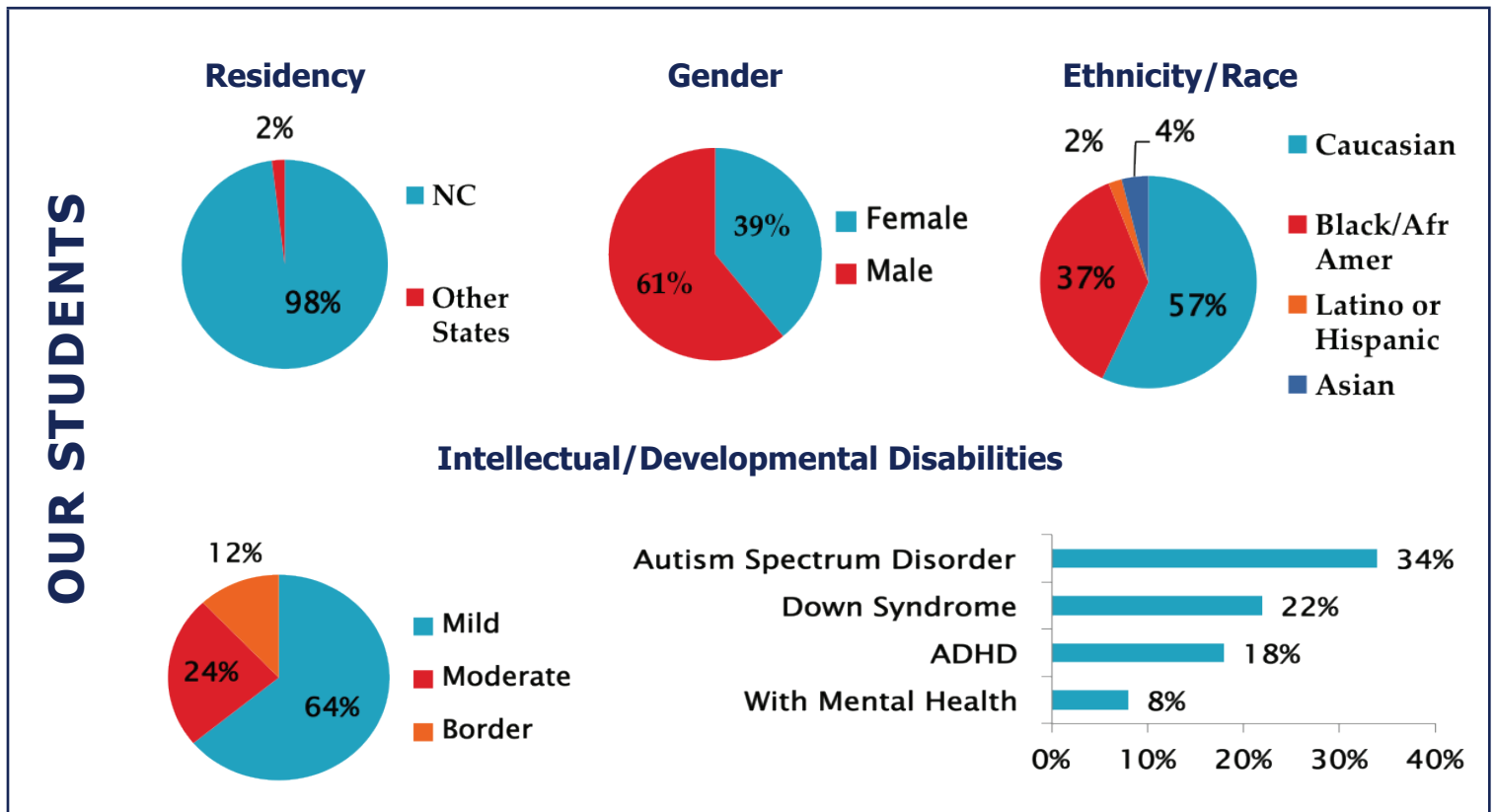


UNCG
Beyond Academics

21st century jobs

independent living

engaging in civic, social, & personal responsibility & thereby improving the communities in which they live



PERFORMANCE The establishment of Beyond Academics in 2007 created a unique private-public partnership between a non-profit organization and UNCG to address a national and state void in continuing education and training for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Beyond Academics actively and continually pursues cost-effective solutions around these issues of transition.

51 students enrolled for Academic Year 2013-2014

14 graduates through 2013 & 9 Graduates for 2014

56% average decrease in individualized supports used while enrolled (most recent graduates)

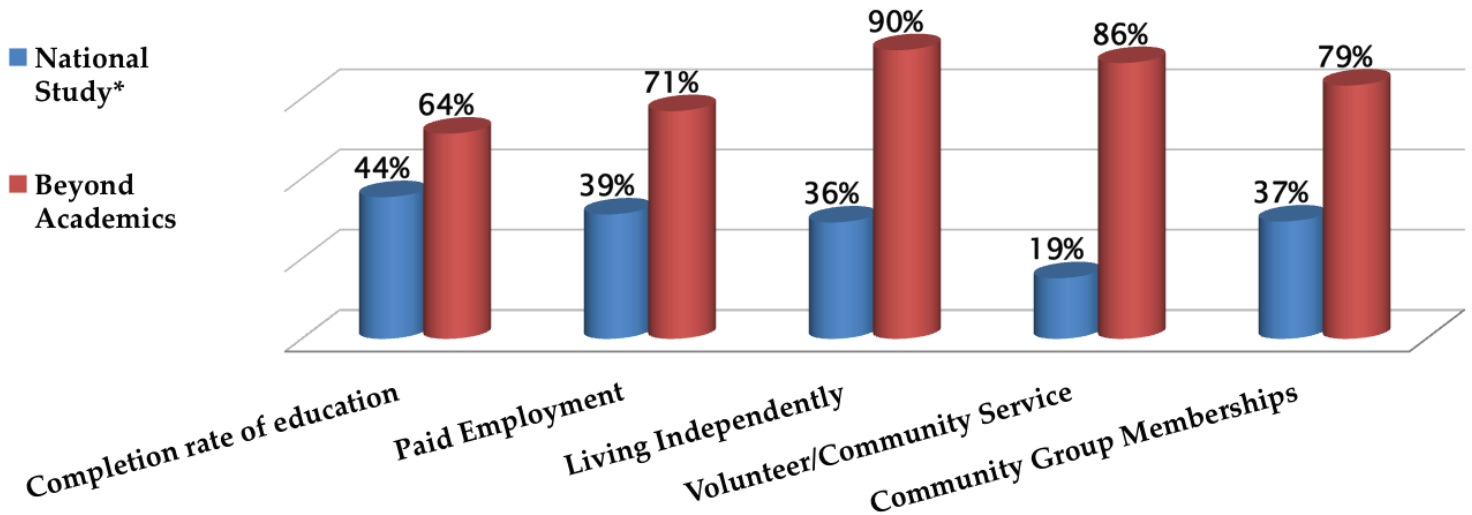
DEMAND Demand for this model continues to outpace the availability of enrollment slots. With an average of **56 applications** for **15 enrollments slots**.

GRADUATE OUTCOMES

A recent national longitudinal study on the transition of young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities after high school graduation found, a low employment rate, lower wages, almost non-existent residential independence, high levels of social isolation, and increasing dependence on aging parents or siblings.

How do we compare?

*Newman, Wagner, Knokey, Marder, et al., (2011). The post-high school outcomes of young adults up to 8 years after high school: A Report from the National Longitudinal Transition Study-2 (NLT S2) NCSERV 2011-3005. Menlo Park, CA



DEVELOPMENTS IN NC

- 10 programs in the state
- NC Post-Secondary Education Alliance of State and Local Partners
- Emerging outcome data available
- Student & Parent Demand for Options
- Collaboration with National Research Hub – Think College
- LEA's Collaborating on Student Transition to Higher Education
- Developing expertise in inclusive education & support for young adults

ONGOING CHALLENGES

- Earlier information about PSE Options to students and parents
- Closer interface with transition planning into college and then into the adult service system
- More comprehensive financial assistance
- Sustainability of current options - development of a braided funding plan
- Additional capacity with strategic locations across the state
- Institutionalization of certificate competencies

BEYOND ACADEMICS THANKS AND SUPPORTS

Thanks to Congress for the 2008 amendment in the **Higher Education Opportunity Act** (HEOA) allowing the addition of Comprehensive Transition and Post-Secondary Education Programs financial aid offerings. UNCG submitted a request for this designation to the US Department of Education in Fall 2013.

We support the **ABLE (Achieving a Better Life Experience) Act**. By allowing families to set aside funds in a tax-advantaged savings account to cover costs of health care, employment support, housing, transportation, the purchase of technology, and lifelong education, the act encourages work, saving, and asset development for people with disabilities and reduces dependence on public benefits. We support the **TEAM-Education (Transition toward Excellence, Achievement, and Mobility through Education) Act**, which helps youth with significant disabilities transition into integrated, competitive, and supportive employment.