UP
UNIVERSITY PARTICIPANT PROGRAM

WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

The UP Program provides an inclusive, two-year, on-campus living and learning experience for college-aged persons with intellectual disability.

Started as a pilot program in 2007 to address a need for inclusive services for individuals with an intellectual disability beyond high school.

UP accepts both in and out of state applicants. We encourage applicants who are motivated to live and work independently in their communities.

After completing a combined 1800 total hours and achieving 80% of their personalized goals, students receive a Certificate of Accomplishment from the WCU Division of Educational Outreach.

Approximately 225 **Natural Supports** provide support as same-age peers at work, in class, during community activities, and much more!

- Professional Conferences
- Classes
- Greek Life
- Intramural Sports
- Clubs
- Study Abroad
- Homecoming Queen & King
- Graduation
- Campus Ministries and Events
- Dorm Life

Up to 12 students can be accepted at a time

Inclusive college experiences are individualized through 6 person-centered planning (PCP) meetings per year

54 students have been admitted to the program since 2007

UP students range from 18-25 years old

90% graduation rate

Program Outcomes

Personalized Job Training

10+ hours per week

Creating and monitoring goals

Video and paper resumes

Paid/unpaid internships

Interview practice

Soft skills training

Workplace support

Job related courses

All paid jobs are at or above minimum wage

Academics:

UP students have selected and participated in more than 287 academic courses from ALL 6 of WCU's academic colleges. UP Students have been taught by more than 173 different WCU college professors.

More than 90% of UP graduates are hired and maintain paid community jobs working 20+ hours per week after graduation.

Post-Graduation Success

Competitive Employment
- Working 20+ hours/week
- Successful long-term employment
- Full time jobs with benefits
or multiple jobs
- Entrepreneurs/Business Owners

Independent Living
- Living in apartments and houses
- Living with and without roommates
- Weekly schedules
- Meal planning

Self-Advocacy
- Advocating with government agencies and legislators
- Publishing articles and research
- Presenting at conferences

Community Involvement
- Volunteering
- Driving independently or accessing public transportation
- Budgeting/paying bills

Average Per Student Annual Cost of Attendance: $21,000

Description	Amount	Funding Sources
In-State Tuition and Fees (based on 9-12 credit hours (per semester), private dorm, and unlimited meal plan)	$16,000	Student/Family, Scholarships, Vocational Rehabilitation (when eligible), Federal Financial Aid (Pell Grants and Work Study), NC Tuition Promise
UP Student Support Fees ($2,500 per semester) **subject to change in future semesters	$5,000	Student/Family, Community Support/Medicaid (when eligible), Scholarships

WCU UP Program is a designated Comprehensive Transition Postsecondary (CTP) Program

Find the most up-to-date tuition information: https://www.wcu.edu/apply/tuition-and-fees/index.aspx

WANT TO HELP? Visit www.up.wcu.edu and click on the "Give to WCU" button on the homepage to support UP with a tax-deductible gift!

Connect with UP!

wcuupprogram@gmail.com

(828) 227-3297

WCU University Participant (UP) Program

wcuupprogram