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**WHAT IS THE UP PROGRAM?**

- The University Participant (UP) Program is a two year, inclusive program for college-aged individuals with intellectual disabilities.
- Operated as a pilot program from 2007 to 2010; 2 UP students completed the program by 2010.
- Expanded to 4 UP students in 2010, 4 additional in 2011 for a total of 8 UP students, and 10-12 students in 2020.
- Funded as a model demonstration site in 2010 by the North Carolina Department of Education and now by WCU.



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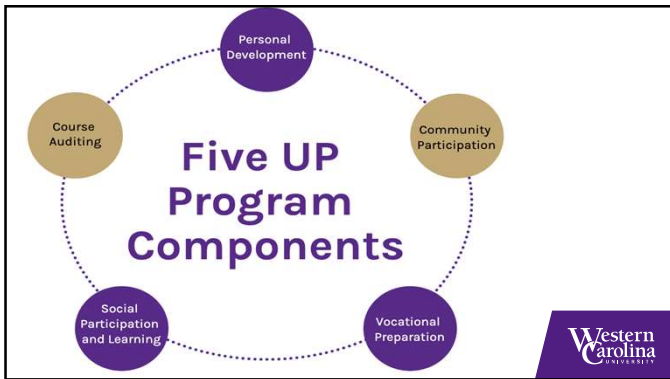
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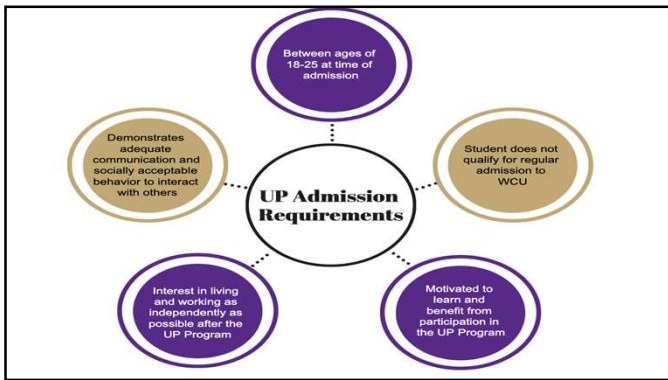
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**FUNDING AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

- UP students pay same tuition and fees as all other college students
- \$2,500 per semester support fee
- Possible scholarship support through donors within the WCU Office of Advancement as well as outside donors
- Approved as a Comprehensive Transition Postsecondary (CTP) Program for Pell Grant and Work Study with FAFSA eligibility
- NC Innovations Funding (formally CAP)
- Volunteers providing natural supports
- Vocational Rehabilitation support (partial)

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ADMISSIONS TIMELINE	
<b>Fall 2021: Interviews and Open House (late October/early November with Admissions)</b>	
<b>December 1, 2021:</b>	Deadline for applications submitted for individuals applying for Fall 2022
<b>January/February 2022:</b> UP Admissions Steering Committee meeting to review applicants and notify potential applicants that are selected for WCU UP Orientation Camp	
<b>January 2022:</b> Apply for Financial Aid FAFSA as soon as possible	
<b>March 2022:</b> Spring Orientation Camp for the Top UP applicants selected by the UP Admissions Steering Committee (multi-day residential experience required-college try-on experience)	
<b>April 2022:</b> Final decisions made, deposits and forms due, advising and registration	
<b>August 2022:</b> Selected students will move into residence halls and start classes with other WCU students	

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### WHAT DO UP STUDENTS DO ON CAMPUS?!

- Live in campus residence halls and participate in hall activities
- Audit classes of their choice that support individualized goals
- Work at least 10 hours per week in an interested employment area
- Plus so much more!

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### MEET OUR GRADUATES!

2012

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2021

2020 (COVID)

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## Program Outcomes

**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.

**Personalized Job Training**

- 10+ hours per week
- Paid/unpaid internships
- Soft skills training
- Job related courses
- Creating and monitoring goals
- Video and paper resumes
- Interview practice
- Workplace support
- All paid jobs are at or above minimum wage

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

Check out this YouTube Video to Hear Perspectives from Students, Supports, Employers, Faculty, and Families About WCU UP! <https://youtu.be/b6bMNySLS-U>



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## 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

Raising Expectations.  
Providing Opportunity.  
Transforming Outcomes.

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## Add Us on Social Media






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 **Contact Information** 

<http://up.wcu.edu>

 **Kelly R. Kelley, UP Director, 828-227-3298**  
kkelley@email.wcu.edu

 **Alex Raxter, Program/Grant Coordinator, 828-227-3318**  
araxter@email.wcu.edu

 **Susan Buchanan, Admin/Job Coach, 828-227-3297**  
skbuchanan@email.wcu.edu

Interested in attending an Open House or getting more information?  
Complete the interest form here: <https://forms.gle/4bNRqjzxQsfRZajh8>

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