

Tuition Requirements and Financial Resources

- Pay regular tuition and fees required by WCU.
- An additional UP fee each semester for individualized support needs.
- Foundations and private grants* can help with tuition expenses; however, there is no guarantee of this support as all costs are the responsibility of the family.
- WCU is designated as a Comprehensive Transition Postsecondary institution. UP students are eligible for FAFSA, financial aid, and work study. The FAFSA priority deadline is in early January.
- Vocational Rehabilitation funding (when eligible).

Cost of Attendance

Average Per-Student Annual Cost of Attendance can be found at: www.wcu.edu/apply/tuition-and-fees/index.aspx

Description	Funding Sources
In-State Tuition and Fees (based on # of credit hours taken per semester); Average based on 7-12 credit hours (per semester), private dorm, and unlimited meal plan	Student/Family, Scholarships, VR (when eligible), Federal Financial Aid: Pell Grants/Work Study. WCU is a designated Comprehensive Transition Postsecondary (CTP) Program
UP Student Support Fees (\$2,500 per semester) **subject to change annually	Student/ Student's Family, Community Support/ Medicaid (when eligible), Scholarships

NC Promise

UP students are also eligible for NC Promise: An Innovative Approach to Affordability. To learn more go to www.wcu.edu/apply/undergraduate-admissions/costs-and-aid/ncpromise-faq.aspx

*Previous grant donors include: Wal-Mart Foundation, Evergreen Foundation, Arc of Haywood County, U.S. Department of Education, private donations, and Western Carolina University.

Become a WCU UP Volunteer

Visit up.wcu.edu to learn more about volunteer opportunities and contact us to find out more about how you can participate. Complete our new volunteer survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NewUPVolunteer> and a UP staff member will contact you with specific information about upcoming volunteer orientations.

Annual Timeline

Fall Semester – Open House coordinated with the WCU Office of Admissions (register online through the WCU Admissions website and indicate UP Program from the dropdown menu)

December – Application deadline for upcoming fall semester

January – Apply for Financial Aid

February – UP Admissions Steering Committee will meet to review applicants and notify students who are selected for Orientation Camp

March/April – Orientation Camp for potential UP students

May – Final decisions made, deposits and forms due, advising and registration

Late August – Selected UP students will move into dorms and start classes on the same date as WCU students



UNIVERSITY PARTICIPANT PROGRAM

FOR MORE INFORMATION

University Participant Program
1 University Way, Killian 205
Cullowhee, NC 28723

828.227.3297

wcuupprogram@gmail.com

[@upwcu](https://www.facebook.com/upwcu)

[@wcuupprogram](https://www.instagram.com/wcuupprogram)

► UP.WCU.EDU

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About the UP Program

The UP Program started in 2007 as a pilot program to address a need for inclusive services for individuals with disabilities beyond high school. To date, it has operated through private and federal funding. The UP Program has served as a state and national model for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

The UP Program provides an inclusive, two-year, on-campus living and learning experience for college-aged persons with intellectual disabilities. The goal of the program is to facilitate transition of students from secondary school to adult life with education, employment, and independent living. Students receive a Certificate of Accomplishment from the WCU Division of Educational Outreach by completing 1800 total hours and achieving 80% of their individualized goals.

Inclusive college experiences are student led and individualized through 6 person-centered planning (PCP) meetings per year. These experiences include Greek life, intramural sports, clubs, classes in all 6 WCU colleges, study abroad, campus ministries, dorm life, professional conferences, and graduation.

Vocational Preparation

- Required to complete 10 hours per week in paid and unpaid internships on and off campus each semester.
- UP students are evaluated by employers on work performance.
- UP Employment and Living Outcomes: UP graduates are expected to live as independently as possible in the community and to work in regular, competitive employment with support as necessary.
- Families are expected to play an important role in achieving these outcomes.

Academics

- UP students audit 7-12 credit hours per semester; in-class supports provide homework and note-taking support.
- The University Course Catalog and person centered planning are used for academic advising with the UP staff.
- Homework and class projects are required and accommodations can be obtained through Office of Accessibility Resources as requested.

Admissions Criteria

- Age 18-25 at the time of admission with a documented intellectual disability (IQ ~ 70 or lower).
- Have been enrolled in a high school special education program such as the Occupational Course of Study or Certificate of Completion that does not allow students to complete necessary standard college entry requirements.
- Demonstrates communication skills adequate to interact with others on the WCU campus.
- Demonstrates socially acceptable behavior that will allow a favorable experience on the WCU campus.
- Adequately motivated to learn and benefit from participation in the UP Program.
- Expresses interest in living and working as independently as possible in their community after completing the UP Program and is supported by parents and families to do so.

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

Focus on Outcomes

Academics: UP students have selected and participated in more than 260 academic courses from ALL 6 of WCU's academic colleges. UP Students have been taught by more than 156 different WCU college professors.

Internships: All paid internships are at or above minimum wage. We have partnered with 63 on and off-campus employers.

Independence: UP students require 28% less support per week, the equivalent of 15 hours per student per week.

Employment: More than 90% of students are hired as paid employees in a community job within one year of graduation and maintained long term inclusive, community employment for at least 15 hours per week.

Natural Supports: Same-age peers make true inclusion happen every day, providing support to UP students living on campus, attending classes, engaging in social and recreational activities, becoming involved in student organizations, and developing friendships. Approximately 225 WCU students volunteer with the UP program each semester.

The UP Program Targets Five Transition Areas

- Personal development
- Community participation
- Vocational preparation
- Social participation and learning
- Academic access