Faculty Frequently Asked Questions

Will the UP student in my class receive a letter grade for their performance?

No. UP students are non-degree seeking. In two years at WCU they will only audit courses. They will receive a university validated, meaningful certificate, but successful completion of this certificate is not dependent on grades or a GPA.

Though receiving no grades, the UP students, like all students, depend on your timely feedback to continuously improve.

Will the UP student in my class take exams, including final exams?

Because UP students audit courses sitting exams is often not required. However, test protocol is usually established between instructor and auditing student. You may request that UP students do or do not sit your exams.

Final exams are less common. UP students often leave campus on or around the final day of class. Again, if you wish for a UP student to sit a final exam, please communicate that desire and we will try our best to meet your request.

Will the UP student in my class get upset/discouraged if they receive a low grade on an assessment?

Though UP students may participate in modified or accommodated assessments, they are dependent on your feedback for improvement. UP students often will get no more upset than their peers who receive grades below their expectations. Generally, UP students set goals to steadily improve throughout the semester, and grades are emphasized as relative, instead of absolute, measures.

Ultimately, don’t hold back. Give earned feedback, but as for all students, concrete suggestions on how to improve are very constructive.

What is a modified assessment?

Modification makes assessments accessible to learners with cognitive limitations. The goal is to maintain the learning objective, but alter the means by which knowledge is expressed. Most commonly modification might involve rewording directions and questions for increased simplicity. Shortening assessments, reducing response options, or allowing alternate mediums of expression also would fall into the category of modification.

Am I required to modify my curriculum or assignments for the UP student in my class?

No. Modification is your decision. If you choose to modify the UP Program faculty liaison (Seb Prohn), with your permission, will modify your assignments. By helping with modification, the UP Program hopes to be respectful of the instructor’s time while making content more accessible to UP students.
Am I required to provide accommodations for students with disabilities?

For more information about faculty resources and responsibilities for supporting students with disabilities please visit WCU’s Disability Services website [http://www.wcu.edu/academics/campus-academic-resources/disability-services/resources-for-faculty-and-staff/index.asp](http://www.wcu.edu/academics/campus-academic-resources/disability-services/resources-for-faculty-and-staff/index.asp)

Will the UP student in my class distract other students?

UP students follow the WCU Code of Conduct just as their peers do. Similarly, UP students are responsible for following all rules and guidelines in your class. Where needed UP students will have a WCU student providing supplementary support. These ‘Supports’ should mitigate problematic behavior or redirect students to their academic responsibilities.

Will the UP student get anything out of my class?

Absolutely! UP students are eager to learn and they often select classes that contribute to career interests. You might, however, observe that UP student learning styles and processes do not exactly match their peers. Students selected by the UP Program are motivated to live and work as independently as possible and they understand their classes play a role in their success.

Also playing a role in the student’s success are instructor and classmate attitudes and support. In a supportive environment all students are able to achieve more.

If you have more questions about how the UP Program can support you and the UP student in your class, please contact UP Program consultant, Dr. Kelly Kelley (kkelley@email.wcu.edu).