

Faculty Frequently Asked Questions

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

No. UP Participants are non-degree seeking students. 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 Participants, like all students, depend on your timely feedback so that they can continuously improve.

Will the participant in my class take exams, including final exams?

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

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

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

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

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 Participant 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 participants.

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>

Will the participant in my class distract other students?

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

Will the participant get anything out of my class?

Absolutely! Participants are eager to learn though you might find that their learning processes do not exactly match their peers. Those selected in 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 attitude 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 participant in your class, please contact UP faculty liaison, Seb Prohn smprohn@email.wcu.edu 828-227-2712