FAST FACTS

TOTAL ENROLLMENT FOR 2016-17 – 10,805
92% of students are from North Carolina

UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT – 9,171
86% full time; 14% part time
32% are transfer students
76% of transfer students are from N.C. community colleges
21% of students are 24 or older

GRADUATE ENROLLMENT – 1,634
43% full time; 57% part time

DEGREES CONFERRED IN 2015-16 – 2,509
Average undergraduate time-to-degree – 4.0 years
Average graduate time-to-degree – 2.6 years

RETENTION RATE
Number of new freshmen enrolled in fall 2015 who returned for fall 2016 – 80%

FINANCIAL AID/EDUCATIONAL DEBT FOR 2014-15
Average debt for all students – $23,839 (up from $20,458 in 2011-12)
Average debt for undergraduate students – $19,327 (up from $15,888 in 2011-12)
Average debt for graduate students – $42,287 (up from $36,022 in 2011-12)
Percentage of students receiving some type of need-based financial aid – 73%
Percentage of students receiving a scholarship from WCU (private, academic scholarship fund, departmental) – 16%
Percentage of students and/or parent receiving loans – 64%
Percentage of students participating in federal work-study program – 3%
Percentage of undergraduate students receiving Pell Grants – 42%

NUMBER OF LIVING WCU ALUMNI – 69,756

NUMBER OF ALUMNI RESIDING IN N.C. – 45,580

GREATEST CONCENTRATIONS OF ALUMNI IN N.C. (IN ORDER BY COUNTY) – Buncombe, Jackson, Mecklenburg, Haywood, Henderson

STATES WITH GREATEST CONCENTRATION OF ALUMNI (IN ORDER BY HIGHEST CONCENTRATION) – North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Virginia

NATIONAL LEADER IN UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH For 11 years in a row, WCU undergraduate students have placed in the top 10 nationally in the number of research projects accepted for presentation at the prestigious National Conference on Undergraduate Research.
“BEST COLLEGE VALUE” – WCU was named a “Best College Value” for 2016 in a national review of colleges and universities released by Kiplinger's Personal Finance magazine.

LEADER IN THE SOUTH – WCU was ranked 13th among “top public regional universities” in the South in the 2017 edition of the U.S. News & World Report “Best Colleges” guidebook.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE EPICENTER – WCU has been named the best college for outdoor adventure in the Southeast/Mid-Atlantic region for three years in a row through a reader's poll conducted by Blue Ridge Outdoors magazine.

TYPES OF GIFTS
- Annual Gifts – gifts made during a fiscal year (July 1-June 30) for immediate use. The Fund for WCU solicits annual gifts. Designations include annual scholarships, academic programming, Catamount Club (athletic scholarships), Friends of the Arts to name a few.
- Major Gifts – gifts and pledges of $25,000 or more for student, program, faculty, or capital support documented with a gift agreement and invested in the endowment.
- Planned Gifts – future gifts made by naming the WCU Foundation as a beneficiary through one’s will/bequest, annuity, trust, life insurance, IRA, 401k, etc.

ENDOWMENT INFORMATION
- A scholarship or program endowment is a permanent fund held within the WCU Foundation and is invested as part of the larger university endowment.
- The principal is never spent. Instead it is prudently invested according to the University’s Endowment Investment Policy.
- Every year, a percentage of the fund’s market value is awarded according to donor intent.
- Development staff work with donors to understand their philanthropic goals and establish an endowment that will be most meaningful.
- The current minimum endowment threshold is $25,000.

WAYS TO GIVE
- Give Online via Amex, Visa, MasterCard, or Discover:
  o Fund for WCU and Endowed Funds: makeagift.wcu.edu
  o Catamount Club Direct Giving Link: catamountsports.com
  o Friends of the Arts Direct Giving Link: givefoa.wcu.edu
- Mail Your Gift
  o Mail a gift by check (payable to WCU Foundation) or credit card to the following address – Western Carolina University | Office of Development 1 University Dr. | Cullowhee, NC 28723

To learn more about any of these gift types or to give over the phone, contact the Development Office at 1-800-492-8496. You can also email your questions to development@wcu.edu or visit give.wcu.edu

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