



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:**
 - Fund for WCU and Endowed Funds: makeagift.wcu.edu
 - Catamount Club Direct Giving Link: catamountsports.com
 - Friends of the Arts Direct Giving Link: givefoa.wcu.edu
- **Mail Your Gift**
 - 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