WCU’s University Participant Program: An Inclusive Model Postsecondary Education Program for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities

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Purpose:
The WCU University Participant (UP) program is designed to provide a two-year, on-campus living and learning experience for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities between the ages of 18 and 25. The program has a maximum enrollment of 8 participants. During the two year period, participants are intended to complete requirements for receiving a UP Certificate of Accomplishment based on the successful completion of an Individual Plan for College Participation.

UP Certificate of Accomplishment:
The UP Certificate of Accomplishment is awarded after a two-year period based on satisfactory completion of five program components by the WCU Office of Educational Outreach. These components include the following:

- Personal Development Skills
- Community Participation Skills
- Vocational Preparation Skills
- Social Participation and Learning
- Elective Course Auditing (e.g., auditing one to two courses per semester)

Participants must pay current university fees for auditing courses.

Admission Criteria:
Potential participants must apply for admission through the university undergraduate admissions office. Consideration for admission to the UP Program will be given to individuals who meet the following criteria:

- Are between the ages of 18 and 25 at the time of admission.
- Have been enrolled in a high school special education program leading to a certificate of completion.
- Demonstrate adequate communication skills to interact with others on the WCU campus.
- Demonstrate socially acceptable behavior that will allow a favorable experience on the WCU campus.
- Be adequately motivated to learn and benefit from their participation in the UP Program.