

Quick Overview: Academic Success Program (ASP)

Purpose:

Western Carolina University offers the Academic Success Program (ASP) as an opportunity for students to begin their college experience early and prepare them for success in college through this **conditional admittance summer pathway program**. The main feature of this program is support. Support, both academically and socially, to be successful in the summer program and upon successful completion of the summer program, support that continues through the Fall and Spring of their first year.

Summer Program Components:

The Summer program entails:

- a **mandatory** five-week, on-campus summer session.
- students in the summer ASP program take **three classes for a total of seven hours of academic credit during those 5 weeks**.
- Students develop reading and writing skills to enhance and support their successful transition to the rigors of college-level requirements and expectations.
- Weekly Summer Case Management meetings with instructors and staff to ensure that students are supported as needed throughout the summer.
- intensive tutoring support
- small class sizes
- faculty chosen not only for their subject knowledge but also their ability to make connections with students.

Summer Classes:

- 1 Class = ENGL 190: First Year Seminar in Literature, or English 101 Or Comm 201 (3 hr. credit);
- 1 Class = Liberal Studies Course (3 hr. credit); and
- 1 Class = USI 130: University Experience (1 hr. credit)

Living on campus:

During the summer, ASP students **live together in a Learning Community environment** in a residence hall with their classmates and a team of experienced Resident Assistants who are carefully trained as mentors to work with first-year college students.

Support:

ASP students are assigned a **Peer Academic Leader (PAL)**. The PALs are upperclassmen who have become successful students. PALs serve as a role model and a supportive peer educator for the ASP students and assist them by providing information and guidance.

Student Expectations:

Students are expected to engage in behaviors that promote an environment conducive to active teaching and learning. ASP students must complete an [ASP Participation Agreement](#) which outlines these guidelines. Students participating in this program should understand that WCU is investing various resources (faculty, staff, tutoring, etc) to make sure that you have the resources needed to be successful but vital to your success in the summer and Fall is being open to asking for help and open to people wanting to help. **That is one key to success- being open to guidance and support.**

Weekends/Free time:

During their free time and on weekends, students can participate in **special activities** in which they have an interest. These activities may include trips around the area, special sporting events, and other regional attractions.

Requirements to return in the Fall:

Participate in the Academic Success Program, **pass summer courses with at least a C (no Unsatisfactory) and earn at least a 2.5 GPA summer semester GPA. This will allow students to continue at Western Carolina University in the fall** with improved skills and confidence.

First-Year Program Components

In addition to the summer programs and activities, ASP students are also supported and monitored throughout their first year of enrollment. **Academic advisors** continue to work with students throughout their first year and serve as their primary resource and support person. In the fall, students are enrolled in **USI 131: Thriving in College**. The purpose of the course is to provide ASP students with enhanced support throughout the fall semester. **ASP students continue to have access to the PALs** through the USI 131 course, and they continue to receive support during the academic year. Throughout their first year, ASP students' academic progress is monitored using a **progress reporting system**.