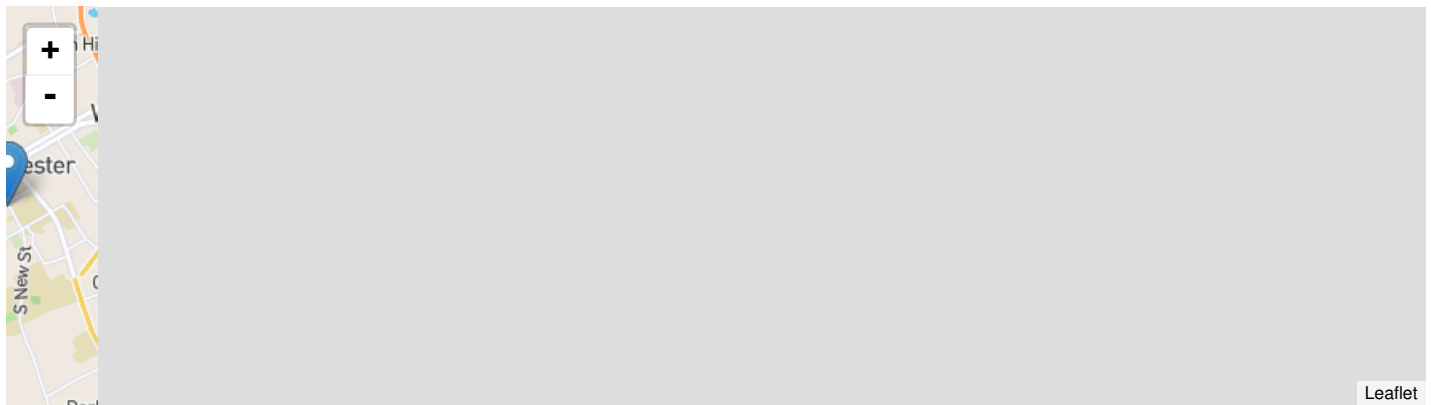


RAM Initiative (Real Achievement Matters) ^[1]

West Chester University of Pennsylvania

Since 2018, the RAM initiative (Real Achievement Matters) program at West Chester University, provides students with intellectual disabilities, ages 18-24, to campus to participate in a two-year fully inclusive post-secondary education experience. The RAM initiative is 'inclusive' in that RAM students learn, live, and interact with all students, faculty, staff and administrators across campus, not in segregated environments. At their discretion, the students have the option to take courses for either a grade or audit. There is a non-traditional application/admissions process. Students in the RAM Initiative are full time students, have full privileges of the university, and are eligible for Pell Grants and Federal Financial Work Study programs (if financially eligible). VISION: To provide an inclusive post-secondary education to students who meet specific criteria for intellectual disability to develop the skills necessary to become independent, economically self-sufficient citizens who meet the goals of the Americans with Disabilities Act of equal opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. Goals: Develop students who are empowered. Develop students who are employable and have career aspirations. Develop students who are self-initiators and life-long learners. Develop students who are socially effective. Develop students who are healthy and happy. Develop students who have independent living skills and have a high participation level in their community. Students in the RAM Initiative enroll in 12-13 credits each semester, including a work-experience practicum/internship per semester. This is a 4 semester, 2 year certification program, where students attend a fully inclusive graduation. Residential opportunities on campus are currently being developed for future students and piloted in 2022-2023 academic year.

West Chester University Recitation Hall 304
University College- Professional Studies Program
West Chester, PA 19383
United States



Program Contact:

Dr. Colleen Commisso and Dawn Patterson

This program supports only transition students from certain districts.:

No

Program Email:

raminitiative@wcupa.edu ^[2]

Email:

raminitiative@wcupa.edu ^[2]

Phone:

610-436-3363

Website:

<https://www.wcupa.edu/universityCollege/ramInitiative/default.aspx> ^[3]

General

Public or private::

Public

Type of school::

4-year college or university

Is this program a federally funded TPSID program?:

No

Students in this program::

Have graduated or exited from high school

Number of students::

3

Requirements

Accepts out-of-state students?:

Yes

Deadline to apply to this program::

mid to late October annually

Link to admissions process::

<https://www.wcupa.edu/universityCollege/ramInitiative/default.aspx> ^[3]

Please indicate which disabilities students in this program have::

- Intellectual disability

Acceptance, Retention, and Completion Rates

Notes on acceptance and attendance::

Currently, the program accepts the number of students that can be supported by the Peer Mentor pool available. This is truly a peer-to-peer program.

Program length::

2 years

Cost

Is this program able to provide federal financial aid as a Comprehensive Transition Program (CTP)?:

Yes

Students pay for the program in the following ways::

- Private pay (student and family)
- Adult intellectual/developmental disability state agency funds
- Medicaid Waiver or Day Habilitation funds

Academic

Students enrolled in this program take the following types of inclusive courses (with students who don't have disabilities)::

Typical college courses for credit

Typical college courses for audit

More about course access::

Students register in four WCU courses available to all students enrolled in the university in the student's area of interest. One course is designated as an internship course for students to gain authentic instruction in their Career Pathway (area of interest).

Do students earn a credential of any kind when they complete this program?:

Yes

Credential(s) students earn upon completing the program::

Certificate of Completion

Employment

Percent of students in this program have paid work while attending the program::

50%

Other career development activities are::

- Internships

Percent of students in this program that had paid work after exiting the program::

100%

Housing

Housing is provided to students::

No

Extracurricular

Students participate in student organizations on campus::

Yes

Students have participated in these social/extracurricular activities and organizations::

Student Activities Council; Homecoming; Radio; Photography for the TV studio; Volunteer at MLK Jr Day of Service; RAM Rallies, Football Games; Special Olympics Coaching and other Adapted Physical Activity Volunteerism; Spread the Word Day; Student Leadership Conference; Women's Conference; Personal Training; Nutrition Training; Yoga; Zumba; Rec Center; Going to Plays and Dance Concerts.

Facebook:

[link to program Facebook page](#) ^[4]

Program serves students who have left high school?:

Yes, all of our students have left high school

Admission criteria (select all that apply):

Specific age range (enter ages below)

Acceptance rate for the most recent fall term::

33.00%

Retention rate for first year students from the previous academic year to the current one::

100.00%

Criteria for admission:

<div class="item-list"><li class="first last">Age range: 18-24 </div>

Is the credential approved by the college/university?:

Awarded by program, not officially recognized by the IHE

Do students earn STEM-related certificates?:

No

Regular high school diploma required?:

No, an IEP/non-standard diploma/certificate of attendance is accepted

Average out-of-state tuition, current year::

\$22295.10

Please indicate which disabilities students in this program have:

Intellectual disability

Students take STEM-related courses?:

Yes

Does this program have a working partnership with VR to provide funding, supports and/or services to students in the program?:

No

Are students in this program able to access support services through your IHE disability services office?:

No

Instructions:

In the form below is the information that is currently listed on our website for your program. Please click on each green tab, look over all fields and change any information that needs to be updated. There is no need to save after completing each tab, but you MUST click Save at either the top or bottom of this form after going through and making any necessary changes. You can save at any time and you may save and leave and return later to make additional changes or add new information. Green check marks will appear in the tabs on the left when you have filled out all questions in a section. Please make every attempt to answer all questions--but if you can't, the form will still save and we will use the information you can provide to create your updated record.

Date program information submitted:

2022-02-22 18:01:09

Do all students in this program enroll in at least one inclusive college/university course for credit or audit each semester?:

Yes

Remote learning at your program:

Other, explain below

Briefly describe remote learning at your program:

If courses of interest to the student are as designated as distance education courses, then the students attend those courses as designated in the catalog.

Percentage of academic time spent in inclusive courses (with students who don't have disabilities)::

100%

Students in the program have access to the following campus-wide services::

Career services

Disability/accessibility services

Academic tutoring services

Access to a transcript via the registrar

Academic advising services (not program staff)

Students participate in these campus-wide events::

College/University's Student orientation

College/University's Family orientation

College/University's Graduation

Students may participate in the following extra-curricular activities:

Registered student organizations

Club sports

Campus events

Fraternities/sororities

Program length::

2 years

Describe remote learning at your program:

<div class="item-list"><li class="first last">If courses of interest to the student are as designated as distance education courses, then the students attend those courses as designated in the catalog.</div>

Percentage of social time spent in inclusive activities (open to all students on campus)::

100%

Contacts

*Institute for Community Inclusion
UMass Boston
Boston, Massachusetts 02125
Phone: (617) 287-4300
Email: thinkcollege@umb.edu*

Links

- [Home](#)
- [About Us](#)
- [Team Members](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)
- [Sitemap](#)
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About

Think College is a national initiative dedicated to developing, expanding, and improving research and practice in inclusive higher education for students with intellectual disability. It is based at the Institute for Community Inclusion, University of Massachusetts Boston.

Social

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [LinkedIn](#) [Instagram](#) [Email Think College](#)



@ document.write(new Date().getFullYear()); [Institute for Community Inclusion](#) at the University of Massachusetts Boston.

[ABOUT](#) | [ACCESSIBILITY](#) | [CONTACT](#)

Links

[1] <https://thinkcollege.net/programs/ram-initiative-real-achievement-matters> [2] <mailto:raminitiative@wcupa.edu> [3] <https://www.wcupa.edu/universityCollege/ramInitiative/default.aspx> [4] <https://www.facebook.com/RAM-Initiative-108308737421762>