



How Inclusive College Programs do Admissions: Tips and Insights

part of the Think College Webinar Series, presented by
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and Misty Parsley, Ed.D.

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Today's presenters
are...



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Jessica Mattis, Director, REAL Certificate Program, School of Education, Arcadia University

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WHAT IS THE UP PROGRAM?

- The University Participant (UP) Program is a two year, inclusive program for college-aged individuals with intellectual disabilities.
- Operated as a pilot program from 2007 to 2010; 2 UP students completed the program by 2010.
- Expanded to 4 UP students in 2010, 4 additional in 2011 for a total of 8 UP students.
- Funded as a model demonstration site in 2010 by U.S. Department of Education and now by WCU.



UP Admission Requirements

Between the ages of 18 and 25 at the time of admission

Previously enrolled in a high school special education program that does not lead to completion of a regular high school diploma and that does not allow students to complete requirements necessary for regular admission to WCU

Demonstrates adequate communication and socially acceptable behavior to interact with others on the WCU campus

Motivated to learn and benefit from participation in the UP Program

Expressed interest in living and working as independently as possible in the community after completing the UP program and supported by parents and families to do so



WCU UP Program Recruitment and Admission Guidelines

Outreach/Recruitment

- Developing visibility
- Community outreach
- Open house

Systematic Review

- Application materials
- Initial reviews and ratings
- Review by the Admissions Committee
- Selection of top applicants

Final Evaluation and Selection

- Invitations to orientation camp
- Conducting orientation camp
- Accepting new students
- Supporting unaccepted applicants



What is the REAL Certificate?



- Fully individualized & inclusive 2-year program
- 3 Components
 - ACADEMIC: 1-3 classes each semester
 - VOCATIONAL: range of work experiences
 - SOCIAL: peer mentors, clubs, events, etc.
- Approximately 5 students begin each year
- Students live in residence halls or commute to campus daily



REAL Certificate Eligibility Criteria

- For motivated students with intellectual disabilities and/or developmental disabilities who are:
 - 18-25 years old
 - In their final years of high school (up to 3 years) or who have completed secondary education
 - Not able to access college by meeting typical entrance criteria
 - Interested in being part of the workforce
 - Able to learn to navigate the college environment with necessary supports
 - Able to attend classes independently
 - Able to arrange transportation to and from campus daily or live in a traditional residence hall



REAL Sample Application Requirements

- Student Information (Educational Background, Employment History, etc.)
- Medical Information & History Form
- Release/ Exchange of Information Form
- Transcript
- Letters of Recommendation
- Personal Support Inventory (Parent or Guardian)
- Student Questionnaire
- Most recent IEP and ISP
- Educational Evaluation



REAL Application Process

January:

- Review all applications & determine eligibility
- Schedule interview with student/ family/ support team

February:

- Conduct in-person interviews
- Create application summaries

March:

- Hold Application Advisory Meeting
- Send out Application Status Notifications



April:

- Accepted students & families attend Scarlet & Grey Day

May:

- Deposit and notification of acceptance due to the university



Lipscomb University Nashville, TN

iDEAL

- Started in January 2014 with three students
- 2015 TPSID recipient
- Currently take 10 students a year
- 19 first/second years; 3 third years
- 14/19 residential students
- Third years live off campus in a duplex with peers



IDEAL Program Components



- 12 hours- 6 inclusive, 6 specialty (with peers)
- 4 internships placements (2 on campus, 2 off campus)
- “mini-major” with inclusive classes tied to career interests
- Over 90% of their time with peers- over 100 volunteer peer mentors per semester
- Employment rate for graduates is 90% (one enrolled in traditional college program and is set to graduate in 2021 with a social work degree)



IDEAL Admissions Process

Step One

- Complete the university's online application
- Complete additional paperwork (skill inventories, questionnaires)
- Get two references
- Submit IEP, evaluations, etc.
- Submit online video

Step Two

- Experience day on campus
- Parent interview on video

Step Three

- Additional interview
- Call references

Step Four

- Attend Summer Academy



Questions for today's speakers

- Can you tell us about any recruitment strategies you use?
- Open houses— what's the point?
what works? Any tips?
- What is required for your admissions packet?
- Who is on your admissions review committee & why?
- Is there any particularly meaningful info that you look for on the application? Why? Like: how does a student stand out?
- What is the process/timeline?



.... And what do YOU want to know?





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