

Washington State University ROAR Program

(Responsibility, Opportunities, Advocacy, and Respect)

Model Transition Program

Program Description. Washington State University ROAR (Responsibility Opportunities Advocacy and Respect) program provides students with intellectual disabilities (ID) and autism spectrum disorder (ASD) opportunities to improve their transition outcomes by participating in an inclusive services model postsecondary education program. WSU ROAR will be the only university based program for students with ID (e.g., Down Syndrome, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome) in the inland Northwest (Washington, Idaho, and Oregon) who complete high school without earning a regular high school diploma. WSU ROAR provides individualized (person centered) social, vocational, academic, and living skills to individuals with ID or ASD ages 18-29 who did not earn a high school diploma. As the program is completed, WSU ROAR students receive a Vocational Certificate from the program and structured supports to transition toward their self determined goals. The program will be supervised by Drs. Barrio, McMahan, and Miller and infrastructure will be provided by students in the elementary education, secondary education, and special education teacher preparation programs.

Goals: This TPSID program will focus on improving post-school outcomes for individuals with ID and ASD in the areas of employment, independent living, and community participation. To improve these transition outcomes the following goals will be completed.

1. Establish a postsecondary education transition program for students with ID and ASD;
2. Build university and community capacity in postsecondary education efforts through partnerships, joint activities, workshops, and materials;
3. Provide students with access to a variety of inclusive academic courses;
4. Include a strong focus on career development from program participants;
5. Facilitate opportunities for inclusive campus activities for program participants;
6. Promote the development of self-determination for program participants;
7. Use the *Front Door First* approach promotes student self-determination and inclusion;
8. Develop procedures to promote coordination and collaboration with community partners for seamless transition;
9. Establish program sustainability;
10. Conduct continuous program evaluation and refinement.

Activities: This five-year program creates a two-year certificate program at WSU that would admit cohorts of approximately 10 students a year with ID and ASD. ROAR program students participate in courses designed specifically for them (life skills, digital literacy, career planning), WSU courses for audit credit, and job training internships on campus and in the community.

WSU ROAR activities address the three competitive priorities of the grant by

1. Student involvement is included throughout the WSU ROAR program's inclusive model comprehensive transition program. Program students will work, socialize, and learn with undergraduate and graduate peer mentors and graduate student instructors from many disciplines (special education, teacher education, counseling, ROTC, and psychology).

2. *Partnerships*- Our program is supported by several local agencies serving students with ID and ASD in meaningful partnerships designed to create a sustainable program;
3. *Housing*- Program staff in the College of Education are working with Provost's office and the departments of Computer Science and Psychology to develop a smart home proposal to provide for on campus living of the students with ID and ASD while providing technologies to support independent living

WSU ROAR Partners. In order to create a sustainable and inclusive program WSU ROAR is partnering with on campus resources including the Office of the Provost, College of Education, Psychology Department, Engineering, Center for Community Engagement, and the Department of Teaching and Learning. Community partners include Whitman County Developmental Services, Pullman School District, Educational Services District 101, DisAbility Action Center and the Pullman Chamber of Commerce.

Budget.

Year 1 Total: \$100,000

Tuition for 4 students: \$13,056

Laptops/tablets for students: \$2,400

Materials for activities, transportation, and other supplies: \$15,779

Salary for WSU ROAR Program Director: \$54,000

Salary for WSU ROAR Instructor (Doctoral Student): \$14,765

Year 2 Total: \$127,821

Tuition for 8 students: \$26,112 (4 from year 1 + 4 new students)

Laptops/tablets for students: \$2,400

Materials for activities, transportation, and other supplies: \$15,779

Salary for WSU ROAR Program Director: \$54,000

Salary for WSU ROAR Instructors (Doctoral Students): \$14,765 per instructor x 2 = \$29,530

Years 3 through 5 will be determined at a later time based on the initial investment to this program. We will continue to seek federal and foundation funding to support this program.