An Inclusive Postsecondary Education Program for Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
Overview

Introduction to Postsecondary Education Programs

Overview of WSU ROAR

Questions and Discussion
Post-School Outcomes for Young Adults with Disabilities

- Young adults with disabilities between the ages of 16-24 are employed about half as often as their peers without a disabilities
- Research shows inclusive and early career related experiences can improve outcomes
Post-School Outcomes for Young Adults with I/DD

- Post-school outcomes for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) are among the lowest of all disability categories.

- Students with I/DD experience lower levels of inclusion, and fewer opportunities for transition planning than do their peers with other disabilities.
Post-School Outcomes for Young Adults with I/DD

• We see the impact of these in-school experiences later in life:
  • Lower rates of competitive integrated employment
  • Lower wages, fewer hours, and fewer benefits
  • Lower rates of independent living

• In Washington, students with ID had the highest rates of non-engagement and were among the least likely to become competitively employed one-year after exit

• It’s estimated Washington has more than 3,000 high school age students with I/DD

• Individuals with I/DD who reside in rural areas, like much of NEWESD 101, face even more challenges than those from more densely populated areas
Impact of Postsecondary Education Programs on Outcomes for Students with I/DD

• Postsecondary education programs have increasingly become a viable and economically justifiable postsecondary option for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities

• Emerging research on the impact of these programs suggest they have an immense effect on independent living and employment outcomes

• Nationally, there are a 128 comprehensive transition programs; with just 5 located in the greater Pacific Northwest (Washington, Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Wyoming)
Transition Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities (TPSID)

• In 2010 the U.S. Department of Education first recognized the potential for postsecondary education programs and established the “Transition Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities (TPSID)” model demonstration projects.

• These projects initially funded the development and expansion of 20-25 postsecondary education programs for five years, with the goal of developing sustainable programs.

• The funding also included the establishment of a national technical assistance and coordinating center (ThinkCollege!), designed to support program implementation and sustainability.

• Due to the vast success of the initial wave of TPSID projects, the U.S. Department of Education repeated the competition in 2015, and again in 2020.

• In Fall 2020, Washington State University’s College of Education was awarded a 5-year, $2.3 million grant for the development and expansion of WSU ROAR.
• WSU ROAR is a two-year inclusive postsecondary education program for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD)

Vision Statement
• The vision of the WSU ROAR program is to empower students with intellectual and developmental disabilities to become self-determined, independent adults that seek a rewarding and purposeful life.

Mission Statement
• WSU ROAR strives to empower students to reach their personal and professional goals and achieve independence in an inclusive campus environment… WSU ROAR provides transformational educational experiences for students with and without disabilities, enacting the institutional land-grant mission of access, engagement, and service to society.
WSU ROAR
Community

- Katie Abrams: Director
- Kathryn Sheridan-Stiefel: Program Coordinator
- Amber Brown: Postdoctoral Scholar/Employment
- 5 Graduate Assistants
- 3 Assisted Living Advisors
- WSU ROAR Leadership Team
- WSU ROAR Parents
- WSU ROAR Students
- Peer Allies
- Affiliated Faculty Mentors
WSU ROAR Program Activities

- WSU Audit Courses
- ROAR Specific Courses
- Employment & Internship Opportunities
- Inclusive Campus Experience
WSU Audit Courses

- Students select these based on interest areas
- Person centered planning drives this process
- Students start with 100 or 200 level courses
- They have the opportunity to choose courses in the WSU course catalog
- Students complete a Student Learning Agreement
  - Accommodations and modifications
  - Assignments and assessments
WSU ROAR Courses

Digital Literacy
Career Planning & Professional Development
Health & Wellness
Independent Living
Employment & Internship Opportunities

• Work-Based Learning
• Paid Work Experience
• Micro credentialing
Example Work-Based Learning Sites

- Daily Evergreen
- Village Centre Theatre
- WSU Childcare Center
- VR2Go Lab
- Pullman Parks and Rec
- Serenity Ridge Farms Equestrian Training Center
- WSU Women’s Soccer Team
- WSU Recreation Center
- WSU Veterinarian Teaching Hospital
- Whitman County Humane Society
- All internships are found and tailored to career goals based on Person centered planning
Inclusive Campus Experience

- Social Events
  - Netflix Parties
  - Valentines Day cards for Seattle Children’s Hospital
  - Board game & trivia nights
  - Pumpkin painting
  - Spa nights

- Campus wide events
  - UREC classes
  - Lecture series
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Chinook Village Apartments

- On-campus living – Required
- Nine-months (Academic Year)
- Roommates from WSU ROAR Program (3-4 bedroom)
Supports

- **Daily Check-Ins**
- **Advising and Support Staff**
  - Accommodations/Modifications
- **Assistive Living Advisors (similar to Residence Hall Advisors)**
  - After 4 pm or weekend activities and suggestions for events
  - On-call for emergencies or conflict resolution
  - Evening and Weekend Check in's
- **Academic & Employment Mentorship**
  - WSU Practicum Students
  - Micro credentials
- **Peer Allies**
  - Same-aged college peers – volunteers
  - Campus navigation-first few weeks of classes
  - Social Events Academic support via study halls
Support ROAR cannot provide...

- One-on-one assistance (e.g., daily caregiving, all day support)
- Medication application
- Tutoring
- Mental Health Support (WSU Health & Wellness does provide it on campus)
- Arrange all social interactions
Admission Process

Application opens Nov. 1 every year

Deadline: March 30th

Admission’s Council will review the applications

• Admission’s Council includes ROAR Staff, ROAR Leadership Team, ROAR TPSID Members, & other WSU Staff
• Candidates with best fit will be contacted to be interviewed by mid-February
• All of the interviews will occur via Zoom

Decisions will be made in April
Eligibility Requirements

• Is an individual with an intellectual/developmental disability and is not able to enroll in a “traditional” college or university program, even with accommodations;

• Is seeking greater independence through enhancing social, communication, vocational and life skills in a post-secondary education program;

• Is willing and able to live communally and independently with other WSU ROAR students in campus housing (apartments) during the duration of the program;

• Exhibits responsible and socially adaptive behavior without supervision;

• Has sufficient emotional and independent ability to participate in all aspects of the WSU ROAR Program;

• Recommended to be between the ages of 18-26

• Demonstrates the ability to accept personal responsibility for actions and maintains respect for self and others;

• Has no history of disruptive or aggressive behavior. Note: ROAR does not have the personnel necessary to manage behavioral issues.

• Has the ability to independently self-administer and manage medication, specialized dietary and/or medical needs. Is able to communicate with others (with or without assistive technology)

• Can function independently and participate in semester-long workshops and seminars that last between 90 minutes and 2 hours
Application

• Student application packet- Online via Qualtrics
• $25.00 non-refundable application fee payable to WSU ROAR Program-Mailed
• High School Transcript
• Copy of student’s IEP (if available)
• Educational Evaluation (ideally conducted within the past three years) such as:
  • Woodcock-Johnson III or Revised Test of Achievement
  • Peabody Individual Achievement Test (PIAT)
  • Kaufman Test of Educational Achievement (KTEA)
• Current Psychological/Behavioral Evaluation
• 2 Letters of Recommendation (personal/educational)
Program Cost

WSU ROAR Estimated Cost Sheet (Spring 2020)

Audit Courses = $190/Credit
Example: One 3 Credit Course = $570 ($190 x 3)

Books/Supplies = $960/year

WSU ROAR Student Program Fees = $15,000/year; $7,500/semester

Chinook Village Apartment Rent =
  3 Bedroom = $425/month
  4 Bedroom = $355/month
  Total Cost for 3 Bedroom = $4,250 [10-month lease total]
  Total Cost for 4 Bedroom = $3,550 [10-month lease total]
*These apartments come furnished.

University Mandatory Fees:
  S&A Fee = $558/year; 279.00/semester
  Student Rec. Fee = $314/year; $157.00/semester
  Health & Wellness Fee = $468/year; $204/semester
  Transit Fee = $72.17/year; $36.08/semester
  Stadium Fee = $50/year; $25/semester
  CUB Fee = $240/year; $120/semester
  Technology Fee = $40/year; $20/semester
  Chinook Fee = $196/year; $98/semester
  Media Fee = $10/year $5/semester

Dining (Many options available, Median price listed here) = $4,300/year

Miscellaneous Living Expenses (i.e. food [not in meal plan], utilities, etc.) = $1054/year

ESTIMATED YEARLY TOTAL = $28,130

*This total is based upon the highest listed numbers above. Please note that many of these costs are subject to change. Indirect costs to the university include housing, dining, books/ supplies, miscellaneous expenses.

For more information about University expenses, please visit the websites listed below:
  • Housing.wsu.edu
  • Financialaid.wsu.edu/tuition-expenses

Why are there University Mandatory fees?
These fees cover things that are outside of tuition, but still necessary.
  • The Student Rec Center
  • The 2008 Renovation of the CUB
  • Renovations to Martin Stadium
  • Transportation Services for busses in Pullman
Scholarship & Funding Opportunities

• Federal Pell Grant
• Ruby’s Rainbow
• Local organizations (e.g., Down Syndrome Society)
• WSU ROAR scholarships
College options for people with intellectual disability

Think College

Family and Student resources can be found in the Think College website
More Information

Website: education.wsu.edu/wsuroar
Email: coe.roar@wsu.edu
Facebook: www.facebook.com/wsuroar
Twitter: @WSUROAR