



THE UNION
EDGE
PROGRAM

Post Secondary Education for Students with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities.

UNION  UNIVERSITY

- The Union EDGE is two year certificate program for students aged 18-26 with diagnosed intellectual/developmental disabilities.
- This program is located at Union University in Jackson, Tennessee. Union University is a private Christian university affiliated with the Southern Baptist.
- Students may choose residential or non-residential.
- Students will audit college courses, participate in life skills classes, work in on-campus and off-campus internships and experience the full range of college life.

Who are we?

- Union University is the 5th PSE program in the state of Tennessee. (UT, Vanderbilt, Lipscomb, Memphis)
- We are one of two Christian universities offering this program in the state.
- We are the *only* residential program in Tennessee.

PSE Programs in Tennessee

- The ultimate purpose of the Union EDGE program is to prepare students with ID/DD to work in a preferred job setting by strengthening independent social, communication, and vocational skills.

Our Purpose

- Students will audit two academic classes per semester with traditional Union students based on their interests and career goals. The program director will work with university faculty to identify any necessary accommodations to the syllabi or course materials.
- Students will also enroll in two skill-building courses every semester that focus on employment and technology skills. These classes will provide Union EDGE students with independent living skills that will help them to be better employees and give them the option to live on their own.

Our Format

- Students will be placed in on-campus internships during the first year and off-campus externships during the second year of the program. The students' job interests and abilities will be matched with available openings that align with the students' career goals.

Format

- Each student will be involved in our mentor program. For each Union EDGE student, they will have five assigned mentors.
- Mentors will play different roles. One may choose to be the “workout buddy,” while another may be the “lunch buddy.” There will be a study group mentor, as well as a team captain for each individual EDGE student.
- Each individual mentor will go through a training program before the semester begins.

Our Mentor Program

- The applicant must be between the ages of 18-26 at the start of the program
- The applicant must have a documented intellectual and/or developmental disability
- The applicant must be able to sit through 90 minute courses and function independently for 2-hour blocks of time
- The applicant must demonstrate basic literacy in reading and writing
- The applicant must have the capacity to handle and adapt to change with supports

Eligibility

- The applicant must demonstrate the ability to accept and follow reasonable rules and behave respectfully towards others
- The applicant must demonstrate the desire to attend the Union EDGE and adhere to the Union EDGE policies regarding attendance and participation in coursework and required activities
- The applicant must have the potential to successfully achieve his/her goals within the context of the Union EDGE program’s content and setting

Eligibility

- Families may download the application at www.uu.edu/EDGE
- We are accepting applications now through March 1, 2016.
- Applications will go through a screening process. Approved applicants will be invited on campus for an interview with the Union EDGE Program staff
- The applicant and parent/guardians will complete a campus tour on the day of the admissions interview
- The applicant will then be invited back to attend a “Day in the Life” simulation independent of their parents/guardians

Application Process

- Tuition for the Union EDGE Program is \$15,000 per year.
- Additional fees for campus activities are totaled at \$820 per year.
- If a student chooses to live on campus, the costs will be the same as that for traditionally enrolled Union University students.

Costs

- Union University’s dorms are the much desired apartment style living.
- There are 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a living room, kitchen, and a washer/dryer in each dorm room.
- The Union EDGE student who chooses to live on campus will be with three traditionally enrolled students, who have received training and information on life with an intellectually disabled student.
- Dorms fees per year will total \$7,690.00.
- Meal plans vary. The typical residential student purchases a 140 meal block at a cost of \$1,190.
- ALL FEES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Dorm life

- Students who have been accepted to the Union EDGE Program *may* qualify for financial aid.
- The first step is completing the FAFSA.
- Students may be eligible for the Tennessee STEP UP Scholarship, Pell grants, and work study .
- Currently, the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation pays \$2,400 per semester toward PSE programs.

Financial Aid

- If you have any students that you feel would benefit from this program, please encourage them to contact me!
- Jennifer Graves, Program Director
 - Jgraves@uu.edu
 - 731/661-5382

Contact Information



Meet our Eight!
