



# RISE

Westmoreland County Community College

Fall 2025

# Westmoreland County Community College

- 8 locations across Westmoreland, Fayette, and Indiana counties
  - Youngwood (main campus)
  - Latrobe, Murrysville, New Kensington, Indiana, Uniontown
  - Advance Technology Center and Public Safety Training Center
- More than 3,900 students
- Active campus life with student organizations and on-campus events

# RISE

An inclusive postsecondary education opportunity for college students with intellectual and developmental disabilities at Westmoreland County Community College

- 2 year program
- Integrated Studies Certificate
- Fully inclusive
- Employment-focused



# Academics

- 3 courses per semester
  - Technical training course (for credit)
  - Career readiness course (for credit)
  - General education course (for credit or for audit)
- No requirements for placement assessment
- No English or Math courses required
- Courses are primarily on-campus, not online
- All courses are fully inclusive



# Academics - Technical Training Course

- Students select a career pathway at the beginning of the program:
  - Baking and Pastry
  - Culinary Arts
  - Early Childhood Education
  - Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning
  - Office Technology
  - Plumbing
  - Security Professional - new tract starting Fall 2026
  - Social Work - new tract starting Fall 2026



# Social

- Students are required to participate in at least two social and two academic campus events per semester
- 15+ student clubs on campus
  - Anime Fans
  - Black Student Union
  - GAMERS
  - Campus Events Committee
  - Arts & Media
  - Christian Fellowship
  - Eco Activists
  - Society for Early Educators
- Division 2 Athletics with 10+ sports teams



# Employment

- Students build job skills and technical knowledge throughout their courses and time on campus
- Work based learning opportunities
- Students participate in meetings with the Career Connections Center
  - Build a resume
  - Cover letter writing
  - Practice interviews
  - Access to Handshake



# Independent Living

- Students are supported to build skills in the following independent living areas:
  - Time management
  - Money management
  - Communication
  - Self-advocacy
  - Problem solving
  - Self-determination





# RISE Supports

- Structured study lounge
  - Minimum of 4 hours per week
- Academic coaching
  - 1 hour per week
- Peer mentors
- Requirement to meet with professors throughout the semester
- Midterm feedback opportunities



# Eligible Students

- Must have documented intellectual and developmental disability
- Must be able to independently and safely navigate campus
- Must have basic reading, writing, and communication skills
- Must have a funding source in place
- Must have reliable access to transportation
- Must have the ability and desire to learn, work, and participate in the classroom and work environments

# Admission Process

- Application is on the RISE webpage under the Admission tab
- Priority Deadline: January 1, 2026
- Application includes:
  - Student application
  - Copy of most recent IEP
  - Copy of most recent psychological-educational or neuropsychological evaluation by a licensed professional
  - Two professional recommendations (form on website)
  - One caregiver recommendation (form on website)
  - High school transcript
- On campus interview

# Tuition and Fees

- Students are billed the regular rate for college tuition and fees
  - For Westmoreland County residents:
    - 2025-2026 tuition rate was \$143 per credit (around 8-9 credits per semester)
    - 2025-2026 fee rate was \$72 per credit
  - Lab fees \$70-80 per course with labs
- Additional RISE program fee
  - \$6500 per semester

*Estimated cost for one semester for a Westmoreland County resident with one lab course: \$8,515  
(\$17,000-\$18,000 annually)*



# Possible Funding Sources

- Federal financial aid
  - Pell grants and work study
  - RISE is an approved CTP program through the US Department of Education
- ODP funding (ID/A waivers)
- School district - dual enrollment
- Scholarships

# QUESTIONS?

# Contact

Dr. McKenna Killion

[killionm@westmoreland.edu](mailto:killionm@westmoreland.edu)

724-925-4087

