

SECTION I

Profile of the College

College Profile

West Virginia University at Parkersburg enrolls approximately 4,200 students in credit classes and serves an additional 3,000 persons annually in non-credit classes, seminars, workforce development training and workshops. Academic credits earned at WVU Parkersburg are transferable to any institution in the West Virginia higher education state system as well as other accredited institutions throughout the country. WVU Parkersburg is the only public community college in West Virginia accredited to offer baccalaureate degrees. The college's primary service area consists of seven counties in West Virginia: Jackson, Pleasants, Ritchie, Roane, Tyler, Wirt and Wood.

College History

WVU Parkersburg was founded in 1961 as the Parkersburg Branch of West Virginia University. In 1971, it became Parkersburg Community College, one of the state's first comprehensive community colleges. The institution was renamed West Virginia University at Parkersburg and rejoined WVU as a regional campus in 1989. State legislation in 2008 created a statewide network of independently-accredited community and technical colleges. WVU Parkersburg is now an affiliated institution of WVU. In 1974, the college established its Jackson County Center in Ripley which now has more than 700 students.

Governance

WVU Parkersburg is a public institution of higher education, affiliated with WVU, separately accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, and operated by the state of West Virginia. WVU Parkersburg is under the jurisdiction of the WV Community and Technical College Council. WVU Parkersburg is governed locally by the WVU at Parkersburg Board of Governors.

Accreditation

West Virginia University at Parkersburg is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools to offer Certificates, and Associate and Bachelor's degrees. The Higher Learning Commission of the NCA may be contacted by writing 30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2400, Chicago, IL, calling (312) 263-0456 or visiting its web site at www.ncahigherlearningcommission.org.

In addition, College programs are accredited by the following agencies:

- Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting
- National Association of Realtors
- National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education
- National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, Inc.

College programs are approved by the following agencies:

- Association for Childhood Education International
- West Virginia Department of Education
- West Virginia Real Estate Commission
- West Virginia State Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses

College Mission

West Virginia University at Parkersburg provides accessible, life-changing educational opportunities in a safe and supportive environment.

Opportunities include:

- Career Pathways from Certificate to Baccalaureate
- Global Studies
- Workplace Experience
- Civic Engagement
- Leadership Studies

College Philosophy

The faculty, staff and administration of West Virginia University at Parkersburg individually and collectively hold the responsibility of providing educational and cultural opportunities in the college's service community, based upon the following principles:

1. Education holds a central position in the creation, development, and nurturing of a society.
2. Education should be constantly cognizant of the fact that all persons are individuals of worth and are entitled to be treated with dignity and respect.
3. Education functions under the realization that equal opportunity to access and to benefit from teaching and learning must be afforded to all persons.
4. Education provides the opportunity for all citizens in a democratic society to explore, to discover, and to develop their special aptitudes and interests.
5. Education holds as a sacred trust its responsibility to assist persons in their quest for a fulfilling life and for responsible citizenship in a world characterized by change.

College Goals

In support of its Philosophy and to accomplish its Mission, West Virginia University at Parkersburg shall:

- Foster high academic standards to achieve excellence in all courses and programs
- Identify higher education needs and develop appropriate community-based courses and programs to meet varied educational goals of residents
- Provide developmental education to facilitate access to higher education opportunities
- Promote and sustain maximum practical transferability of courses to West Virginia University
- Provide comprehensive and efficient instructional support services
- Provide a relevant comprehensive student services system to assure student success in attaining educational goals and individual potentials
- Advance the development and delivery of customized training and services to area business and industry in support of economic development
- Participate in the achievement of the comprehensive statewide mission of West Virginia University
- Maintain a regular and on-going evaluation of academic and institutional effectiveness
- Conduct a comprehensive long-range planning process
- Nurture appropriate educational opportunities available through the Jackson County Center
- Cultivate development of human and fiscal resources to effectively support achievement of college mission
- Offer opportunities for cultural, intellectual and personal enrichment
- Promote public awareness of the college, its programs, personnel and potential services to the community
- Maintain an atmosphere of cooperation and trust that allows opportunities for personal growth and self-fulfillment by the college community

As defined by the NCA's Commission on Institutions of Higher Education:

General education is "general" in several clearly identifiable ways: it is not directly related to a student's formal technical, vocational or professional preparation: it is a part of every student's course of study, regardless of his or her area of emphasis; and it is intended to impart common knowledge, intellectual concepts and attitudes that every educated person should possess.

West Virginia University at Parkersburg espouses the philosophy that education is both idea and act. Students are encouraged to think, to read and to know, as well as to apply and to do. In the general education courses, students are encouraged to increase their:

Capabilities in	Understanding of	Development of	Appreciation of
- reading, writing, speaking, listening	- numerical data	- ethical perspectives	- fine and
- abstract inquiry	- scientific inquiry	- cultural value	performing arts
- critical thinking	- global issues	systems	
- logical reasoning	- historical perspectives		
- problem solving	- literary and/or philosophical expression of ideas		

General education supports the notion of a free democratic society which, in turn, demands an informed, thoughtful and ethical citizenry. Through general education, students are encouraged to observe how humans are connected to humans, thereby discovering their common humanity. The core is designed to expose students to those activities and patterns of thought which are most truly human: the sciences, history, literature and art.

Through the core studies, students are encouraged to think critically and analytically, to integrate knowledge, to solve problems, to be innovative, to synthesize ideas and actions, and to care about the public good. The studies further recognize the need for computer literacy in the life of the educated person and reinforce the classical notion of a sound mind in a sound body. General education, in essence, is a study of human life and a quest for knowing the best way to live.

Jackson County Center

The Jackson County Center of WVU Parkersburg was established in 1974 as an outreach program in Jackson and Roane counties. Many services available on the Parkersburg campus are available at JCC. Courses are offered which enable JCC students to gain additional hours of credit before commuting to the Parkersburg campus to finish degree work.

Caperton Center for Applied Technology

The Caperton Center for Applied Technology involves an innovative approach to deliver programs which respond to evolving employment needs. The facility is shared by WVU Parkersburg and Wood County Schools. Associate degrees in various technical areas as well as several baccalaureate degrees are offered in the Center. High school students may earn high school and college

credit in a number of dual credit courses, thus taking advantage of a seamless transition from high school to college.

WVU at Parkersburg Foundation Inc.

The WVU at Parkersburg Foundation, Inc. is an independent, non-profit, tax-exempt corporation organized to promote and support WVU Parkersburg. It is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors comprised of business and community leaders. Each year the WVU at Parkersburg Foundation awards approximately 100 scholarships to students who demonstrate strong academic performance. The WVU at Parkersburg Foundation also provides funds for staff and faculty development, student art awards and other institutional support.

Gifts to the Foundation are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. Support of the Foundation makes a significant impact on the college's ability to encourage strong scholars, and maintain a commitment to educational excellence in the Mid-Ohio Valley. The Foundation's administrative office is located on the Parkersburg campus. Information about donations to the Foundation and the scholarships available can be obtained by calling 304-424-8340 or by visiting www.wvup.edu/foundation.

Academic Common Market

West Virginia University at Parkersburg offers students the opportunity to earn bachelor's degrees in a number of fields that are offered only by institutions in other states but are available to West Virginia residents at in-state tuition rates. To participate in any of the programs, students should start their instruction at WVU at Parkersburg and complete approximately two years of study. Bachelor's degrees are available at specified state colleges or universities in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Tennessee, and Virginia. In each instance, students who are accepted in the programs are eligible to pay the existing in-state tuition and fees in the particular state in which they are accepted. For more information, contact the State Coordinator for the Academic Common Market, WV Higher Education Central Office, telephone (304) 348-0262.