

Classroom Curriculum

Throughout the school year, students participate in a functional academic curriculum that stresses employability and independent living skills. Major classroom focus areas include:

- Working responsibly
- Communicating effectively
- Solving problems and developing critical thinking skills
- Planning and managing a career
- Applying technology
- Developing self-advocacy skills

Work Rotations

Students build communication, problem-solving, and job-specific skills through a rotation of unpaid student internships. Through work rotations, which begin in the second month of the program, students will each experience three to four internships. Worksite assignments will be based on students' previous work experience, interests, and assessments. Job trainers and Willow Valley team members collaborate to provide support with students taking on more responsibility as they gain independence.

Acknowledgements & Partnerships

The staff and students of Willow Valley Work Immersion wish to extend their appreciation to the school districts in Lancaster County, Lancaster-Lebanon IU13, Willow Valley Communities, and student family members for their ongoing support and encouragement.

IU13 Board of School Directors

Dr. Brian Barnhart, Executive Director

Sherry Zubeck, Director of Early Childhood and Special Education Services

Lisa Figurelle, Program Director

Gina Guatta, Supervisor

Marcie Drumm, Willow Valley Human Resources Director



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Willow Valley Work Immersion Program



Serving School-Age Learners

Contact Information

Lancaster-Lebanon IU13
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Willow Valley Work Immersion Program

The Willow Valley Work Immersion Program (WIP) focuses on helping young adults with disabilities make a successful transition from school to productive adult life. This unique one-year immersion program serves students with disabilities who are in their last year of high school.

With the goal of competitive employment, each student receives classroom instruction and hands-on experience through internships in as many as three departments within the Willow Valley Communities. Through their work immersion experiences, students also develop employability, social, and independent living skills.

Willow Valley WIP Team:

- Full-time Teacher
- 2 Job Trainers
- Supervisor
- School Psychologist
- School Social Worker
- Special Education Consultant
- WV Supervisor
- WV Mentor
- WV Human Resources Department

Program Eligibility

In order to be considered for Willow Valley WIP, candidates must:

- Have completed the high school credits necessary for graduation.
- Have independent personal hygiene and grooming skills.
- Have independent daily living skills.
- Have access to independent transportation.
- Maintain appropriate behavior and social skills in the workplace.
- Be able to communicate effectively.
- Have interest in working in a retirement community setting.
- Be able to pass a criminal background check, a drug screening, have current immunizations, and meet other Willow Valley requirements.

If you have any questions regarding program eligibility please contact Gina Guatta at 717-947-1720.



Application Process

Students are referred to the program through their school district and then apply at the end of the first semester for the following school year. The student and family must complete and submit the application by a predetermined deadline. Space is limited.

The Willow Valley Work Immersion Program selection committee carries out the selection process. The committee will review all applications and will schedule an interview with each student.

Acceptance letters will be sent to those students who have been selected, and IEP meetings will be scheduled.

To Apply

Contact your school district Special Education Administrator

Mission Statement

Willow Valley Work Immersion Program provides employment and education opportunities for individuals with mild to moderate disabilities who are in their last year of high school. The program is dedicated to workforce development that benefits the individual, community, and workplace.

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