

Washington

School for the Deaf

Washington Career Academy for the Deaf



MISSION

Within a three to nine month period, [Washington Career Academy for the Deaf \(WaCAD\)](#) provides training to develop responsible, independent adults who are positive contributors to society. WaCAD's goal is to help young deaf adults, ages 18-22, to develop their potential for independent living, responsible and quality work behavior, effective communication, and working as a team member.

PURPOSE

[WaCAD](#) serves young deaf adults, ages 18 through 22, who have graduated from high school or hold a GED. The program provides training and instruction related to employment readiness skills, work experience, independent living skills, and college support through Clark College and Washington State University in Vancouver. The primary mode of instruction and communication in the program is American Sign Language.

Upon enrollment in [WaCAD](#):

1. WSD assesses the student's employment readiness skills, and determines a work site on campus or in the local community aligned with the participant's needs and interests. Participants receive assistance in college or vocational programs if needed. Participants are responsible to pay their own college and vocational/technical school fees and supplies.
2. WSD assesses each participant to identify specific Independent Living Skills needs. An individual success plan is developed, including goals to accomplish during the time spent in [WaCAD](#). As the participant nears program completion, WSD staff assist him/her in identifying a job in the participant's location of residence and/or help make connections with local support agencies such as Vocational Rehabilitation.

WHAT WSD PROVIDES

- Housing
- Food
- Independent Living Skills instruction
- Job coaching, training, work site supports

HOW TO APPLY

For questions and applications, contact: Jane Mulholland at (800) 613 - 4228 extension x0402 (360) 696 - 6525 extension x0402 or email jane.mulholland@cdhl.wa.gov. Admissions to and termination from the program is determined by [WaCAD](#) coordination team.

[WaCAD](#) is not an IEP-related program. Staff resources, including evening and overnight apartment supervision, is limited. Participants in the program must be capable of living independently and require very little in terms of support for independent living skills beyond the group classes offered. The [WaCAD](#) team does its best to identify participants it believes will be successful in the program. The [WaCAD](#) team reserved the right to dismiss participants from the program if they are unable to be successful within the resources available to support them.