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## Cutting Edge

The Cutting Edge is an individualized approach to education and inclusion in college for students with intellectual developmental disabilities. These are individuals who have either traditionally not been able to meet the standard admissions criteria for college, or require additional supports in order to be successful in college. Edgewood College is the first four-year college in Wisconsin to offer such a program to students who have intellectual developmental disabilities. From 2007-2017, the Cutting Edge program has supported over 60 students with the opportunity to attend college by attending required/undergraduate courses, practicums and internships, student housing, and learning with a peer mentors by engaging in student-life events, as well as pursuing community service.

**Required courses** for all Cutting Edge students are the *Resource Seminar*, *Safety in the Community*, and *Friends, Dating, and Your Place in a Diverse Community*. As well as the required Cutting Edge courses, students have the option to enroll in general Edgewood College courses.

**Practicums and internships** are focused to build skills that lead to employment. Participating students are supervised and receive immediate feedback on attendance, compliance with work procedures, customer service, and professionalism. Students in the Cutting-Edge program are given a practicum or internship experience each semester.

**Student Housing** integrates a balance of academics, socialization, self-determination, and independent living. The Cutting Edge program has mixture of on-campus and off-campus housing available. Each housing arrangement is supported by a housing peer mentor that facilitates the balance of independent living.

**Peer Mentors** are drawn from volunteers around numerous areas of the campus. The Special Education graduate students from 600 level courses serve as Study Skill Peer Mentors. These peer mentors meet weekly