



Promoting Opportunities for **W**ork, **E**ducation and **R**esilience

STUDENT APPLICATION
2021 Fall Semester

Bear POWER is a non-degree certificate program. Transfer credits are not accepted. Students admitted to the program will start in Fall 2021. Bear POWER is a five-semester college program that was created to offer a post-secondary education opportunity to students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) transitioning out of high school.

*The completed application and all required documents (we are currently waiving the non-refundable application fee of \$50) must be submitted by **Friday, January 8th, 2021 at 5:00pm.***

Applicants will only be considered once all items in the checklist below have been submitted. Applicants will receive email notification when their entire packet has been received. An admissions committee will review applications and select candidates to interview. If selected for an interview, the applicant will be notified via email and will be interviewed independently as well as with their family/support person. Not all applicants who complete the application process will be interviewed due to limited space within the program. All applicants will be notified via email or letter if they are or are not accepted to the Bear POWER program.

Admissions Criteria

- Have a high school diploma or equivalent documentation *if you are still enrolled in high school please send us your current transcript with projected graduation date
- Have a diagnoses of cognitive, intellectual and/or developmental disability, applicant must have qualified for special education services under IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 20 U.S.C. 1140, Section 760 (2))
- Independently demonstrate the desire to attend the Bear POWER Program at MSU and live on campus
- Have sufficient emotional and independent living skills to participate in college-level coursework and campus life
- Be able to remain unsupervised for a minimum of 8 hours
- Have a cell phone
- Demonstrate the ability to accept responsibility for their actions and maintain respect toward others and have no history of disruptive behaviors
- Have medical insurance and be independent in handling medications, dietary and/or medical needs *students will have access to existing resources within the Disability Resource Center on campus and in dining halls
- Participate in an interview with and without support from family/support person
- Agree to participate in all courses, sessions, internships and employment training, if accepted
- Successfully participate in the MSU Bear POWER Virtual Leadership Retreat, which will be held **March 6th, 2021 from 9-1pm via Zoom**, if selected to attend **this is the final step of our admissions process*

Bear POWER Memorandum of Understanding and Code of Ethics

**All applicants must read and sign below*

If accepted, students must sign a Consent to Exchange Information form authorizing the sharing of relevant student information, including grades, conduct info and evaluations with participating organizations. Equal Opportunity: Acceptance to Bear POWER is made without regard to race, color, ability, religion, national origin, age, gender, political affiliation, veterans' status or sexual orientation.

Please initial next to the following:

☐ I understand that I and my parent/guardians' may be requested for a program interview.

☐ I understand that I may be expected to attend the Leadership Retreat as part of the Bear POWER admissions process.

☐ I understand that if admitted to the program, I will start classes in Fall 2021.

☐ I understand that if admitted to the program, Bear POWER staff will take no responsibility for my medication or dietary needs.

☐ I understand that if admitted to the program, I will be a non-degree seeking student while I am in Bear POWER.

☐ I understand that if admitted, Bear POWER staff will evaluate my Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) and if I am not progressing as expected and meeting program expectations, I could be put on Academic Probation and eventually removed from the program.

☐ I understand my eligibility for financial aid will be determined by the results of my Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and by federal regulations regarding aid programs.

☐ I understand that if admitted, I am expected to follow the MSU Code of Conduct. If I violate this code of conduct, I could be removed from the Bear POWER program.

I certify that all information on this application and supplementary documents is correct and complete. I understand that any untruthful statements in this application could result in my application being denied or immediate dismissal from the Bear POWER Program. I understand that I am required to notify and update the Bear POWER Program if any disciplinary or criminal incident occurs after submission of this application and prior to my enrollment in the Bear POWER Program at Missouri State University.

I have read and understand these statements:

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Admissions Checklist

- Completed Student Admission Application
- Copy of high school transcript **transcript does not have to be official but all students admitted to the Bear POWER Program will need to have an official copy of transcript on file*
- Current IEP (Individualized Education Plan) or ISP (Individualized Service Plan) **May also include a Person Centered Plan*
- Behavioral Records – copy of Functional Behavior Assessments and/or Behavior Intervention Plan for past five years **if student has no records must send a letter directly from school stating there is no record*
- Documentation of intellectual or developmental disability. This can include Educational, Psychological and/or Medical documentation by a qualified professional, this can also include IQ testing but it is not required
- Three recommendation forms from non-family members who have known the applicant for at least three years **must include at least one educator*
- Copy of any guardianship agreement or documentation, if applicable

Applications and Recommendations should be mailed or emailed to:

**MSU Bear POWER
Rachel Heinz
Attn: Bear POWER Admissions
College of Education, Hill Hall 216
901 S National Avenue
Springfield, Missouri 65897**

Email: bearpower@missouristate.edu

Admissions Timeline

1. Complete and submit application packet with all information and fee included the application deadline. **Applicants will be notified via email once all information is received.*
2. Completed application packets will be reviewed by the Bear POWER Admissions Committee.
3. Applicants will be notified via email if they have been selected for an interview. If selected, they will participate in an interview independently and with family/support person. They may also be asked to complete a reading and writing sample during interview.
4. Following interviews, applicants will be notified via email if they are selected to attend the Virtual Leadership Retreat. This is a fun and exciting day where students will be able to attend,

via ZOOM, to get to know Bear POWER staff, MSU (virtually), and other college experiences. will attend informational meetings. This is the final step of our admissions process.

5. The Bear POWER Admissions Committee will notify up to ten students via email or letter if they are accepted into the Bear POWER Program. All applicants will be notified via email or letter if they are or are not accepted to the Bear POWER program.

Projected Program Cost

Bear POWER is an approved Comprehensive Transition Program Application (CTP) with the United States Department of Education. Bear POWER Students can qualify for Federal Pell Grants, Federal SEOP Grants, and Federal Work Study (if they meet all criteria). It is recommended that students fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

The Bear POWER (Promoting Opportunities for Work, Education and Resilience) program fee of \$4,035.00 per semester is in addition to other costs of tuition, room and board, and other incidentals.

All Bear POWER projected costs are estimated and may vary depending on MSU budget variation, the dorm and meal plan the student chooses and the specific courses selected within the student's program of study.

The Projected Program Cost below gives an example of a Bear POWER student choosing Hospitality Leadership as an "area of concentration" and shows specific examples of cost for Blair Shannon dorm and weekly meal plan (includes 19 meals per week). There are many other options for students to choose from regarding academic courses, dorms and meal plans, this is just one example.

Bear POWER Hospitality Leadership Student Projected Program Cost – Per Semester (Estimated)

Missouri Resident	Non Missouri Resident
Academic Tuition and Fees - \$1,524	Academic Tuition and Fees - \$2,796
Blair Shannon Housing and Meal Plan (19 per week) - \$4,179	Blair Shannon Housing and Meal Plan (19 per week) - \$4,179
Bear POWER Program Fee - \$4,035	Bear POWER Program Fee - \$4,035
Books & Supplies - \$625	Books & Supplies - \$625
TOTAL COST: \$10,363	TOTAL COST: \$11,635

Student Information

Student's Full Name: _____

Chosen Name: _____

Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female

Social Security Number: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Student's E-mail Address (required)*: _____

Are you a United States Citizen? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you a Missouri resident? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please indicate the number of years you've lived in Missouri and if less than a year, indicate months: _____

If no, what is the state of your legal residence if not Missouri? _____

Marital Status: ☐ Single ☐ Married

Are you currently serving, or have you ever served in the military? ☐ Yes ☐ No

What is your ethnicity? Check any that apply below. **Your response is voluntary; this question is listed so that we may comply with federal regulations.*

☐ Hispanic or Latino ☐ Not Hispanic or Latino ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native

☐ Asian ☐ Black or African American ☐ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander ☐ White or Caucasian

Student's Permanent Residence is with: _____

Does the student have guardianship in place? (if yes, please include a copy): ☐ Yes ☐ No

Have you ever been convicted of or pled guilty to a crime other than a traffic offense or are any criminal charges pending against you or have you been dismissed/suspended from another college or university for disciplinary reasons? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please provide an explanation:

Parent/Guardian/Support Person Information

Full Name: _____

Relationship to Student: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Email Address (required)*: _____

Full Name: _____

Relationship to Student: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Email Address (required)*: _____

Emergency Contact Information:

Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Other Phone: _____

Address: _____

How did you hear about the Bear POWER Program? (circle)

ThinkCollege.net

Internet Search

Facebook/Social Media

Conference

High School Guidance Counselor

Word-of-Mouth

Referred by _____

Other _____

Education History

*Please attach a copy of your transcript to this application.

Please list any high schools or colleges you have attended (Name, City, State) and the years you attended:

What year did you or will you graduate from high school? _____

Have you taken or plan to take the ACT or SAT? _____

If you have taken, or plan to take or retake the ACT/SAT please indicate the month and year:

What is your current estimated reading level? _____

Did you participate in general education classes or special education classes in high school, or both?

[illegible]

What is/was your favorite thing about high school?

[illegible]

What extracurricular activities are you involved in? List any clubs, teams, social groups and/or sports you take part in.

What is/was the most challenging part of high school?

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Employment History

** Employment experience is not a requirement for admission. If you have a resume and references, please attach to this application.*

Do you currently have employment, internship or volunteer work that you wish to continue while enrolled in the Bear POWER program? _____

If yes where and how many hours a week? _____

Describe two of your most recent jobs, internships or volunteer experiences at school or in the community:

Job #1

Job site:
Job title:
Responsibilities:
Dates:
Hours per week:
Was this a paid position?
Why did you leave?

Job #2

Job site:
Job title:
Responsibilities:
Dates:
Hours per week:
Was this a paid position?
Why did you leave?

What did you enjoy most about your work and/or volunteer experiences?

[illegible]

What did you find most challenging about your work and/or volunteer experiences?

[illegible]

Service Agencies

*Information may be used to help the Bear POWER team in supporting transition throughout the program.

Are you currently receiving services or support from:

Department of Mental Health: ___Yes ___No

Regional Case Manager: ___Yes ___No

Department of Vocational Rehabilitation: ____ Yes ____ No

Social Security Administration: ____ Yes ____ No

Do you have a Medicaid Waiver? Yes No

List any other service providers/agencies you are receiving services from:

Have you received any funding to attend a post-secondary program?

Health

Please list applicant's documented intellectual and/or developmental disabilities:

List all prescription and over the counter medications that you currently take:

Medication/Purpose: _____

Times per day/Time of day taken:

Do you currently need support/assistance with taking your medications? If so, please list these supports (people and/or technology).

Please list any accommodations and/or modifications that you need to be successful in the following categories:

Academic coursework:

Independent Living:

Social Skills:

Internship/Vocational Skills:

Any other accommodations and/or modifications needed for daily life skills:

Do you have a Person Centered Plan? If so, please attach to this application. ___ Yes ___ No

Student Personal Statement

*Please answer the following question in your own words without assistance from others.
Response should be typed and attached to this application.

Why do you want to participate in the Bear POWER Program at Missouri State University and what are your plans after graduating from the Bear POWER Program?

Student Questionnaire

Describe three goals you have for yourself while in college.

Describe a typical day and what it looks like. What do you enjoy most? Least?

Please tell us about your favorite hobbies and how you like to spend your free time? What inspires you?

[illegible]

Describe a friendship you have with a family member, mentor or friend and why it is important to you.

[illegible]

What else can you tell us about your journey that got you where you are today?

[illegible]

Parent Questionnaire

What goals does the family/parent have for the student while in college and after graduation from the Bear POWER Program?

How does the student manage anger/anxiety?

Do you have any concerns about the student's social skills or behavior while living away from home?

Please use this space to elaborate on your student's journey and what it would mean to you, as a family/parent/support person, to see them pursue post-secondary education?

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BEAR POWER

Recommendation Form

(Applicant name)

The student named above has applied for admission to the Bear POWER program at Missouri State University. (Visit <https://www.missouristate.edu/bearpower/> to learn more about the program). Bear POWER is an inclusive college program for students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Bear POWER is a two and a half year (five semester) residential program; students will live on campus be fully integrated into academic courses, social experiences and internships. Faculty will undergo training in coursework modifications for students. Ambassadors are student volunteers that will support integration in both academic and social areas within campus life. Following graduation from the program students will earn a Bear POWER Certificate and walk in the graduation ceremony at Missouri State University.

*Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability and once completed mail to the Bear POWER Admissions Committee at Missouri State University (address listed on last page of this document). Applications will not be reviewed without recommendations. Your timely completion and mailing of this form are greatly appreciated by the applicant. If you have any further questions, please contact Bear POWER at bearpower@missouristate.edu.

Thank you,

Bear POWER Admissions Committee

Contact Information

Your Name:
Title/Organization:
Address:
City, State, Zip:
Phone:
Email Address:

How long have you known the student and in what capacity?

How do you feel the student would benefit academically and socially from post-secondary education?

[illegible]

How would the student benefit in the area of career development from post-secondary education? What kind(s) of job(s) do you feel would be a good fit for the student based on their strengths and interests?

[illegible]

Have you seen any behaviors from the student that might interfere with his or her ability to live on campus and participate in the Bear POWER program? *All Bear POWER students are required to live on campus.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

What are the student's strengths?

What challenges do you anticipate for the student's successful integration into university life?

Discuss how you have seen the student manage a stressful situation.

Discuss the student's social skills that you have observed with same-age peers.

What kinds of support and/or modifications do you feel would be most helpful for the student to be successful in the Bear POWER program?

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Do you have any additional information about the student you would like to share with the Bear POWER Admissions committee in determining if the program is a good fit for the student?
*If you need more space, please attach an addition page.

Please return the completed form to:

MSU Bear POWER
Rachel Heinz
Att: Bear POWER Admissions
College of Education, Hill Hall 216
901 S National Avenue
Springfield, Missouri 65897



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Thank you,

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Your Name:
Title/Organization:
Address:
City, State, Zip:
Phone:
Email Address:

How long have you known the student and in what capacity?

How do you feel the student would benefit academically and socially from post-secondary education?

[illegible]

How would the student benefit in the area of career development from post-secondary education? What kind(s) of job(s) do you feel would be a good fit for the student based on their strengths and interests?

[illegible]

Have you seen any behaviors from the student that might interfere with his or her ability to live on campus and participate in the Bear POWER program? *All Bear POWER students are required to live on campus.

[illegible]

What are the student's strengths?

What challenges do you anticipate for the student's successful integration into university life?

Discuss how you have seen the student manage a stressful situation.

Discuss the student's social skills that you have observed with same-age peers.

What kinds of support and/or modifications do you feel would be most helpful for the student to be successful in the Bear POWER program?

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Do you have any additional information about the student you would like to share with the Bear POWER Admissions committee in determining if the program is a good fit for the student?
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Rachel Heinz
Att: Bear POWER Admissions
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BEAR POWER

Recommendation Form - EDUCATOR

(Applicant name)

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Thank you,

Bear POWER Admissions Committee

Contact Information

Your Name:
Title/Organization:
Address:
City, State, Zip:
Phone:
Email Address:

How long have you known the student and in what capacity?

How do you feel the student would benefit academically and socially from post-secondary education?

[illegible]

How would the student benefit in the area of career development from post-secondary education? What kind(s) of job(s) do you feel would be a good fit for the student based on their strengths and interests?

[illegible]

Have you seen any behaviors from the student that might interfere with his or her ability to live on campus and participate in the Bear POWER program? *All Bear POWER students are required to live on campus.

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What are the student's strengths?

What challenges do you anticipate for the student's successful integration into university life?

Discuss how you have seen the student manage a stressful situation.

Discuss the student's social skills that you have observed with same-age peers.

What kinds of support and/or modifications do you feel would be most helpful for the student to be successful in the Bear POWER program?

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