UniversitY of Washington DReam Project

Workbook  Tenth Edition, April 2015

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The contents of this workbook, except where noted, have been authored by participants of the University of Washington Dream Project in collaboration with other individuals at the University of Washington. All efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained herein. Due to the subjective and dynamic nature of some aspects of the college admissions process, however, readers should always verify this information with the specific colleges or universities to which they will apply. The University of Washington and the Dream Project make no guarantees as to the accuracy of this information and shall not be held responsible if a student is denied acceptance, financial aid, or any other resource at any educational institution.

Furthermore, the information provided in this workbook is a guide for students to assist in the complicated process of college admissions, and should only be considered one of many tools that a student should use while going through this process. Using the information in this workbook will not afford students any special consideration, guaranteed acceptance at the University of Washington or any other educational institution, higher financial aid awards, or higher test scores.

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More information about the Dream Project is available at www.dreamproject.org
How to Use This Workbook

This workbook is just one tool that you can use on your path to college.

1. **Bring it with you.**
   You’ll use pages of this workbook every week when you meet with University of Washington Dream Project students.

2. **Organize your stuff.**
   There are pockets in the back to keep copies of your applications, drafts of your essays, and other college materials.

3. **Interact with it.**
   Write in it, fill out the worksheets, take notes. This is YOUR workbook.

4. **Read ahead.**
   Be ready for what’s coming next.

Overview of the Path to Higher Education

The general process looks something like this, but can vary depending on your situation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JUNIOR YEAR</th>
<th>SENIOR YEAR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SPRING</strong></td>
<td><strong>SUMMER</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Make sure you are “college ready”</td>
<td>Prep for and take the SAT or ACT test</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DREAM PROJECT EVENTS</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring BBQ</td>
<td>Summer Picnic</td>
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Apply to at least three colleges
Apply for financial aid (FAFSA)
Accept an offer of admission by May 1st
Sign up for orientation & housing
Create your résumé
Overview of the Dream Project

Your Commitment and Our Expectations

As a participant in the UW Dream Project, you are expected to meet certain commitments. These commitments include:

- attending scheduled meetings at your high school;
- participating in as many workshops and campus activities as possible;
- submitting applications of admission to at least three colleges by their respective filing deadlines; and
- meeting all other filing dates as required (e.g., financial aid, scholarships, etc.).

Warning: There are no guarantees.

No matter how hard we work, if our efforts are not matched by your own desire to succeed and your own willingness to meet regularly, work hard, and believe in yourself, simply participating in the Dream Project will not guarantee you admission to a university or college. We will be your partners in this effort to apply successfully for university admission; but, there is no substitute for your own contribution to this partnership.

How to Contact the Dream Project

- **Web:** www.dreamproject.org
- **E-mail:** uwdreamproject@uw.edu
- **Phone:** (206) 616-5791
- **Fax:** (206) 616-7105
- **Mailing Address:**
  274 Mary Gates Hall
  Box 352800
  Seattle, WA 98195-2800

My High School Lead(s)

Name: ____________________________  Name: ____________________________

E-mail: ____________________________  E-mail: ____________________________

Phone: ____________________________  Phone: ____________________________

My Dream Team Mentor(s)

Name: ____________________________  Name: ____________________________

E-mail: ____________________________  E-mail: ____________________________

Phone: ____________________________  Phone: ____________________________
Dream Project High School Campuses

We conduct weekly visits at the following high schools:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>School District</th>
<th>Phone No.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Art &amp; Academics Academy (AAA)</td>
<td>Highline</td>
<td>206-631-6250</td>
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<td>Auburn High School</td>
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<td>253-931-4900</td>
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<td>Seattle</td>
<td>206-252-7800</td>
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<td>Chief Sealth International High School</td>
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<td>206-252-8550</td>
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<td>253-945-5400</td>
<td>480397</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foster High School</td>
<td>Tukwila</td>
<td>206-901-7900</td>
<td>481075</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Connections High School</td>
<td>Highline</td>
<td>206-631-6550</td>
<td>481037</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Sciences &amp; Human Services High School (HS3)</td>
<td>Highline</td>
<td>206-631-6200</td>
<td>481149</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ida B. Wells School for Social Justice</td>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>206-252-4785</td>
<td>481126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ingraham High School</td>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>206-252-3880</td>
<td>481112</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kent-Meridian High School</td>
<td>Kent</td>
<td>253-373-7405</td>
<td>480535</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rainier Beach High School</td>
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<td>206-252-6350</td>
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<tr>
<td>Renton High School</td>
<td>Renton</td>
<td>425-204-3400</td>
<td>480990</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technology, Engineering &amp; Communications School (TEC)</td>
<td>Highline</td>
<td>206-631-6300</td>
<td>481141</td>
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If your school is not listed above, visit [http://sat.collegeboard.com/register/sat-code-search](http://sat.collegeboard.com/register/sat-code-search) to find your school's CEEB code. You will need this code when registering for SAT/ACT tests.
Partner High Schools

Ingraham High School
SEATTLE SCHOOL DISTRICT
- 2013 FRPM: 34.4%
- Partner Since: Spring 2008

Chief Sealth High School
SEATTLE SCHOOL DISTRICT
- 2013 FRPM: 59.8%
- Partner Since: Spring 2006

Ida B. Wells School for Social Justice
SEATTLE SCHOOL DISTRICT
- 2013 FRPM: ~70%
- Partner Since: Spring 2009

Cleveland High School
SEATTLE SCHOOL DISTRICT
- 2013 FRPM: 69.8%
- Partner Since: Spring 2009

Arts & Academics Academy (AAA)
HIGHLINE SCHOOL DISTRICT
- 2013 FRPM: 79.3%
- Partner Since: Spring 2007

Health Sciences & Human Services (HS3)
HIGHLINE SCHOOL DISTRICT
- 2013 FRPM: 81.4%
- Partner Since: Spring 2007

Technology, Engineering & Communications (TEC)
HIGHLINE SCHOOL DISTRICT
- 2013 FRPM: 75.1%
- Partner Since: Spring 2007

Renton High School
RENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
- 2013 FRPM: 53.7%
- Partner Since: Spring 2006

Rainier Beach High School
SEATTLE SCHOOL DISTRICT
- 2013 FRPM: 81.2%
- Partner Since: Spring 2010

Global Connections High School
HIGHLINE SCHOOL DISTRICT
- 2013 FRPM: 77.5%
- Partner Since: Spring 2007

Foster High School
TUKWILA SCHOOL DISTRICT
- 2013 FRPM: 74.5%
- Partner Since: Spring 2006

Kent-Meridian High School
KENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
- 2013 FRPM: 70.1%
- Partner Since: Autumn 2010

Federal Way High School
FEDERAL WAY SCHOOL DISTRICT
- 2013 FRPM: 63.9%
- Partner Since: Autumn 2010

Auburn High School
AUBURN SCHOOL DISTRICT
- 2013 FRPM: 55.6%
- Partner Since: Spring 2011

FRPM = Free- and/or Reduced-Price Meals enrollment
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<td>Pell Grant ..................................</td>
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<td>Personal Statement ......................</td>
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<td>Petitioning admission decision ..........</td>
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<td>PIN (FAFSA) ..................................</td>
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<td>Priority Date ................................</td>
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<td>Private College ................................</td>
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<td>Public College ................................</td>
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<td>Q</td>
<td>Reach (of, “Reach, Solid, Safety”) ................</td>
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<td>Real Hope Act ..................................</td>
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<td>Refugee ....................................</td>
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<td>Residence halls ................................</td>
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<td>Résumé ..................................</td>
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<td>ROTC ......................................</td>
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<td>Running Start ................................</td>
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<td>S</td>
<td>Safety (of “Reach, Solid, Safety”) .................</td>
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<td></td>
<td>SAT ..................................</td>
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<td>Scholarships .......</td>
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<td>Senior Project ...</td>
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<td>Short Response ....</td>
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<td>Solid (of “Reach, Solid, Safety”) ................</td>
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<td>SSN (Social Security Number) .............</td>
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<td>Summer job ..................................</td>
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<td>Technical College ......................</td>
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<td>Test dates ..................................</td>
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<td>Test preparation ................................</td>
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<td>Test scores ................................</td>
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<td>Transcripts ..................................</td>
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<td>Transfer ..................................</td>
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<td>U</td>
<td>Undocumented students ..................</td>
</tr>
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<td>V</td>
<td>Visa (immigration document) .............</td>
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<td>Vocational Schools .....................</td>
</tr>
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<td>W</td>
<td>Wait-listed (college admissions) ..........</td>
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<td></td>
<td>WASFA ..................................</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Work study ................................</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>World Language Competency-Based Credits (WA State) ....</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>World language requirements ..........</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Graduate High School

☐ I am on track to graduate from high school.

☐ Check in with your high school counselor to make sure you are on track to graduate from high school.
  • If you will not have enough credits to graduate from high school, create a plan to take additional classes over the summer or during your senior year.

☐ Request your transcript from your high school counselor, adviser, or registrar at the end of each semester/trimester.

☐ Continually check in with your teachers on your progress in each class and your grades.

☐ Identify ways to improve your grades and get extra help if needed.

☐ I have completed my Culminating Project.

☐ Learn about the different components for your high school’s culminating project (also known as the Senior Project, Capstone or Portfolio Project).

☐ If needed, schedule a date and time for your oral presentation.
  • Practice your presentation with your mentor.
Learn about College

☐ I have attended college preparation events.
  ☐ Talk with your mentor about which Dream Project events you would like to or can attend:
    • Spring BBQ
    • Admissions Workshop Weekend
    • Scholarship Workshop Event
  ☐ Attend the National College Fair at the Washington State Convention Center in Seattle.
  ☐ Attend the local college fair at your high school or in your school district.
  ☐ Visit a college campus, or two, or three.

☐ I have learned about my different options after high school.
  ☐ Be able to define and differentiate between college terms such as majors, minors, and bachelor’s degree.
  ☐ Discuss what it takes to enter particular careers or fields:
    • Years of education, special tests, experience in the field, etc.
  ☐ Learn and be able to discuss the differences between higher education options:
    • Public, private, 4-year, 2-year, community college, vocational, technical, military
  ☐ I know what path after high school I am working toward (you can select more than one):
    • 4-year Public College/University
    • 4-year Private College/University
    • 2-year Community College
    • 2-year Trade/Technical College
    • Vocational Training
    • Military College/Training
    • Career
    • Other: __________________________
  ☐ Sign up to be on the mailing list for each college you are interested in.

☐ I have debunked myths about college.
  ☐ I have talked through the myths and facts about college with my mentors and feel more confident about my choices for my future.
Prepare to Apply

☐ I know my college eligibility requirements.

☐ Review your transcript with your mentor to determine if you are on track for your post-high school goals (4-year, 2-year, vocational, technical, military, career).
  - If you are not, check with your high school counselor to see if you can continue pursuing this option OR begin to investigate other options.

☐ Review your world language status
  - If you took ELL (English Language Learner) or ESL (English as a Second Language) classes, determine if you still need to complete 4-year college English requirements.
  - If you already speak a language other than English, determine whether you need to take any world languages in high school and/or a placement test in college.

☐ Sign up to take the SAT or ACT+Writing
  - Find out if your school offers a free, in-school SAT day.
  - If you qualify for free- or reduced-price lunch, request a fee waiver from your high school counselor.

☐ Determine what options your college allows to determine course placement, including transcripts, SAT/ACT test scores, AP/IB test scores, and/or COMPASS test (if you plan to attend Community College)

☐ I have identified “Reach,” “Solid,” and “Safety” post-high school options.

☐ Work with your mentor to research and identify reach, solid and safety colleges.
  - Identify your Reach school(s): the school(s) that have a very competitive acceptance rate and are more difficult to get in.
  - Identify your Solid school(s): the school(s) that are competitive, but you have confidence they will accept you.
  - Identify your Safety school(s): the school(s) you know you will be accepted to based on acceptance rate, your grades/scores, and a simpler applications process.
  - Remember, just because a school has a more competitive applications process does NOT mean it is the right fit for you. For example, a large safety school with an excellent business program could be a better fit than a small reach school that focuses on computer science, depending on your interests.

☐ Keep track of application deadlines.
  - Start working on applications early to make sure you have enough time with mentors to edit your application.
  - Prioritize applications by what category (reach, solid, safety) and by deadline to ensure you are submitting applications thoroughly and on time.
Washington State

Minimum 4-year college entrance requirements

- High school graduation requirements ≠ college entrance requirements!

### Mathematics

**Advanced Algebra or higher**

3 years required (6 semesters)

At least 3 years of algebra, geometry, advanced algebra, or integrated courses that include introductory trigonometry, mathematical analysis, elementary functions, and calculus. An algebra course taken in 8th grade counts if the second year is completed in high school. Courses in arithmetic, pre-algebra, and business math do not meet this requirement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Class Title</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Did you pass all of these classes?** (circle)

Yes [ ] No [ ]

**TOTAL YEARS OF MATH:**

**Will you complete and pass Algebra II or an equivalent class?**

Yes [ ] No [ ]

**Will you have 3 years of Math?** (circle)

Yes [ ] No [ ]

### Science

2 Lab Sciences

2 years required (4 semesters)

One year must be biology, chemistry, or physics, with laboratory. An additional year can be a lab designated by the district.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Class Title</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Did you pass all of these classes?** (circle)

Yes [ ] No [ ]

**TOTAL YEARS OF SCIENCE:**

**Do both courses count for your lab credit?** (circle)

Yes [ ] No [ ]

**Will you have 2 years of Science?** (circle)

Yes [ ] No [ ]

### World Language*

All in the same language

2 years required (4 semesters)

Two years of study in a single world language. Courses must be in sequence with no repetition. For example, French 1 and French 2 will meet the requirement, but French 1 and Spanish 1 will not.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Class Title</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Did you pass all of these classes?** (circle)

Yes [ ] No [ ]

**TOTAL YEARS OF WORLD LANGUAGE:**

**Were all of these classes in the same language?** (circle)

Yes [ ] No [ ]

**Will you have 2 years of World Language?** (circle)

Yes [ ] No [ ]
### Minimum 4-year college entrance requirements

#### English/Language Arts*

Only one year can be ESL/ELL  
**4 years required (8 semesters)**

At least three of the four years must be in composition or literature and one year may be a "soft" English credit, such as drama-as-literature, public speaking, debate, journalistic writing, Business English, or English as a Second Language/English Language Learner courses. Generally, courses labeled as remedial/developmental or basic/review English, yearbook, reading, and newspaper staff do not meet this requirement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Class Title</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
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</tbody>
</table>

Did you pass all of these classes? (circle)  Yes  No

**TOTAL YEARS OF ENGLISH:**

Will you have 4 years of English? (circle)  Yes  No

#### Social Studies

**3 years required (6 semesters)**

Courses that typically count include American Studies, anthropology, civics, contemporary world problems, economics, geography, government, history, philosophy, political science, psychology, and sociology. Credits awarded for student government, marketing, leadership, and community service do not meet this requirement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Class Title</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

Did you pass all of these classes? (circle)  Yes  No

**TOTAL YEARS OF SOCIAL STUDIES:**

Will you have 3 years of Social Studies? (circle)  Yes  No

#### Art & Electives

**1 year required (2 semesters)**

Needs to be one semester of visual, literary, or performing art and one can be a semester of academic electives that goes above core.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Class Title</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

Did you pass all of these classes? (circle)  Yes  No

**TOTAL ARTS CREDITS:**

Will you have 1 year of Art? (circle)  Yes  No

---

Note: Eastern Washington University requires a full year of Art.

---

I am on track to meet ALL minimum requirements: (circle one)  Yes  No
## Colleges I’m Considering

Which schools are you considering applying to in the fall? Why?

| College Name: |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| What makes you interested in applying to this college? |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAT College Code</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACT College Code</th>
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2

| College Name: |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| What makes you interested in applying to this college? |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAT College Code</th>
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<th>ACT College Code</th>
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3

| College Name: |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| What makes you interested in applying to this college? |

<table>
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<tr>
<th>SAT College Code</th>
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<th>ACT College Code</th>
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| College Name: |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| What makes you interested in applying to this college? |

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<th>SAT College Code</th>
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<tr>
<th>ACT College Code</th>
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5

| College Name: |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| What makes you interested in applying to this college? |

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<tr>
<th>SAT College Code</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACT College Code</th>
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</table>
## The colleges I'm applying to

Keep track of important information for each of your schools below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College Name:</th>
<th>Deadlines:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Early:</td>
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<td>Final:</td>
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<td>FAFSA:</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### SAT College Code and/or ACT College Code

### Application Fee Waiver Code:

### Extra things for this school:
- [ ] Request transcripts
- [ ] Send official test scores
- [ ] Get letter(s) of rec.
- [ ] Other:

---

1. College Name: [ ]
   - Choice: (circle one)
     - Reach
     - Solid
     - Safety
   - SAT College Code [ ]
   - and/or ACT College Code [ ]
   - Application Fee Waiver Code [ ]
   - Extra things for this school:
     - [ ] Request transcripts
     - [ ] Send official test scores
     - [ ] Get letter(s) of rec.
     - [ ] Other:

2. College Name: [ ]
   - Choice: (circle one)
     - Reach
     - Solid
     - Safety
   - SAT College Code [ ]
   - and/or ACT College Code [ ]
   - Application Fee Waiver Code [ ]
   - Extra things for this school:
     - [ ] Request transcripts
     - [ ] Send official test scores
     - [ ] Get letter(s) of rec.
     - [ ] Other:

3. College Name: [ ]
   - Choice: (circle one)
     - Reach
     - Solid
     - Safety
   - SAT College Code [ ]
   - and/or ACT College Code [ ]
   - Application Fee Waiver Code [ ]
   - Extra things for this school:
     - [ ] Request transcripts
     - [ ] Send official test scores
     - [ ] Get letter(s) of rec.
     - [ ] Other:

4. College Name: [ ]
   - Choice: (circle one)
     - Reach
     - Solid
     - Safety
   - SAT College Code [ ]
   - and/or ACT College Code [ ]
   - Application Fee Waiver Code [ ]
   - Extra things for this school:
     - [ ] Request transcripts
     - [ ] Send official test scores
     - [ ] Get letter(s) of rec.
     - [ ] Other:

5. College Name: [ ]
   - Choice: (circle one)
     - Reach
     - Solid
     - Safety
   - SAT College Code [ ]
   - and/or ACT College Code [ ]
   - Application Fee Waiver Code [ ]
   - Extra things for this school:
     - [ ] Request transcripts
     - [ ] Send official test scores
     - [ ] Get letter(s) of rec.
     - [ ] Other:
Apply to 2-year, vocational, technical schools or Military

☐ I am ready to complete my 2-year and/or technical college applications.

☐ Work with your mentor to research and identify 2-year and/or technical college options.

☐ Download applications (or request paper applications) from all the colleges on your list.

☐ Create profiles for online applications and save your usernames and passwords.

☐ Create a checklist for each application detailing all of the requirements and the deadline.
  • Essays, letters of recommendation, transcripts, test scores, etc.

☐ Determine which course placement options are available at the colleges you are interested in (COMPASS, transcripts, SAT/ACT scores, AP/IB scores, etc.)

☐ Submit transcripts, test scores, or take the COMPASS test.

☐ Consider transferring options with your mentor and counselor if you are interested in that option in the future.

☐ Take a deep breath and click submit.

☐ I am ready to complete my vocational school applications.

☐ Work with your mentor to research and identify vocational school options.

☐ Download applications (or request paper applications) from all the vocational schools on your list.

☐ Research each school’s prerequisites (for the area/career in which you’re interested) as well as course calendar and tuition information.

☐ Click submit and take a deep breath.

☐ I am ready to enlist.

☐ Speak with a friend, family member, or someone you know in the military about joining to see if this experience is an option for you.

☐ Make sure you understand the specific requirements of your enlistment (length of service, etc.).

☐ Contact a recruitment officer:
  • Name:___________________________________________________________
  • E-mail:_________________________ Phone: _______________________

☐ I have met all the requirements for entry into the armed services.
Apply to 4-year Schools

- I am ready to complete my 4-year applications.
  - Download applications (or request paper applications) from all the colleges on your list.
  - Create profiles for online applications and save your usernames and passwords.
  - Create a checklist for each application detailing all of the requirements and the deadline.
    - Essays, letters of recommendation, transcripts, test scores, etc.
  - Bring in the writing section/essay prompts from each application to discuss with your mentor.
  - If you were educated outside of the United States, discuss how to obtain transcripts from your previous schools (talk with your high school counselor).
  - Discuss how your citizenship status may impact your college admission process.
  - Obtain transcripts and letters of recommendation if needed.
  - Sign-up for the SAT and/or ACT+Writing.
    - Determine if your school offers a free, in-school SAT day
    - Fee waivers are available for students who are eligible for free- and reduced-price lunch; talk to your counselor to get one.
  - Take the SAT and/or ACT+Writing.

- I have worked on the writing components for my applications.
  - Work with your mentor to brainstorm and organize essay answers.
    - Determine the different types of essays you will need to write for each application (personal statements, short responses, activity logs, etc.).
    - If applicable, use essays you have already written as a starting point.
  - Draft responses:
    - Personal statement essay
    - Additional short responses
    - Activities/awards logs
  - Start early to ensure you will have multiple edits from your mentor.
  - Make multiple copies of your essays; print off paper copies, email copies to yourself, and save them to a memory stick/flash drive.

- I have applied to college.
  - Finalize drafts of essays for writing sections with your mentor.
  - Confirm you have completed all components of the application and you ready to submit.
  - Take a deep breath and then click submit.
Activities Outside the Classroom

What do you do with your time **outside of school**? Every college considers more than just your academics. Being a **well-rounded student** is important to colleges.

### My Extracurricular Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Grade: 9 10 11 12</th>
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<td>1.</td>
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<td>4.</td>
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<td>5.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Which of these activities is the most important to you? Why?

### Activities I Will Start Participating In

Are there more activities that you can start participating in? These should be activities you want to do, and they can help you be a more competitive applicant to college.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Whom I will contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Traits that colleges are looking for:

It’s not just the fact that you participated, but what you learned from this activity. In college applications, you will need to **describe how the activity had an impact on you.**

- leadership  
- commitment  
- service  
- passion

Some sample activities include:

- activities and clubs  
- jobs  
- sports  
- ASB or student government  
- family obligations  
- community service  
- arts or music activities  
- involvement at church/mosque/synagogue/place-of-worship/etc.  
- significant achievements  
- personal endeavors  
- study abroad

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Some sample activities include:

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- sports  
- ASB or student government  
- family obligations  
- community service  
- arts or music activities  
- involvement at church/mosque/synagogue/place-of-worship/etc.  
- significant achievements  
- personal endeavors  
- study abroad
Organize your personal statement (one method)

- Spend some time thinking about how you will organize your story.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic or main idea</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tell us what you're going to say...</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supporting Paragraph 1</th>
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<tr>
<td>Say it...</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supporting Paragraph 2</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supporting Paragraph 3</th>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conclusion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Remind us of what you just said...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

After you’ve written your draft, ASK:

- Did you answer the question(s) posed in the essay prompt in the application?
- Does this statement describe YOU and point out your best qualities?
- Did you discuss how this experience has transformed you?
- Did you discuss how this event relates to college or your future?
- If you have experienced significant hardships in your life, did you describe them in your essay?
Financial Aid

☐ I have applied for financial aid.

☐ Discuss with your mentor all of the ways you can receive financial aid for college.
☐ Research the overall cost of attending each of your post-high school options.
☐ Search for scholarships that apply to your situation and interests.

☐ I have completed the FAFSA or WASFA.

☐ Determine your eligibility to apply for the FAFSA or WASFA.
☐ Determine the earliest FAFSA/WASFA deadline for your potential colleges (February 1st is the deadline for the College Bound Scholarship).
☐ Apply for a FAFSA PIN or create a WASFA account.
  • Bring the confirmation page to your mentor.
☐ Gather all information needed to complete the FAFSA or WASFA.
  • Parents'/guardians' incomes, social security numbers (only for FAFSA!)—including your own, and any special tax category information for your family
☐ Submit the FAFSA or WASFA as early as possible.
☐ Print off the confirmation page stating that you submitted the FAFSA or WASFA.
☐ If your family files its taxes after you submit the FASFA or WASFA, log back into your FAFSA or WASFA application and update your information.
Scholarships

☐ I have started scholarship applications.
   ☐ Work with mentors to research potential scholarships for which you are eligible.
   ☐ Identify scholarships to which you want to apply.
   ☐ Make a list of the different components needed to complete each scholarship application.
   ☐ Draft or reuse essays with your mentor for the writing component of the scholarship, if any.

☐ I have applied for scholarships.
   ☐ Finalize essays with your mentor for the writing component of the scholarship.
   ☐ Submit scholarship applications and let your mentor know what ones you have submitted.
Transition to College

☐ I feel prepared for life after high school.

☐ Confirm your enrollment at your first choice option (4-year colleges require you to submit your enrollment confirmation by May 1st).
  - Decline offers from other colleges.

☐ Accept financial aid offers and scholarship offers from your first choice option

☐ Research resources (advising centers, tutoring centers) that can better prepare you in college.

☐ Schedule your advising and orientation appointments.

☐ Sign up for housing if you are choosing to live on campus.
  - Talk to your mentor about different living options, such as residence halls (dorms), greek life (fraternity/sorority), off-campus apartments, etc.
  - Some colleges and universities may require first-year students and athletes to live in the residence halls. Talk with the housing office to make sure you are meeting any required deadlines.

☐ If applicable, start researching how you can prepare to transfer colleges in the future.
Find a Job

- I am prepared to find a job.
  - Draft a professional résumé to edit with your mentor.
  - Bring in applications for jobs that interest you to discuss and work on with a mentor.
  - Talk with people within your community and let them know you are looking for a job.
  - Continue to be or get yourself involved in clubs, organizations or activities that interest you.
The Process of Higher Education

This chart can help you plan your path through higher education.

College
The general term for all higher education.

University
A four-year institution that has both undergraduate and graduate students. A university often includes many "colleges" or "schools" within it, such as the College of Engineering or the School of Law.

Branch Campus
Some universities have a main campus and multiple branch campuses located elsewhere around the state. They typically offer a limited number of programs compared to the main campus.

Community College (previously known as Junior College)
A two-year institution that offers only associate’s degrees, which is typically the equivalent of the first two years of a four-year degree.

Technical College (or Vocational School)
A school that provides specialized training for a certain industry.

M.S.I. (minority-serving institution)
Institutions with more than 25% of their students from a particular minority student population. Examples: HBCU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) & TCU (Tribal Colleges and Universities).

Major
Primary area of study at college, such as English, International Studies, or Civil Engineering.

Double Major
When a college student has two primary areas of study. This second focus typically requires extra coursework.

Minor (or emphasis)
Secondary area of study at college. This may or may not be related to your major.

A.A. or A.S.
Associate of Arts or Associate of Science. A two-year degree from a community college. Also referred to as an Associate’s Degree.

B.A. or B.S. (or undergraduate degree)
Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science. A four-year degree often referred to as a Bachelor’s Degree, undergraduate degree, or college degree.

M.D. (doctor)
Medical Doctorate. A degree required to be a doctor of medicine. Three to four years of extra schooling after B.A. or B.S.

J.D. (lawyer)
Juris Doctorate. A law degree required to be a lawyer. Typically three years of extra schooling after B.A. or B.S.

Master’s
Degree earned after completing graduate school. One to two years of extra schooling after B.A. or B.S.

Ph.D.
Doctor of Philosophy. Degree earned after completion of a doctoral program. Requires extra years of schooling after master’s degree.

Professional Degree
Usually, the highest degree for a specific career, such as M.D., J.D., etc.

Average Income by Education Level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Level</th>
<th>Average Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than H.S.</td>
<td>$21,491</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.S. Graduate</td>
<td>$33,618</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some College</td>
<td>$38,676</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate’s Degree</td>
<td>$41,226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s Degree</td>
<td>$60,954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master’s Degree</td>
<td>$71,236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctorate Degree</td>
<td>$99,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Degree</td>
<td>$125,622</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Parts of a College Application

Every college application is different, but here are the most common components.

Typically required components of any college application

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Name:</th>
<th>Last Name:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Birth:</td>
<td>Social Security No.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **The Application**
  Most colleges use their own custom application form, but many schools use a shared application called the Common App. You can usually submit the application online or on paper, and you'll include all of the other components (listed here) together.

- **Transcript**
  Most colleges will require your high school transcript(s). If you have earned college credit, you will also need to submit your college transcripts. In the application process, colleges only accept “official” transcripts.

- **Test Scores**
  Most colleges will require you to take the SAT, the ACT+Writing, or the COMPASS. You will need to send your test scores electronically from the testing agency’s website. It can take time for scores to be sent, so make sure you request them well before the deadline.

- **Financial Aid (FAFSA or WASFA)**
  Students should fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA) in order to be considered for federal and state financial aid.

Other components for 4-year colleges, depending on the college’s process

- **Personal Statement/Essay**
  This is perhaps the most critical element of your application. Think of your personal statement as a way for admissions officers to get to know who you are and why you want to attend their college.

- **Short Answer Responses**
  Many schools ask extra questions beyond your personal statement. These short responses usually focus on specific concepts like diversity and culture.

- **Activities Log/Résumé**
  Colleges often ask for a listing of your extracurricular activities to get a sense of your involvement outside of school not covered in your personal statement.

- **Letters of Recommendation**
  Sometimes a college will require one or more letters of recommendation. Identify individuals (typically not family) in your life who can write you a strong letter.
Myths and facts about college

- You’ve probably heard a lot about college. Some of it may not be true.

About finding the right college...

**MYTH:** There is only one perfect college for me.
**FACT:** There are probably many colleges that would be good fits for you. The bottom line is that you want to choose a college that you will enjoy being at for the next few years, offers the programs you might be interested in studying, and is located in an area that will allow you to grow socially and academically. Doing your research will decrease your stress and allow you to have a positive college experience.

**MYTH:** College campuses are so big. I won’t be able to find the help I need.
**FACT:** Yes, there are some college campuses that are as large as cities. But there are also college campuses that may be even smaller than your high school. Regardless of what college you ultimately attend, there will be resources on campus to help ease your transition and help you succeed in college. Your job is to seek them out for help and be persistent.

**MYTH:** I’ve never heard of that college before; therefore, it must not be a good school.
**FACT:** There are more than 4,000 colleges and universities across the country. Sometimes a little research and exploration about a particular college will tell you much more than just a name. So, don’t judge a college just by its name or its reputation.

**MYTH:** I have to declare my major and decide my career before I choose my college.
**FACT:** Absolutely not. Most college applications only ask you what your “intended” major might be, but that does not mean it is set in stone. College is a time for you to explore your academic interests and discover an area you might want to major in. More often than not, you’ll find your major is something you never even heard of in high school, so you have a good amount of time to discover and decide in college.

About getting accepted into college...

**MYTH:** I can’t get accepted. I didn’t get all A’s. Colleges only look at my GPA and test scores.
**FACT:** While your grades are important, getting into college is not only about your grades. The minimum GPA for a four-year college or university in Washington State is 2.0. But doing your best academically is still important. In addition to your grades, colleges also want to know what kind of classes you are taking, what activities you have participated in during high school, and what your personal story and journey toward college has been.

**MYTH:** I don’t participate in extra-curricular activities because I am too busy working or helping my family. Without a lot of activities on my list, I won’t seem competitive as an applicant.
**FACT:** Colleges understand that personal and familial circumstances might limit your participation in activities. If that is the case, your application allows for the opportunity to share some of these situations. In fact, working or helping your family also count as legitimate extra-curricular activities that colleges will be interested in hearing about.

**MYTH:** I can’t get into college if English isn’t my first language.
**FACT:** There are plenty of students currently in college whose first language is not English. If English is not your first language, you may face a few additional hurdles in your college application process (i.e. ELL classes and college entrance requirements). The bottom line is that you can go to college even if English is not your first language. Make sure to work with your Dream Team mentor to ensure that any ELL classes you have taken will count toward your college entrance requirements. (“ELL” = English Language Learner; “ESL” = English as a Second Language)

**MYTH:** Just applying to college costs a lot of money (application fees, test fees, etc.)
**FACT:** While it’s true that there are a lot of fees and costs associated with college applications, you can often get a fee waiver if you meet certain criteria. Your high school may offer the SAT for free and/or your counselor can help you get a fee waiver for the SAT or ACT tests. You should research each college to figure out their process for waiving. Often, if you can show that you were given an SAT or ACT fee waiver, the college will automatically waive your application fee.
Myths and facts about college continued

About affording college...

**MYTH:** The school I want to go to has an estimated cost of $20,000. I will never be able to pay that much money.
**FACT:** While you may not be able to pay that cost out of pocket, there is definitely financial aid available for you from multiple sources. This means everyone (including you) can afford to go to college. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA; for undocumented students) are great opportunities for you to apply for financial aid from the federal government and your university in the form of scholarships, grants, work-study, and loans. Beyond the FAFSA/WASFA, you can also apply for scholarships from private organizations to help cover the costs of attending college.

**MYTH:** I don’t think I qualify for any scholarships, and I can’t pay for college without them.
**FACT:** A majority of students pay for college only with financial aid (grants, loans, and work study). Scholarships reduce the amount of money you have to borrow or pay out of pocket. There are billions of dollars in scholarships available for all sorts of students. Some scholarships may be based on financial need; others may be based on academics, athletics, community service, leadership, overcoming adversity, or any other criteria. Your job is to find as many of these scholarships as you can, and apply for all the ones for which you qualify. While scholarship contests are typically very competitive, the only way you are guaranteed to not get a scholarship is if you don’t apply.

**MYTH:** Because of the cost of higher education, I can only apply to inexpensive schools.
**FACT:** You don’t really know how much college will cost out of pocket until you apply, are accepted, and receive a financial aid package. This means that you should apply to colleges that fit you, regardless of cost. With the availability of financial aid, you can have many options for schools. At the same time, it would be wise to consider costs among your set of criteria for choosing the best college that fits you—but it should not determine your choice.

About going to and succeeding at college...

**MYTH:** College will be way too hard. It’s just not for me.
**FACT:** In some ways, college may be harder than high school. But in other ways, college may actually be easier than high school. You may not get the grades you expected and/or got in high school; however, college offers you the opportunity to explore your academic interests and pursue areas of study in which you know you will succeed. Colleges also offer opportunities to help you succeed in school, get to know your professors, and other helpful resources on campus.

**MYTH:** I don’t know what I want to study and once I pick a major I have to stick with it.
**FACT:** Most people enter college not knowing what they want to study or end up changing their major by the time they graduate. College is an opportunity to explore your academic interests, and you do not have to choose your major until perhaps your junior year of college. If you plan well with your advisors and counselors, you may be able to even pursue multiple majors.

**MYTH:** Since I live close to my college, I have to live at home and commute.
**FACT:** While living on campus means additional costs, your financial aid award will include funds for living expenses. The experience of living in a residence hall on a college campus is very unique. It allows you to be more connected with your classmates and activities happening on campus. The university itself is its own community, and being a part of this community will help you grow as a person and stay connected to important resources.

**MYTH:** Teachers at my school know me but none of the professors at college will ever get to know me personally.
**FACT:** In the same way that you develop your relationship with your teachers in high school by talking to them before, after or during class, you will have the opportunity to develop relationships with your professors as well. While they are also very busy individuals, they are there to help you learn. Depending on the size of your college class, you may have more or less access to your professor in class. However, each professor will also have office hours during which you can visit him or her. Your relationships with them will become very important when you need to request letters of recommendation for scholarships, internships, graduate school, or other activities.

What other thoughts have you had about college?
Talk about it with a Dream Team member and get the real scoop about college!
Learn about your college choices

College Mailing Lists

What will I get?
- Information about majors and programs
- Information about visiting the campus
- Application deadline reminders
- Sometimes football tickets and access to other activities!

How do I sign up?
- Visit the Dream Project’s college list website: [www.dreamproject.washington.edu/CollegeList/](http://www.dreamproject.washington.edu/CollegeList/)
- Visit a college’s admissions homepage and look for the “request information” link
- If you can’t find a way to sign up for a mailing list, contact the admissions office directly

College Fairs

- Admissions counselors and colleges representatives meet in one place to talk with prospective applicants about opportunities at their schools.
- You can explore the wide range of colleges and universities that are out there, in one place.
- Your school may hold one of these fairs at your high school, so talk with your high school counselor to make sure you know when it is.

My College Fairs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seattle NACAC College Fair</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Washington State Convention and Trade Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>800 Convention Place, Seattle, WA 98101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, October 16, 2015 9 am–12pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, October 17, 2015 12–4pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Register in advance at nacacnet.org to get a personal, scannable barcode!

My high school’s college fair

| Date: ____________________________ |
| Time: ____________________________ |
| Location: ____________________________ |

College Admission Visits

- Admissions counselors or representatives come to individual high schools during the fall to talk directly with you.
- Sign up early with your high school counselor or C.C.R.A., or at your college and career center.
Which colleges fit you the best?

Do your research to make sure your college selections are good places for you.

Factors to Consider and Discuss

- **Location.** Distance from home, weather, urban or rural, etc.
- **Programs Available/School Focus.** Are there programs or majors offered here that aren’t available at other colleges?
- **Public vs. Private.** A public university’s tuition is subsidized by the state government, so it can sometimes be cheaper.
- **Secular vs. Religious.** You don’t have to be religious to go to a religious college and you don’t have to go to a religious college to study religion. Some might require attendance at religious services.
- **Diversity.** The types of cultures, languages, and people represented on the campus or community.
- **Size.** Number of students, campus size, city population, etc.
- **In-state vs. Out-of-state.** In-state tuition at public schools is usually cheaper than tuition at out-of-state public schools.
- **Cost.** Don’t let the listed cost of attendance stop you from applying. The amount you pay depends on a financial aid package, which is offered after you are accepted.
- **Selectivity.** How competitive is it to get in? How many new students do they accept each year?
- **4-year vs. 2-year college.** Community colleges offer 2-year degrees with a path to transfer to a 4-year school.

Apply to at least three: Reach, Solid, and Safety

You should apply to at least three colleges, and they should fall within these three categories:

- **Reach** – You might not get in, but it’s worth applying because you really want to go.
- **Solid** – You’re a competitive applicant and will likely be accepted.
- **Safety** – You’ll definitely get accepted, and it’s a backup in case the others don’t work out.

Public 4-Year Colleges and Universities in Washington

There are 6 public colleges and universities in Washington.

You can see a full interactive map of all public, private and community colleges online at [http://dreamproject.washington.edu/CollegeList](http://dreamproject.washington.edu/CollegeList).
# Contact Information for Washington Colleges

## Public 4-Year Colleges and Universities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Website</th>
<th>Admissions Office</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central Washington University</td>
<td>Ellensburg</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cwu.edu">www.cwu.edu</a></td>
<td>866-298-4968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Washington University</td>
<td>Cheney</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ewu.edu">www.ewu.edu</a></td>
<td>509-359-2397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evergreen State College</td>
<td>Olympia</td>
<td><a href="http://www.evergreen.edu">www.evergreen.edu</a></td>
<td>360-867-6170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Washington - Seattle</td>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td><a href="http://www.washington.edu">www.washington.edu</a></td>
<td>206-543-9686</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Washington - Bothell*</td>
<td>Bothell</td>
<td><a href="http://www.uwb.edu">www.uwb.edu</a></td>
<td>425-352-5000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Washington - Tacoma*</td>
<td>Tacoma</td>
<td><a href="http://www.tacoma.washington.edu">www.tacoma.washington.edu</a></td>
<td>253-692-4742</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington State University - Pullman</td>
<td>Pullman</td>
<td><a href="http://www.wsu.edu">www.wsu.edu</a></td>
<td>509-335-5586</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington State University - Spokane*</td>
<td>Spokane</td>
<td><a href="http://www.spokane.wsu.edu">www.spokane.wsu.edu</a></td>
<td>509-358-7978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington State University - Tri-Cities*</td>
<td>Richland</td>
<td><a href="http://www.tricity.wsu.edu">www.tricity.wsu.edu</a></td>
<td>509-372-7250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington State University - Vancouver*</td>
<td>Vancouver</td>
<td><a href="http://www.vancouver.wsu.edu">www.vancouver.wsu.edu</a></td>
<td>360-546-9779</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Washington University</td>
<td>Bellingham</td>
<td><a href="http://www.wwu.edu">www.wwu.edu</a></td>
<td>360-650-3440</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Indicates a branch campus

## Private 4-Year Colleges and Universities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Website</th>
<th>Admissions Office</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bastyr University</td>
<td>Kenmore</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bastyr.edu">www.bastyr.edu</a></td>
<td>425-602-3330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornish College of the Arts</td>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cornish.edu">www.cornish.edu</a></td>
<td>206-726-5016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gonzaga University</td>
<td>Spokane</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gonzaga.edu">www.gonzaga.edu</a></td>
<td>509-328-4220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heritage University</td>
<td>Toppenish</td>
<td><a href="http://www.heritage.edu">www.heritage.edu</a></td>
<td>509-865-8508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwest University</td>
<td>Kirkland</td>
<td><a href="http://www.northwestu.edu">www.northwestu.edu</a></td>
<td>425-889-5231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Lutheran University</td>
<td>Tacoma</td>
<td><a href="http://www.plu.edu">www.plu.edu</a></td>
<td>253-535-7151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saint Martin’s University</td>
<td>Lacey</td>
<td><a href="http://www.stmartin.edu">www.stmartin.edu</a></td>
<td>360-438-4311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seattle Pacific University</td>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td><a href="http://www.spu.edu">www.spu.edu</a></td>
<td>1-800-366-3344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seattle University</td>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td><a href="http://www.seattleu.edu">www.seattleu.edu</a></td>
<td>206-296-5800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trinity Lutheran College</td>
<td>Issaquah</td>
<td><a href="http://www.tlc.edu">www.tlc.edu</a></td>
<td>425-392-0400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Puget Sound</td>
<td>Tacoma</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ups.edu">www.ups.edu</a></td>
<td>253-879-3211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walla Walla University</td>
<td>College Place</td>
<td><a href="http://www.wallawalla.edu">www.wallawalla.edu</a></td>
<td>509-527-2327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitman College</td>
<td>Walla Walla</td>
<td><a href="http://www.whitman.edu">www.whitman.edu</a></td>
<td>509-527-5176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitworth University</td>
<td>Spokane</td>
<td><a href="http://www.whitworth.edu">www.whitworth.edu</a></td>
<td>509-777-4283</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Local 2-Year Colleges (some grant 4-year degrees)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Website</th>
<th>Admissions Office</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bellevue College</td>
<td>Bellevue</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bellevuecollege.edu">www.bellevuecollege.edu</a></td>
<td>425-564-2222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green River College</td>
<td>Auburn</td>
<td><a href="http://www.greenriver.edu">www.greenriver.edu</a></td>
<td>253-833-9111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highline College</td>
<td>Des Moines</td>
<td><a href="http://www.highline.ctc.edu">www.highline.ctc.edu</a></td>
<td>206-878-3710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Seattle College</td>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td><a href="http://www.northseattle.edu">www.northseattle.edu</a></td>
<td>206-527-3663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seattle Central College</td>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td><a href="http://www.seattlecentral.edu">www.seattlecentral.edu</a></td>
<td>206-587-5450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoreline Community College</td>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td><a href="http://www.shoreline.ctc.edu">www.shoreline.ctc.edu</a></td>
<td>206-546-4621</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Seattle College</td>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td><a href="http://www.southseattle.edu">www.southseattle.edu</a></td>
<td>206-764-7943</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Washington State**

### High School Graduation Requirements* vs. CADRs

- Requirements to graduate HS and requirements for eligibility for a 4-year college are different.
- CADRs stand for College Academic Distribution Requirements.

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⚠️ **Check with your high-school counselor or Dream Project mentor for your school’s requirements.**

Graduation requirements vary by high school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Minimum High School Graduation Requirements</th>
<th>Minimum CADRs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Math</strong></td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Must complete Algebra 2 or Integrated 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>English</strong></td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>4 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Only one ESL/ELL year will count</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Science</strong></td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Must include 1 lab science</td>
<td>Must include 2 lab sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Social Studies</strong></td>
<td>3 credits</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 credit U.S. History &amp; Government and 0.5 credit Washington State History</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health &amp; Fitness</strong></td>
<td>2 credits</td>
<td>0 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Occupational Ed.</strong></td>
<td>1 credit</td>
<td>0 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>classes include (but not limited to): business, technology, family and consumer science, and other career and technical classes</td>
<td>No requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arts</strong></td>
<td>1 credit</td>
<td>1 credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*May vary by district</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Foreign/World Language</strong></td>
<td>0 credits</td>
<td>2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Must complete through year 2 or higher of the same language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Electives</strong></td>
<td>4 credits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pass HSPE Math, Science, Reading, Writing, Complete Culminating Project, Complete High School and Beyond Plan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Changes to high school graduation requirements begin for the class of 2016; for more information visit: [www.k12.wa.us/graduationrequirements/requirement-credits.aspx](http://www.k12.wa.us/graduationrequirements/requirement-credits.aspx)

---

*Other: students must take a math-based class during senior year. This can be the course you take for your math requirement, or a math-based science class like physics or chemistry.

*Note that these are minimum requirements to be considered at public colleges in Washington state and do not guarantee admission. Also, remember that community colleges have no minimum requirements.
Summer activities before Senior Year

Even though the Dream Project doesn’t meet regularly over the summer, there’s still plenty that you should do to be ready for the fall!

1. Research potential colleges

- Use the concepts listed on page 6 ("Which colleges fit you the best?") and brainstorm more potential colleges.
- Once you find schools, visit their websites, explore what majors they offer, and contact the admissions office for an information packet.

2. Visit potential colleges

- Take a formal tour from the Visitors Center or the Admissions Office.
- Attend an information session for prospective students.
- Go sit in on a class. Ask the Admissions Office for a list of available classes.
- Familiarize yourself with the surrounding area.
- Stop and Talk to students walking around campus (we’re friendly, we promise). Ask them questions such as:
  - “Why did you choose this school?”
  - “Do you like being a student here?”
  - “What are the best and worst things about this school?”

3. Practice for the SAT or ACT+Writing

- Enroll in the EAN Test Prep Class in the summer.
- Get a test prep book – you can buy one or check one out from the library.
- Take a timed SAT or ACT Practice Test. Request a practice test from your counselor.

4. Search and apply for scholarships

- Create free accounts at scholarship websites like www.theWashBoard.org.
- Visit ScholarshipJunkies.com for tips, advice, and scholarship opportunities from past national scholarship winners.
- Search and create a list of potential scholarships by due date.
- Based on that list, brainstorm topics for scholarship essays.
- Think about which teachers, counselors, advisers, etc., could write strong letters of recommendation for you. See page 26 for more information about letters of recommendation.
- Find at least 3 scholarships you will apply for in the fall. See page 52 for information about scholarships.

5. Engage in activities that make your college applications more competitive

These sorts of activities can improve parts of your college applications such as your activities log.
- Become a volunteer at a community organization.
- Find an internship at a local company or get a summer job. See the next page for ideas.
Find a summer job or internship

Strengthen your activities log and get involved in your community this summer!

Places to look for summer jobs and internships

- **Boys & Girls Clubs** – Some opportunities available include facilitating after-school game rooms, gym activities or education centers, coaching sports or maintaining the facility.
  www.positiveplace.org/investinkids/pages/volunteer.aspx

- **Juma Ventures** – Youth program provides part-time employment, college preparation, financial literacy, and a college savings plan.
  www. jumaventures.org/students

- **King County Parks** – King County Parks provides opportunities that fit your schedule, interests and location. Find out the latest volunteer opportunities through *The Dirt* newsletter.
  www.kingcounty.gov/environment/stewardship/volunteer.aspx

- **Seattle Public Library** – Volunteers develop new skills and gain practical library experience.
  www.spl.org/about-the-library/support-your-library/volunteer-opportunities

- **Seattle Works: Hands On Network** – is a local program that provides innovative volunteer activities and educational opportunities to high school students. Volunteer for a one-time commitment to a “Hot Project” or for a couple hours a month in the “Team Works” program, with activities like planting gardens in elderly homes, scrap-booking with children, running a food drive, helping out at the Northwest Folklife Festival, and more.
  www.seattleworks.org/HomePage/index.php/home.html

- **Teens in Public Service (TIPS)**—Teens in Public Service is a community program that provides teens ages 15–19 in the Seattle area with paid summer internships, working at local non-profit organizations. Submit an online application and two letters of recommendation to apply.
  www.teensinpublicservice.org

- **United Way of King County** – Provides a variety of youth volunteer opportunities.
  www.uwkc.org/ways-to-volunteer

- **The Vera Project** – Vera is a volunteer music and arts venue. Most of the programs are at the Seattle Center and include event production training, visual arts exhibits and live recordings. An orientation is required prior to volunteering.
  theveraproject.org/getinvolved

- **YMCA** – Take the Volunteer Interest Survey and a YMCA staff member will follow up with you in three days if any YMCA programs would be a good volunteer fit.
  www.seattlemca.org/pages/volunteer.aspx

- **YouthForce** – Provides students with career-focused internship experiences through a partnership with Boys & Girls Club and Qwest Field.
  www. teenjobs.org

**Other resource sites**

- **City of Seattle’s Portal for Teens**: www.seattle.gov/teen/civic/getinvolvedvolunteer.htm
- **VolunteerMatch**: www.volunteermatch.org/
Notes
Undocumented students

- Being a U.S. citizen or permanent resident is not a requirement to apply to and attend a college or university.

Filling out college applications

- When asked for your social security number, fill in the space with zeros, list the U.S. as your country of permanent residence, and write HB 1079 in the “other” section for immigration status or current/expected visa section.
- If there is no option to do any of these, contact your Dream Project mentor.

HB1079

In 2003, Washington state legislators passed a law called HB 1079 which says that individuals who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents have the ability to attend any public 2-year, 4-year, or technical college and pay in-state tuition if they meet the following criteria:

1. Earn a high school diploma or equivalent (GED) from a Washington State high school;
2. Live in Washington State for three years prior to receiving a high school diploma or GED;
3. Live continually in Washington since earning the high school diploma or GED; and
4. Meet college or university admission requirements expected of all other students.
5. Print and fill out the Washington State Affidavit, certifying that you meet the criteria listed above, and send it to all the public colleges that you are applying to in Washington State: http://registrar.washington.edu/forms/03-01-HB1079.pdf

This process is confidential and you can always speak with an admissions counselor to make sure you are filling out your forms and applications correctly.

Real Hope Act and WASFA

On February 26, 2014, Governor Jay Inslee signed the Real Hope Act that expands eligibility for the Washington State Need Grant to non-citizens. This legislation allows undocumented students to fill out the Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA).

1. Have graduated from a Washington high school or obtained a GED
2. Have lived in Washington for three years prior to earning the high school diploma or equivalent and continuously since.
3. Sign an affidavit (written promise) to file an application to become a permanent resident of the United States when eligible to apply.

To learn more about being considered for Washington State Need Grant funds, check readysetgrad.org/wasfa and talk to your Dream Project mentor for the most up to date information.

* Students granted deferred action for childhood arrival (DACA) can be eligible but must also complete and sign the affidavit.

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

On June 15, 2012, President Barack Obama announced that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) would not deport certain DREAM Act–eligible undocumented immigrants. Those eligible for DACA will be given temporary relief called “deferred action.” Deferred action will be valid for two years and may be renewed at the end of the two years. Individuals who receive deferred action may apply for and may obtain employment authorization. [NILC]

For advice on whether or not DACA is a good fit for you, visit www.nwirp.org/resources/dreamer

Eligibility Requirements:

- came to the United States before your 16th birthday
- were under age 31 and had no valid immigration status on June 15, 2012
- have continuously resided in the United States between June 15, 2007 and the present
- are currently in school, graduated from high school, obtained a GED, or were honorably discharged from the Armed Forces;
- have not been convicted of a felony, a “significant” misdemeanor, or three or more other misdemeanors, and do not otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety
Resources for students with disabilities

By law, institutions of higher education must make reasonable accommodations for students with both visible and invisible disabilities. There are also a number of higher education programs that can support students with intellectual disabilities.

Establishing Accommodations at Any Postsecondary Institution

- **Research** the colleges you plan to apply to and establish which office/program can support you by making accommodations for you, given your disability.
- Most institutions will require or prefer to review your K-12 *Individualized Education Plan (IEP)* or *504 Plan*. This will be a baseline for establishing services and accommodations. It is important to reach out to your chosen college **early** to start those conversations.
- **Accommodations** that may be made for you, depending on your disability and other factors: changes in the length of time permitted for the completion of degree requirements, substitution of specific courses required for the completion of degree requirements, adaptation of the manner in which specific courses are conducted, reduced course loads, extended time on tests, note-takers, readers, recording devices, sign language interpreters, screen-readers, voice recognition and other adaptive software or hardware for computers, and other devices designed to ensure the participation of students with impaired sensory, manual or speaking skills in an institution's programs and activities.*

Postsecondary Programs Designed for Students with Intellectual Disabilities

- **Think College!** is an online resource guide that can help you search for programs and institutions all across the US that can best support your postsecondary plans if you have an intellectual disibility: [www.thinkcollege.net/](http://www.thinkcollege.net/)
- Highline College's ACHIEVE program is a comprehensive post-secondary transition program that includes credit and non-credit classes, intensive advising, involvement in campus life, community-based internships, and job placement services. [achieve.highline.edu/](http://achieve.highline.edu/)
- Bellevue College's Autism Spectrum Navigators program offers individualized access services for Bellevue College students who have an Autism Spectrum Condition: [www.bellevuecollege.edu/autismspectrumnavigators/](http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/autismspectrumnavigators/)

Laws That Support the Transition of Students With Disabilities To Postsecondary Education

There are a number of laws and acts that protect the rights of students with disabilities and that support higher education institutions with enacting supports and fair treatment of students with disabilities. Understanding which laws and acts you can reference can help you in advocating for accommodations and fair treatment as you transition from K-12 to postsecondary education. If you are unfamiliar with these laws, please take time to read through the specific sections of laws at the links below*:

- **Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973** prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability: [www.hhs.gov/ocr/civilrights/resources/factsheets/504.pdf](http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/civilrights/resources/factsheets/504.pdf)
- **Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act** prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by private entities that are not private clubs or religious entities: [www.ada.gov/t3highlight.htm](http://www.ada.gov/t3highlight.htm)
- **Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)** provides funds to states to assist in making a free appropriate public education available to eligible children with disabilities: [idea.ed.gov/](http://idea.ed.gov/)
- **Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services Program** provides funds to state VR agencies to assist eligible individuals with disabilities in obtaining employment: [www.benefits.va.gov/vorehab/](http://www.benefits.va.gov/vorehab/)
- It is important to note that private postsecondary institutions that do not receive federal financial assistance are not subject to Section 504 or Title II. They are, however, subject to Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

* Source: [www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/transitionguide.html](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/transitionguide.html)
Minimum 4-year college entrance requirements

What if you already speak a language other than English?

If English isn’t your first language, you grew up in a different country, or you took classes outside of the U.S., you should use this page to make sure that you will meet the 4-year college entrance core requirements for world language.

By the time you graduate high school...

Will you have taken two years of a language other than English in a U.S. high school (must be two years of the same language)?

Did you attend school from the 1st through the 7th grade in any country other than Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, the U.K., or the U.S.?

Note: you must have been officially educated in the country’s education system and list this on your college applications.

Did you earn at least 2 high school credits?

You will need to notify the colleges that you are applying to of the results of your world language test.

You need to take a world language placement test

Choose one or try both:

World Language Competency-Based High School Credits

See box below for details

Did you place into the third level (third quarter) of the world language? (e.g., Spanish 103)

You need to take (and pass) two years (high school) or three quarters (college) of world language before you graduate high school. This will likely need to be done at a community college. Work with your mentor and high school counselor to figure this out!

I am on track to meet World Language Core: (circle one)

Yes

⚠️ I need to take a test

⚠️ I need to take classes
Minimum 4-year college entrance requirements continued

How do you meet core requirements if your first language isn’t English?

If you have ever taken ELL/ESL classes, use this page to make sure that you will meet the core requirements for English for entrance to a 4-year college.

“Soft English”: 4-year colleges in Washington state require four years of high school English/composition classes. Only one year can be a “soft English” class. Soft English includes ESL/ELL English classes as well as non-traditional English classes like drama, public speaking, journalistic writing, or debate.

By the time you graduate high school, how many years of English composition/literature will you have taken in the U.S.?

4

3

2

1

How many years of these 4 were “soft” English credits?

How many years of these 3 were “soft” English credits?

How many years of these 2 were “soft” English credits?

Is this 1 credit a “soft” English credit?

You are on track to meet English Core

You will not meet English Core based on your current track

You need to score at least a 430 on the SAT Critical Reading Section or a 17 in the ACT English Section

I am on track to meet English Core: (circle one)
Preparing for the SAT* or ACT tests

- Take the time to learn the strategies for taking standardized tests.

Suggested Timeline

Many schools offer the SAT for free during the schoolday; Auburn, Kent, and Tukwila school districts have a free, in-school SAT day for juniors on April 15th, 2015. ALL Dream Project school districts offer a free, in-school SAT day on October 14th, 2015 for seniors*. Check with your counselor to see if your school offers a free, in-school SAT day!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPRING</th>
<th>SUMMER</th>
<th>FALL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JUNIOR YEAR</td>
<td>Free Test Prep</td>
<td>Take the test again</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take the test</td>
<td>Practice Test</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAT*</th>
<th>- vs -</th>
<th>ACT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.collegeboard.com">www.collegeboard.com</a></td>
<td>WEBSITE</td>
<td><a href="http://www.actstudent.org">www.actstudent.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$52.50 or free*</td>
<td>COST</td>
<td>$54.50*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three Sections:</td>
<td>SECTIONS</td>
<td>Five Sections:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Critical reading</td>
<td></td>
<td>- English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Mathematics</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Writing</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Each section worth <strong>800 points</strong></td>
<td>POINTS</td>
<td>Optional Writing Section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total of possible <strong>2400 points</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 hours, with short breaks</td>
<td>TIME</td>
<td>4.5 hours (including Writing Section), with short breaks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correct answers get 1 point</td>
<td>SCORING</td>
<td>Correct answers get 1 point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wrong answers <strong>deduct .25 point</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>No penalty for wrong answers (so answer every question)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Required and included</td>
<td>WRITING SECTION</td>
<td>Optional, but required for most colleges</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To register for a test or learn more: [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) (for the SAT) or [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) (for the ACT).

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**How much does it cost?** You can take it for **free**!
- SAT: **$52.50** each time you take it
- ACT+Writing: **$54.50** each time

Also, find out if your school offers the SAT for free during the schoolday! If you qualify for free-or-reduced lunch you can receive a fee waiver and use the waiver up to two times for each test.

**If you take the ACT**, be sure to take the optional **writing section** so that your score meets the requirements at your college.

**Some schools require SAT Subject Tests.** Check with the schools to which you will apply.

---

*Sources: For SAT information, [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com). For ACT information, [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org). Information visit: [deliveringopportunity.org](http://deliveringopportunity.org)*
Preparing for the SAT or ACT tests continued

My SAT or ACT Test Dates: You need to take your test at least four weeks before your earliest application due date!

1: 2: MY FEE WAIVER CODE: _______________________

Test Dates and Registration Deadlines 2015–2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Date</th>
<th>Test Type</th>
<th>Registration Deadline</th>
<th>Late Registration Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 2, 2015</td>
<td>SAT &amp; Subject Tests</td>
<td>April 6, 2015</td>
<td>April 21, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 12, 2015</td>
<td>ACT + Writing</td>
<td>August 7, 2015</td>
<td>August 8–21, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 3, 2015</td>
<td>SAT &amp; Subject Tests</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 7, 2015</td>
<td>SAT &amp; Subject Tests</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 5, 2015</td>
<td>SAT &amp; Subject Tests</td>
<td></td>
<td>** Note: Test scores must be sent to the UW by December 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 12, 2015</td>
<td>ACT + Writing</td>
<td>November 6, 2015</td>
<td>November 7–20, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 23, 2016</td>
<td>SAT &amp; Subject Tests</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 6, 2016</td>
<td>ACT + Writing</td>
<td>January 8, 2016</td>
<td>January 10–16, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 5, 2016*</td>
<td>SAT only</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 9, 2016</td>
<td>ACT + Writing</td>
<td>March 4, 2016</td>
<td>March 5–18, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 7, 2016*</td>
<td>SAT &amp; Subject Tests</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 4, 2016*</td>
<td>SAT &amp; Subject Tests</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 11, 2016</td>
<td>ACT + Writing</td>
<td>May 6, 2016</td>
<td>May 7–20, 2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
- SAT Test dates are listed on Saturdays only; however, students who cannot test on Saturday due to religious observance are allowed to take the test on Sunday instead.
- SAT Language Tests with Listening are offered only in November.
- Dates marked as tentative test dates were the best available at the time of printing. Check for updated testing dates at www.collegeboard.com or www.actstudent.org.
- *The redesigned SAT will be offered beginning March 2016. Visit deliveringopportunity.org for more information.

Score Reports
- You can send your test score reports to 4 colleges for free. Select these schools when you register, even as a junior.
- Additional reports are $10 for the SAT and $10 for the ACT.
- Send scores to colleges even if you haven’t applied or are unsure if you will ever apply. Admissions Offices will hold on to your scores until you submit an application.
- You can choose which scores to send to colleges, but in most cases you should send all of your scores anyway. Colleges usually only consider the higher score.
- All directions are on the SAT or ACT websites. Your Dream Team mentor can help.

You must send an official test score to each college before the freshman application deadline.

It can take up to 4 weeks from the test date to be scored and sent to a college, so send it early!

Free Test Prep from Education Access Network

As a member of the Dream Project, you qualify to take a free SAT/ACT test prep class offered through EAN. This class is offered in the spring and the summer on weekends. Talk to a Dream Team member to get an application form and learn more.

You can find your high school’s “CEEB Code” on page 20.
Process for applying

These are the basic steps in the process for applying to college.

1. Create online account / request paper app
2. Write down and save your log-in information
3. Request letters of recommendation (from teachers or others) a month before deadline
4. Request transcripts (from your counselor) at least two weeks before deadline
5. Request application fee waiver (from the college) at least two weeks before deadline
6. Fill out the application
7. Write your application essay
8. Write additional sections
9. Double-check everything and proofread
10. Make a copy of your application or print a copy and keep it in a safe place
11. Submit it!
12. Receive confirmation letter (or e-mail) that your application was received
13. Check the status of your application Make sure that the college received everything
14. Hear back and make a decision

Common Admissions Process Terms

“Rolling Admission”
Decisions are processed depending on when the application is submitted. Apply as soon as possible.

“Regular Admission”
Most applicants will hear back in March. The date you submit your application does not affect the decision. Apply by the final deadline.

“Early Decision”
You sign a legally-binding contract that if you get accepted to that college, you will go there. You can only apply to one college as “Early Decision” but you can apply to as many other colleges as you want for Regular, Rolling, or Early Action Admission. Apply before Early Decision deadline (usually in November).

“Early Action” or “Restrictive Early Action”
No binding contract, but guarantees that the applicant will hear back by a certain date. Note that your application is not given any special consideration for applying Early Action. “Restrictive Early Action” means you can only apply early action to that specific school. Apply before Early Action deadline (usually in November).

“Priority Date”
Not a deadline, but a suggested date by which to apply so that you can be considered for scholarships or other programs. This does not give you special consideration for admission and is also not the same thing as Early Action or Early Decision. Apply before Priority Date (usually in November/December).

What does this decision mean?

Accepted
You're in! You need to choose whether you will attend this college and send in your Enrollment Verification and Deposit by May 1st.

Denied
Go to plan B. Wait to hear back from other schools or look into alternate opportunities for the next year.

Wait listed
The school is waiting to see how many students will choose to go there. A school may offer you admission later (after May 1st), but you should accept another school's offer to ensure that you have a place in the fall. This may mean that you pay a deposit at a school that you will not attend, which is usually a non-refundable fee.

Deferred
The school, or you, have decided to wait a certain amount of time before you enroll. For example, you might decide to travel for a semester and defer admission so you won't have to re-apply when you get back. Not all schools offer this as an option.
**Deadlines for Washington Colleges**

**Note: All deadlines listed below are from last year. Be sure to check with each college for the most up-to-date information!**

### Public Colleges and Universities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Application Deadline for Fall Enrollment</th>
<th>Scholarship/Honors Priority Date</th>
<th>Fin. Aid Deadline</th>
<th>SAT College Code</th>
<th>ACT College Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central Washington University</td>
<td>On space available after March 1</td>
<td>Scholarships: March 1</td>
<td>March 15</td>
<td>4044</td>
<td>4444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Washington University</td>
<td>Varies based on volume</td>
<td>Scholarships: February 15</td>
<td>February 15</td>
<td>4301</td>
<td>4454</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evergreen State College</td>
<td>Priority Date: February 1; Final Date: August 1</td>
<td>Scholarships: February 2</td>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>4292</td>
<td>4457</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Washington - Seattle</td>
<td>December 1</td>
<td>Scholarships &amp; Honors: Dec 1</td>
<td>February 28</td>
<td>4854</td>
<td>4484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Washington - Bothell*</td>
<td>Rolling</td>
<td></td>
<td>February 28</td>
<td>4467</td>
<td>4497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Washington - Tacoma*</td>
<td>Priority Date: January 15</td>
<td></td>
<td>January 15</td>
<td>4445</td>
<td>4493</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington State U. - Pullman</td>
<td>January 31</td>
<td>Scholarships &amp; Honors: Jan 31</td>
<td>February 15</td>
<td>4705</td>
<td>4482</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington State U. - Spokane*</td>
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<td>February 15</td>
<td>4705</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington State U. - Tri-Cities*</td>
<td>Priority Date: January 31</td>
<td>Scholarships &amp; Honors: Jan 31</td>
<td>February 15</td>
<td>4705</td>
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* Indicates a branch campus

### Private Colleges and Universities

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<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Application Deadline for Fall Enrollment</th>
<th>Priority/Scholarship Date</th>
<th>Fin. Aid Deadline</th>
<th>SAT College Code</th>
<th>ACT College Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bastyr University</td>
<td>Priority Date: March 15</td>
<td>Priority Date: February 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cornish College of the Arts</td>
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<td>Priority Date: February 1</td>
<td>February 15</td>
<td>0058</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gonzaga University</td>
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<td>February 1</td>
<td>4330</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northwest University</td>
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<td>Early Action: November 15</td>
<td>February 15</td>
<td>4541</td>
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### Local 2-Year Colleges

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<th>SAT</th>
<th>ACT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bellevue College</td>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>4029</td>
<td>4441</td>
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<td>Green River College</td>
<td>March 15</td>
<td>4337</td>
<td>6024</td>
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<td>Highline College</td>
<td>May 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Seattle College</td>
<td>March 15</td>
<td>4554</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seattle Central College</td>
<td>April 30</td>
<td>4033</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Fin. Aid Deadline</th>
<th>SAT</th>
<th>ACT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shoreline Community College</td>
<td>May 23</td>
<td>4738</td>
<td>4479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Seattle College</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4759</td>
<td>4473</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
If you were educated outside the U.S.

If you have immigrated to the United States there are some things you will need to consider in the application process.

Filling out information on an application

Many colleges will ask you if you have attended school outside the United States. **It is important that you provide accurate information and list all the schools** that you have attended. If the application is confusing or you think you need to provide more information, contact the specific college to make sure you submit all necessary information by the final application deadline.

About international transcripts

If you have attended **any high school outside of the United States**, you will most likely need to send an official copy of your transcripts to all the colleges to which you are applying. Your high school should have an official copy of your international transcript. You can ask your high school counselor to send a copy, along with your current U.S. high school transcript, in their official sealed envelope to all the colleges to which you are applying.

- What if my high school does not have a copy of my international transcript?
  You will need to either request a copy from your high school(s) outside the United States or provide a copy that you have.

- What if I only have one copy of my international transcript and I cannot request another?
  You should keep this copy. You can always contact the schools to which you are applying to let them know your situation. Most likely, you can send a photocopy of your official copy to all your colleges. You can also have your high school make a photocopy of this and they can send it out in their official sealed envelopes.

- What if I do not have a copy of my international transcript(s) and I cannot request one?
  You should contact each of the colleges you are applying to and describe your situation. They may have specific procedures at each college for how you should proceed.

Translating international transcripts

If your international transcripts are not in English, you will have to have them translated into English. This can usually be done by anyone with the background in the language, such as a high school teacher, college professor, or translating company. You can also request your international high school send you a translated copy of your transcript. Most colleges require you to submit the translated transcript along with the original transcript. You should contact each of your potential colleges to determine how to submit the necessary documents.

Some schools may contact you via e-mail or mail and request that you submit additional information. Provide this information as quickly as possible and follow up to ensure that your application can be considered.

Notes
What type of application do I submit?

For most colleges, there are two types of freshman applications that you can submit. Even if you have college credits (e.g., Running Start), you will still apply using one of these two applications. This chart can help you determine which type to submit.

I am applying as a: (circle one)

Freshman Applicant  International Applicant
Brainstorming your Personal Statement

Your admissions essay can be a **HUGE** factor in your acceptance to college.

### Sample Essay Prompts (from 2014)

**Seattle University**
- Why do you feel that Seattle University is a good match with your educational goals?

**University of Washington**
- Discuss how your family’s experience or cultural history enriched you or presented you with opportunities or challenges in pursuing your educational goals.
- Tell us a story from your life, describing an experience that either demonstrates your character or helped to shape it.

### Brainstorming Questions

What makes you or your family unique?

Have you faced any challenges or overcome any obstacles that have made you stronger? If so what were they?

What experiences outside of school have influenced your life in and out of the classroom?

What skills do you have (leadership, speaking, writing, etc)?

What book has influenced you most? Why?

What was it like growing up in your town and going to your high school?

Who in your life has influenced you? How? Why?

What impact do you want to make on your community or the world?

Has your race, ethnicity, culture, politics, or religion affected you in positive or negative ways? How?

Have you struggled due to socioeconomic status, physical ability or household situations? How?
Writing and Revising Personal Statement Essays

Tips for both writers and editors

For Writers...

Brainstorming

- What two qualities do you want to focus your essay on?
- What two accomplishments can you think of that you are most proud of?
- What is one thing about you that you want to make sure the admissions counselor knows?

Questions the essay should answer about YOU

- How did you feel?
- How have you changed since?
- What did you learn?
- Why is it memorable?

Read your essay OUT LOUD to hear how it sounds and catch awkward sentences.

For Editors...

General Advice

- Ask the writer: “What do you want to make sure I know about you after I’m done reading? What is/are the main point(s) of your essay?”
- Focus on IDEAS and CONTENT instead of grammar during the first two drafts.
- Maintain the writer’s voice; do not add your own words.
- Give CLEAR and useful feedback, directly on the paper (write what your marks mean).
- After reading, write some end-of-paper thoughts. Focus on the essay as a whole. Tell the writer which parts of the essay really stood out to you.

Highlighter Test (with a real highlighter!)

- Read through the essay and highlight every section where you learn something new about the writer.
- This is to make sure the essay focuses on the writer and tells his or her story—NOT someone else’s story.
- Check if non-highlighted parts answer any of the questions listed in the section above.
- Not every section has to be highlighted, but more highlighted sections mean that the reader has learned more about the writer, which is the goal.

Brainstorming + Feedback + Support = Great Application Essays
Completing the other writing sections

Many applications include multiple shorter questions and an activities list. Put as much effort into these as you did with your personal statement.

### Short response / Extra essay

**University of Washington 2015 Short Response Prompts**
- The University of Washington seeks to create a community of students richly diverse in cultural backgrounds, experiences, and viewpoints. How would you contribute to this community? (max 300 words)
- Describe an experience of cultural difference, positive or negative, you have had or observed. What did you learn from it? (max 300 words)

**Western Washington University 2015 Essay Prompts**
- Share a meaningful experience and how this has helped shape you in your preparation for college – this could be related to your passions, commitments, leadership experience, family or cultural background. (around 500 words)
- Describe any activities you have been involved in related to diversity or multiculturalism and explain how you will actively contribute to a diverse campus community at Western. (around 500 words)

### Activities List / Accomplishments / Résumé

**Seattle Pacific University 2011 Involvement & Activities**
- Please describe all high school/college, church, community, or professional activities in which you have participated over the last four years. This information provides an understanding of your participation in leadership and service and is used to determine scholarship eligibility.

**University of Washington 2015 Activities & Achievements**
- Identify up to five of your most significant activities and achievements during grades 9-12. In a few bullets or sentences, indicate your contribution. (maximum length: 50 words for each activity)
  - Leadership in or outside of school—e.g., athletics, student government, cultural clubs, band, scouting, community service, employment
  - Activities in which you have worked to better your school or community
  - Exceptional achievement in an academic field or artistic pursuit
  - Personal endeavors that enrich the mind—e.g., independent research or reading, private dance or music lessons, weekend language/culture school

Some sample activities include:
- activities and clubs
- jobs
- sports
- ASB or student government
- family obligations
- community service
- arts or music activities
- involvement at church/mosque/synagogue/place-of-worship/etc.
- significant achievements
- personal endeavors
- study abroad

Sources: Seattle Pacific University 2011 Freshman Application, University of Washington 2015 Freshman Application, Western Washington University 2015 Freshman Application.
Letters of Recommendation

Another way to stand out from other applicants

Not every college or scholarship requires letters of recommendation. Confirm with the colleges and scholarships to which you are applying about the number of letters you need and any additional applications or forms they may want your recommenders to complete.

Whom should I ask to write a letter?

- Individuals who know you well and can speak to your academics, community service, involvement in and out of school, leadership, and your personal growth (teachers, coaches, volunteer coordinators, employers, religious leaders, etc.).
  
  Note: Most colleges and scholarships do not accept letters of recommendations written by relatives or family members.

- Consider how long they have known you and in what capacity (e.g. a teacher who taught you during your junior year in an Honors course and now has you in an Advanced Placement course).

When should I ask?

- Ask your letter writers 4–6 weeks ahead of when you need it back or when they need to send it. Depending on the application process, your letter writer might need to send the letter on his/her own.

How do I request a letter of recommendation?

- Your school’s counseling center may have a form for you to fill out to give to your letter writers.
- Read the instructions on the application regarding letters of recommendation.
- Neatly assemble a packet including your essays, applications, and activities list that tells more about you and provide this to your letter writer (see box at right for other ideas).
- It may be helpful to provide a stamped, addressed envelope, a cover sheet, or other helpful items to make the process easier for your letter writer.
- If your letter writer should submit his or her letter online, provide the URL for online submission form.

Information to include in your request:

Even though your letter writer might know you well, it helps to provide some detail to make sure that the letter focuses on the aspects you want emphasized. Think about including some of the following:

- Deadlines or timelines
- Any forms or special format details from the application
- Grade Point Average (GPA) or unofficial transcript
- Teachers/staff who know you well
- Your college/career plans
- Advanced courses you have completed or are currently enrolled in
- Clubs, activities, sports, and/or student government participation (Specify any leadership positions)
- Any awards and/or honors you have received
- Community service or activities in which you have participated (Specify any leadership positions)
- Your travel experiences
- Your personal and professional goals
- Anything special or unique about you that you would like mentioned in your letter
- Copies of essays from your application
- A stamped envelope
- A cover sheet explaining what you’ve included for the letter writer, and a brief description of why you’re interested in this college/scholarship.

More tips

- Don’t be shy about talking to your teachers and coaches; they want to get to know you and help you succeed.
- Give your letter writers as much time and reminders as possible by communicating clearly and effectively about what exactly you are looking for.
- Don’t assume that your letter writer knows every detail about you. See the box at right for ideas of what to provide to help out your letter writer.
- Send your letter writer a thank you card afterward.
Tips for submitting your applications

- Make sure the last step goes smoothly.

  - Read through your entire application before you submit it.
  - Have at least one other person look over your finalized application.
  - Make a copy of your application for your records.
    If you submit online, print off a copy. If you mail in your application, make a photocopy before sending it in. Be sure to black out your social security number on your copy.
  - Notify a Dream Team member when you submit your application.
    Some colleges allow you to list an additional e-mail address on your application which will receive a confirmation e-mail at the time of submission. Enter your mentor’s e-mail address!

- All schools will notify you once they receive your application, either by e-mail or mail.
  This is called an Acknowledgement Letter or Confirmation Letter. If you don’t hear anything within two weeks after submitting your application, contact the admissions office of that school. Keep this letter in a safe place when you get it.

- Deadline dates are usually postmark dates, meaning that you need to get your application in the mail before the end of the day on that deadline day.

⚠️ Submit your application well before the deadline to avoid unforeseen problems and to limit your stress level!

Checking the status of your applications

- It is your responsibility to make sure all the pieces of your application have been received by the college. **You might be asked for extra information.**

  - Check the status online
    Some colleges may have an online account where you can check the status of your application. Instructions should come with your Acknowledgement Letter after you first submit your application.

  - Check your e-mail often
    Most colleges will communicate through e-mail if additional information is required. Check the e-mail address that you listed on your application at least twice a week. If an admissions office contacts you, reply as soon as you can.
    ⚠️ Check your junk mail box or add a filter so that college e-mail won’t get thrown out!

  - Contact the admissions office
    You can call or e-mail the admissions office regarding the status of your application at any time. You should call if you have not received an Acknowledgement Letter within two weeks of submitting your application.

⚠️ It is YOUR responsibility to make sure that each admissions office has every thing they need, even if something gets lost or a mistake is made.
The Common Application

The Common Application, or Common App, is a college admissions application that is shared by over 500 colleges and universities in the US.

What is the Common App?

- The content of the Common App incorporates a broad range of questions, including:
  - academic achievements
  - test scores
  - extra-curricular activities (can list up to ten)
  - other general information that colleges use to evaluate students

- Some colleges may require an additional supplement form in addition to the Common App. Make sure you know all of the requirements of the schools to which you are applying.

- Once the Common App is completed, it can be sent to any number of participating colleges. As a result, you save time on gathering the parts of your application together.

- Not all schools take the Common App. Make sure you plan ahead and know which schools have their own application or have a supplement to the Common App.

Learn more online at www.commonapp.org

Notes
How to prepare for a college interview

Some colleges, mostly private colleges, offer an in-person interview in order to learn more about you.

Certain colleges may offer you the chance to interview with an admissions representative as part of the application process. A college interview is a chance for you to go beyond what you submitted in your application and show your strengths. The interviewer’s recommendation could have a significant impact on your admission decision.

Not all colleges offer an interview as part of the admissions process. Contact each of your potential colleges to see if meeting with a representative is mandatory, optional or not considered at all.

Interview types

Formal interviews
These vary depending on the type of college and their admissions process and resources. Interviews are usually conducted by an admissions officer, a current student or an alumnus (someone who graduated from that college). You may have to travel to the college or meet somewhere in your city. Typically, formal interviews will last anywhere from 30 to 60 minutes.

Casual interviews
These can happen any time that you interact with an admissions representative. Some colleges may offer group information sessions where you can meet with admissions officers and current students. Additionally, admissions officers may visit your high school or a regional college fair and provide an opportunity for you to talk one-on-one. You should treat this like an interview.

Major-specific interviews or auditions
These may be required if you intend to study in a particular area, such as drama or music. You may also have the option to submit a portfolio that includes a collection of your work or achievements. These interviews can also be a factor in scholarship consideration.

Remember: Every time you communicate with a college representative, treat it like an interview. College representatives are constantly thinking about how you would fit in on their college campus. You always have a chance to make an impression, so make it a great one.

College Interview Tips

- Always accept a college’s offer of an interview. If you decline, it will most likely be noted in your application.
- Dress neatly and cleanly. Do not under- or over-dress. It is suggested that you do not wear T-shirts or casual clothing and do not wear a full suit. Find an appropriate medium that shows who you are and that you take the interview seriously.
- Arrive on time. Plan to be there at least 15 minutes before the scheduled interview.
- Make eye contact with the interviewer when you are talking. This shows your confidence and that you are focused on the conversation.
- Consider the interview as a conversation. This will make you more relaxed and allow you to open up. Take the chance to learn more about the interview and your potential college.
- Research the college and its mission. You will most likely be asked why you want to attend the college and how you would fit into the campus community.
- Bring any necessary materials, such as your transcript, test scores, or personal statements.
- Review the application that you submitted. You may be asked about something specific that you mentioned so you should be prepared.
- Never say that the college is your safety or backup option. This shows that you are not fully committed and it could impact your admissions decision.
- Prepare some questions that you can ask the interviewer. Do not ask questions that can be easily found on the admissions website or brochure, but take it as an opportunity to gain the interviewer’s perspective. A safe question is “Why do you like representing this college?” or “Tell me what students do on the weekend.”
- Avoid eating or drinking during the interview. It can take away the focus from your conversation and provide distractions.
- Remember to stay calm and be yourself.
- Be polite to everyone you meet. If you are visiting the campus, everyone, including the office receptionist, may have the ability to comment on your admission decision.
- Bring something to take notes with. You may have questions that come up in the conversation and it allows you to write thing down along the way.
- Always thank the interviewer for his or her time and the opportunity to meet. Ask for contact information and correct name spelling.
- Follow up with a personalized thank you note to the interviewer. Write down something specific that you discussed or learned to personalize the note. You can also use this as a chance to mention anything you did not discuss.
- Do not bring your parent/guardian into the interview.
Transferring between 4-year institutions

With the admission priority going to 2-year community college applicants at many 4-year universities, it can be difficult to transfer from one to another.

How to understand the transfer process

- Ask yourself “Why do I want to transfer?”
  - You may be able to address problems you have at your current school by working with faculty and staff to get extra help or solve any issues.
  - Talk with other students who might be having similar issues.

- Talk with your current academic advisor.
  - Ask your current advisors about what you need to do if you choose to withdraw and enroll in another 4-year school.
  - Talk about resources that you can use to make sure that your current school is not the right fit for you.

- Talk with an admissions counselor at the school to which you want to transfer.
  - As soon as you get the idea that you want to transfer, talk with an admissions counselor or coordinator at your prospective schools to understand the transfer process.
  - There may be things that you can do to increase your chances for admission.

- Remember that many universities in Washington have a priority for community college students.
  - It can be difficult to transfer from one 4-year school to another 4-year school, so you may be able to attend a community college before you apply to your desired 4-year school.
Notes
What’s out there besides 4-year college?

4-year schools aren’t the only option...

2-year Community College

- Publicly funded 2-year colleges that allow students to obtain an Associate Degree. This gives graduates certification to apply for jobs that require some but not a full four years of college education.

- After you earn your Associate’s degree, you can transfer to a four-year university as a junior; your Associate’s can count as the first two years of your four-year Bachelor’s degree.

- Many local colleges that have been called “community colleges” in the past are now offering 4-year degrees. Many have dropped “community” from their name.

- Learn more about what different programs are offered at the 34 different community colleges in Washington state: [www.checkoutacollege.com](http://www.checkoutacollege.com)

Technical College

- Technical colleges provide training to meet the needs of the job market, business, and industry.

- When you apply to a technical college, you will apply for a specific program.
  - In this program, you will end up with a certificate which will allow you to apply for a job in your field.
  - Technical college programs last up to 2 years.

- Since you will acquire skills an employer is looking for, you will have an advantage.

- Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges: [www.sbctc.edu](http://www.sbctc.edu)

Vocational/Trade Schools

- Vocational or trade schools provide an education that prepares students for specific careers from a craft or trade to a professional occupation.
  - Examples: Culinary schools, schools of criminal justice, schools of art and design, etc

- Applicants must be 18 years of age and have interest in their chosen program of study.

- Many nationally accredited vocational schools are for-profit, and you should check if credits earned at your school of interest can transfer to other colleges before applying.

- The Vocational Schools Database: [www.rwm.org](http://www.rwm.org)

Military

- Learn life skills, acquire technical education for a variety of career paths, and travel the world.

- The United States military can provide scholarships and the pay can help towards funding a college education.

- Join ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) and earn a degree while training to serve in the military.
Community College* Process

If you are pursuing the community college option, the process is much simpler.

Factors to consider in choosing a community college

- **Location.** Consider how close you will be from home as most community colleges do not offer on-campus housing.
- **Academic Programs Available.** Find out what programs the community college offers. Focusing your education to specialized fields may help with the transfer process if you plan to attend a four-year university after community college.
- **Cost.** Check for financial aid and scholarships for merit and financial need.
- **Campus Life.** What activities or resources are available outside of the classroom on campus?
- **Size of student body.** Class size, student population, advisor-to-student ratio, etc.

Process for applying

Each community college is different in its application process, so make sure to find out the process for the colleges you might want to attend and work with your Dream Team mentor to make sure you know all the steps.

- Explore your options.
  - Learn more about Washington’s community college system: [www.CheckOutACollege.com](http://www.CheckOutACollege.com)
- Apply online or in-person.
  - Like the Common App, most Washington community colleges use the same online application: [www.public.ctc.edu/ApplicantWebClient/Applicant](http://www.public.ctc.edu/ApplicantWebClient/Applicant)
- Submit a financial aid application.
  - Submit your **FAFSA or WASFA** to community colleges the same way as four-year colleges.
  - Many community colleges also have their own financial aid forms in addition to the FAFSA or WASFA, so check with each school’s financial aid office. If you do not turn in these additional forms, you can miss out on free money.
- Determine course placement options (see next page!)
  - Prior to 2014, the COMPASS test was the only method in which high school students would be allowed to enroll in and be placed into college-level courses. However, many local colleges are now accepting one or more of the following:
    - high school transcripts
    - ACT scores
    - SAT scores
    - Advanced Placement (AP) test scores
    - International Baccalaureate (IB) test scores
    - COMPASS test scores
- Schedule an advising appointment.
  - Focus your education. Plan out your community college experience to ease the transfer to a 4-year school if that is your goal.
- Enroll for classes and pay tuition.

* Many local colleges that have been called “community colleges” in the past are now offering a few 4-year degrees. Many have dropped “community” from their name.
Options for Course Placement Including Alternatives to the COMPASS Test

Students intending to enroll at community colleges or colleges that offer primarily 2-year degrees must use one or more methods (depending on the college) to determine which level/course number they will be placed into for math and English.

Methods for placement

Prior to 2014, the COMPASS test was the only method in which high school students would be allowed to enroll in and be placed into college-level courses. However, many local colleges are now accepting one or more of the following: high school transcripts, ACT scores, SAT scores, Advanced Placement (AP) test scores, International Baccalaureate (IB) test scores, COMPASS test scores.

The benefits of alternative options for course placement

- Saving students/families money
- Convenience
- Multiple ways for students to get placed into college-level, rather than pre-college level [remedial] courses
- More options means that students may be more likely to be placed into college-level coursework

Research what methods your college allows

If you are planning on attending a local college, determine which options your chosen college allows by visiting the following websites:

- Bellevue College:
  - [www.bellevuecollege.edu/enrollment/assessment/testing/#facts](http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/enrollment/assessment/testing/#facts)
- Green River Community College:
- Highline Community College:
  - [placement.highline.edu/](http://placement.highline.edu/)
- Renton Technical College:
  - [www.rtc.edu/StudentServices/TestingCenter/](http://www.rtc.edu/StudentServices/TestingCenter/)
- Seattle Central College:
  - [seattlecentral.edu/testing/](http://seattlecentral.edu/testing/)
- South Seattle College:

COMPASS test

If your best or only option for course placement is the COMPASS test, follow these instructions for test registration, preparation and use for placement:

The COMPASS is an untimed placement test that is taken on a computer. It places you into appropriate classes at community college. The test includes math, writing, and reading, as well as English as a Second Language (ESL) if applicable.

- The test includes multiple choice questions that increase in difficulty if you get them right, and get easier if you get them wrong.
- Depending on the community college, you may have to sign up for the test in advance, or be able to take the test at your orientation, or be able to walk-in and take the test at any time. Check with your community college. The cost is approximately $19.
- Tips: Take your time, since there is no time limit. Remember that this test is for placement (not admission). You cannot fail.
- Attend a FREE preparation workshop at Seattle Central College, North Seattle College, or South Seattle College. These workshops have dramatically improved students’ scores. Find out more about these workshops and find practice COMPASS questions at [www.beforeyoutest.org](http://www.beforeyoutest.org).
Transferring from 2-year to 4-year

If it’s your goal, start planning your transfer as you start at community college.

If you want to attend transfer to a 4-year college, know that it is often easier to be admitted when you transfer from a community college rather than another 4-year college. This is due to state-wide policies about college admissions priorities.

How to transfer successfully

- Talk with an academic advisor at your community college early on in your college career.
  - Make sure you’re on track to meet the graduation requirements for your Associate’s degree.
  - Meet at least every quarter to make sure you’re still on track so you aren’t surprised later.

- Meet with a transfer advisor at the 4-year college to which you plan to transfer.
  - 4-year schools often have transfer advising sessions. For example, UW-Seattle offers Transfer Thursdays for prospective transfer students. These are weekly info sessions about the transfer process to UW. See https://seattle.recruiter.uw.edu/undergrad/pages/EventsList.aspx?ID=4 for details.

- Prepare for your 4-year major while at your community college.
  - At certain universities, when you apply to transfer you may also need to apply directly to your major. This requires that you take prerequisite courses before you transfer.
  - Some Bachelor’s degrees take extra time and require sequential courses. Research your options and know what classes to take at community college. Without planning, some majors may take more than 4 years!

- Learn about Direct Transfer.
  - Most 4-year universities and colleges in Washington (except UW-Seattle) will automatically accept you as a transfer student if you meet minimum requirements, such a certain GPA and number of credits. This means that you automatically know that you can be accepted to a 4-year school.
  - Research each 4-year school you are interested in to understand its specific admissions process.

- Know how your credits will transfer before you take them.
  - Not all 4-year universities accept credits in the same way. Contact each admissions office to learn how you can intentionally take courses that will transfer and count toward your Bachelor’s degree.

- Determine when you want to transfer and apply.
  - Make sure you meet all the necessary deadlines -- usually you need to apply 3-8 months before you start.
  - Use a transfer student application to apply to the 4-year colleges you want to attend.

Equivalency Guides

Equivalency Guides show how all community college credits will transfer to a specific 4-year school.

- Washington State Equivalency Database: https://webapps.wsu.edu/ais/myinfoservices/darstce/
- Western Washington University: http://admissions.wwu.edu/transfer/cc/
Notes
Applying to vocational or technical schools

Vocational and technical schools provide industry-specific training.

Technical College

Some examples of programs at technical colleges include automotive repair, carpentry, welding, computer repair, and culinary arts. You can look up other programs at www.checkoutacollege.com.

- Most Washington technical colleges use the same online application as community colleges: http://www.public.ctc.edu/ApplicantWebClient/Applicant/

Requirements

In order to apply to vocational or technical schools, you must:
- be 18 years of age or older
- have a high-school diploma or G.E.D.

Fill out application

Most Technical College applications in Washington will require this information:
- Section 1: Personal Information
- Section 2: Course of Study
- Section 3: Residency Information
- Section 4: Race and Citizenship Information
- Section 5: Testing Information
  - Must take either the COMPASS, ASSET, or ACCUPLACER tests.
  - Check with the individual college to see which test is required.
- Section 6: Academic History

Submit application

- Once you get accepted, then you enroll in classes and pay tuition.
- Submit your FAFSA or WASFA by the priority deadline. However, financial aid availability varies for different programs; contact an adviser at your community college for more information.

Vocational College

Choose a vocational school

- Identify the kind of job you want to end up with. Determine what kind of education you need to succeed in that career path.
- Research the various schools that offer training in the field you’re interested in. Spend some time comparing your options at the schools you’re considering. If you’re looking for a specialized type of training, give strong consideration to the school that offers the best opportunities to get it.
- Compare the costs and benefits of each school and make a list of schools to which you want to apply.

Prepare your application.

- Look on the school’s website for the course calendar from the department you are interested in. See what prerequisites you need in order to be considered.
- Fill out a basic application online (name, address, high school graduation date, etc.).
- Inquire about financial aid opportunities at the vocational school, if you think you will need help meeting your tuition and/or living expenses.

Submit your application.
Joining the Military

The United States Military provides a variety of training and career paths.

Process for applying

- **Step 1: Talk to a recruiter**
  - Your local recruiter will answer questions about qualifications for applying, life in the military, and benefits you would receive by joining. You will also be informed about available career options and education opportunities, as well as any other points you wish to discuss.

- **Step 2: Share with families and friends**
  - Make sure you discuss the military option with your family before you apply. By reviewing the costs and benefits, you will make a well-rounded decision that works best for your situation.

- **Step 3: Put in your application**
  - When you follow up with your recruiter, he or she will help you fill out your application. You'll need to provide your recruiter with the following if you’re applying as an Enlisted candidate:
    - Medical Records
    - Birth Certificate
    - High School Diploma
    - Résumé
    - List of places you have lived

- **Step 4: Get Processed**
  - Visit the Military Acceptance Processing Station (MEPS) and take various examinations:
    - Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)—an aptitude test to determine your strengths
    - Physical—discuss medical conditions, and take various blood, hearing, visual, and physical tests
    - Pre-Enlistment Interview—choose a career path and answer background questions
  - Attend the enlistment ceremony

- **Step 5: Begin your training.**

Requirements

In order to apply to any branch of the military, you must:

- be between 17 and 27 years of age
- be a U.S. citizen or a legal permanent resident
- have a high-school diploma or G.E.D.

Branches of the Military

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Branch</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Army</strong></td>
<td>Responsible for land-based operations</td>
<td><a href="http://www.goarmy.com">www.goarmy.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Navy</strong></td>
<td>Naval warfare and additional air power</td>
<td><a href="http://www.navy.com">www.navy.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marines</strong></td>
<td>Rapid deployment and amphibious operations</td>
<td><a href="http://www.marines.com">www.marines.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Air Force</strong></td>
<td>Air support, satellites and missiles</td>
<td><a href="http://www.airforce.com">www.airforce.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Coast Guard</strong></td>
<td>Maritime law enforcement and regulation</td>
<td><a href="http://www.uscg.mil">www.uscg.mil</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ROTC - Reserve Officer Training Corps

4 or 5 year program that produces officers for the United States Military

How to apply:

- Pick a school with an ROTC program
- Apply online at the corresponding website
  - Air Force: www.afrotc.com
  - Army: www.goarmy.com/rotc
  - Navy/Marines: www.nrotc.navy.mil

**You must get accepted to the school to attend.

Requirements

- Motivating personality
- Strong grades (minimum GPA varies for different branches)
- Good moral character
- Mentally and physically fit.

What do they expect of you in college?

- 1st & 2nd year take two military courses, including Leadership Lab, total of 3 hours per week
- Junior summer -- Field Training
- Years 3 & 4- professional officer course, 3 more hours per week

Military Service Requirements:

- No obligation for first year of college
- Upon completion of degree, receive commission as Ensign or 2nd Lieutenant
- 4 year active duty obligation (may be more for certain careers)
- Part time reserve/guard options

Difference between someone who enlists and someone who becomes an officer:

** Enlisted (right out of HS):
- HS Diploma
- Hands on jobs
- Employee
- Job knowledge
- Can stay in one location instead of moving multiple times

** Officer (after ROTC):
- Bachelor’s Degree
- Desk Job (Managerial/counselors)
- Boss
- Paid more than enlisted
- Moves every 2-4 years
ROTC - Reserve Officer Training Corps continued

ROTC Scholarship Opportunities

Types of scholarships:

- There are three types of scholarships available:
  1. Full Tuition
  2. Up to $18,000
  3. In-State Tuition
- Room and board is not covered
- 4-year scholarship toward tuition

Those who get scholarships typically have:

- 3.7 GPA
- 1266 out of 1600 SAT score / 28 ACT score
- Honors or AP courses through Grade 11
- Are in the top 10% of their class

Eligibility for this scholarship:

- US or naturalized citizen
- At least seventeen years old by September 1st year of college freshman year
- Complete high school diploma or GED
- Minimum ACT and/or SAT scores vary at different colleges
- Physically fit

How to apply:

- Graduating high school student apply in spring of their senior year.
- Apply to the Air Force Scholarship by December 1 at [www.afrotc.com/scholarships/application](http://www.afrotc.com/scholarships/application)
- Apply to the Army Scholarship by January 10 at [www.goarmy.com/learn/apply.html](http://www.goarmy.com/learn/apply.html)
- Apply to the Navy Scholarship by end of January at [www.nrotc.navy.mil/apply.aspx](http://www.nrotc.navy.mil/apply.aspx)
## Paying for college

With financial aid, every student can pay for college.

### Financial Aid: FAFSA (www.fafsa.ed.gov) and WASFA (readysetgrad.org/wasfa)

You can apply for student aid from the federal and/or state government using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA). They provide many different types of funding:

- **Grants** – need-based money that you don’t have to pay back
- **Scholarships** – merit-based money that you don’t have to pay back
- **Loans** – money you borrow and repay over time, with interest added
- **Work Study** – special jobs for students where your wages go to pay for school costs (usually on-campus)

**How the FAFSA Works (see page 43 for How the WAFSA Works)**

Based on the information you provide in the FAFSA, the government calculates how much you and your family are expected to pay for your college education.

- **Cost of Attendance** $19,138
  - **Estimated Family Contribution** $3,261
  - **Your “Financial Need”** $15,877

This is the total cost of going to college, including tuition, books, rent, food, etc. The government calculates how much money your family can provide for your education. This is called the estimated family contribution. You can get an estimate of yours at www.finaid.org.

This is the amount that schools should offer you in financial aid.

To be considered for federal financial aid, you must submit the FAFSA by the earliest priority date of the colleges to which you are applying. Every college’s date is different, so check with each one.

For deadlines in Washington State, see “Deadlines for Washington Colleges” on page 20.

### Sample Costs of Attendance

Public institutions charge a different amount for in-state residents and out-of-state students. Private colleges usually charge the same, regardless of residency.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Type of Institution</th>
<th>2010-11 Cost of Attendance (estimate of tuition, books, rent, food, etc.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central Washington University</td>
<td>In-state Public</td>
<td>$20,202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Washington (Seattle)</td>
<td>In-state Public</td>
<td>$21,033</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Oregon</td>
<td>Out-of-state Public</td>
<td>$38,481</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seattle University</td>
<td>In-state Private</td>
<td>$42,213’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Southern California</td>
<td>Out-of-state Private</td>
<td>$53,708’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanford University</td>
<td>Out-of-state Private</td>
<td>$54,485</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**How could you possibly afford these private schools?** Because the cost of attendance is so much higher, private colleges are often able to offer more financial aid to you, so the price you pay may be much less.

**College costs are different for every student.** You can’t know which school will be cheaper to attend until you apply, get accepted, and receive a financial aid package from the school!

You can estimate the amount of financial aid you will receive by using a Financial Aid Calculator at www.finaid.org or www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov. This will just be an estimate. Your actual package will vary, depending upon the school.

---

All attendance cost figures above were taken from each respective institution’s web site, March 2008.

† Cost of Attendance estimates for Seattle University and University of Southern California are based on the 2009-10 academic year.
Husky Promise, Cougar Commitment, & College Bound

You may qualify for free or reduced tuition under these programs

Husky Promise

The Husky Promise guarantees full tuition and standard fees will be covered by grant or scholarship support for eligible Washington state students. You will not have to pay back these grants and scholarships.

To be eligible for the Husky Promise you must:

• Be a Washington state resident
• Meet eligibility criteria for the Pell Grant or State Need Grant Programs
• Submit the FAFSA before February 28 for the following academic year. List the University of Washington (Federal code #003798) as one of the colleges you wish to receive the results of your FAFSA
• Be admitted to the University of Washington
• Enroll full time at the UW
• Be pursuing a first bachelor’s degree
• Maintain satisfactory academic progress while at the UW

To be considered, simply **fill out the FAFSA before February 28th** – no separate forms are needed.

Cougar Commitment

This need-based program pays full tuition and required fees, and is renewable for up to four years. You can qualify for this award if you:

• Are from a low-income or lower middle-income family in Washington and meet State Need Grant or Pell Grant requirements.
• Apply to WSU for admission and scholarships by January 31 and enroll as a full-time freshman or transfer student.
• Complete the FAFSA beginning January 1 and **no later than February 15**.

In general, if you’re from a family of four with an income of $46,500 or less, you can probably attend Washington State University tuition-free.

College Bound Scholarship

College Bound promises tuition (at public institution rates) and a small book allowance for some income-eligible students who meet the following eligibility requirements:

• You must have signed up for the scholarships by the end of 8th grade.
• You must qualify for Free/Reduced Lunch or be a Foster Youth.
• You must graduate from high school with at least a 2.0 GPA.
• You must not commit a felony.
• **You must be eligible for and complete the FAFSA by February 1st of your senior year of high school.**

What it Covers

• Tuition and fees that are not covered by other financial aid at Washington state public colleges (both 4-year universities and 2-year community colleges)
• Additional $500 stipend for books

WUE (Western Undergraduate Exchange)

Through the WUE agreement, students in western states can enroll in many two-year and four-year college programs at a reduced tuition cost. Instead of paying out of state tuition, students pay 1.5 times the cost of in-state tuition.

• consult the website [wue.wiche.edu](http://wue.wiche.edu) to find out which schools’ programs are offered under this agreement.
Washington Application for State Financial Aid, WASFA (for Undocumented Students)

Washington State undocumented students (students who do not have US citizenship, or “Dreamers”) are now eligible to apply for state financial aid—the State Need Grant—by filling out the Washington Application for State Financial Aid or WASFA. A handful of other states have passed similar legislation, but as of April 2015, undocumented students are not eligible to access federal aid such as the Pell Grant and federal loans.

### Submitting the WASFA*

1. Determine your eligibility to complete the WASFA by answering some basic questions at: readysetgrad.org/WASFAelig

2. Once you determine that you are eligible, make an account at: pp.needaccess.org/StudentAccess/registrationview.aspx

3. Once on the “School Selection” screen, you will first select your anticipated class year (freshman, sophomore etc.) for the 2014-2015 academic school year. Note: “1st year undergraduate = college freshman and so on. DO NOT select any options listed as “graduate/professional.”

4. Next, enter “wasfa” in the school name field, then click on “find.”

5. You may select from the schools listed with the prefix “WASFA” by clicking on your desired school, then clicking the “Add” button to add to the list of “My Schools.” You may add as many schools as you like.

6. On the next screen (Student Information), you may select “Other” for “Student Citizenship.”

7. On the both the parent and student “Annual Income and Expenses” page, you may enter 0 (zero) for any questions that do not apply or you are unsure about.

### Real Hope Act and WASFA

On February 26, 2014, Governor Jay Inslee signed the Real Hope Act that expands eligibility for the Washington State Need Grant to non-citizens. This legislation allows undocumented students to fill out the Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA).

1. Have graduated from a Washington high school or obtained a GED

2. Have lived in Washington for three years prior to earning the high school diploma or equivalent and continuously since.

3. Sign an affidavit (written promise) to file an application to become a permanent resident of the United States when eligible to apply.

To learn more about being considered for Washington State Need Grant funds, check readysetgrad.org/wasfa and talk to your Dream Project mentor for the most up to date information.

* Students granted deferred action for childhood arrival (DACA) can be eligible but must also complete and sign the affidavit.

8. When you reach the “Additional School Specific Questions,” page you will want to click on or hover over the to view the entire question. Please note you only have to meet one of the residency options listed: Option A – Have or will graduate from high school Option B – Have or will obtain a GED.

9. Upon completion, the payment section should read $0.00.

***If more assistance is needed, call: 800-282-1550 or send an email to needaccess@accessgroup.org Monday-Friday 6 am to 5 pm PST***

*For more help and for screenshots of how to fill out the WASFA, including information borrowed for the above flowchart, visit: http://readysetgrad.org/sites/default/files/2014.03.28.wasfa.tips.pdf
Submitting the FAFSA (for U.S. citizens)

Fill out the FAFSA once and send it to all your colleges.

1. Apply for a FAFSA PIN at www.pin.ed.gov and write it down in a safe place.

2. One of your parents/guardians applies for a separate PIN at www.pin.ed.gov.

3. Discuss family finances and gather important documents and info:
   - Your Social Security number (or Alien Registration or Permanent Resident card)
   - Your Driver License number
   - Your W-2 forms
   - Your family’s Income tax returns (1040 or 1040EZ, etc.) — unless you’re a student in foster care
   - Your income tax returns
   - Untaxed income records
   - Current bank statements for you and your family
   - Business and investment records for your family (such as stocks and bonds, farm records, mortgages, etc.)

4. Begin to fill out the FAFSA January 1st of your Senior Year.

5. On the FAFSA, list all of the schools to which you have applied or will apply.

6. Submit the FAFSA by the earliest priority date of your different colleges. We suggest submitting it before February 1st.

Common Financial Aid Terms

FAFSA
Free Application for Federal Student Aid. In order to get student aid money from the federal government, you must fill out the FAFSA.

PIN (www.pin.ed.gov)
Personal Identification Number. This is your security number used to sign in and fill out the FAFSA. Keep it in a safe place. Do not lose it and do not lose it. If you forget it, you can request a new PIN at www.pin.ed.gov.

Financial Aid Package / Award Letter
Each college will offer you a customized financial aid package depending on the funds they have available and the amount for which you are eligible. This might include a variety of different award types, including grants, loans, and work study.

EFC (Estimated Family Contribution)
The government calculates how much money your family can provide for your education. This is called the estimated family contribution. Go to www.finaid.org/calculators/finaidestimate.phtml to calculate yours.

CSS/Profile
A College Board form that is another way for colleges to determine EFC. It is only used by some private colleges in conjunction with the FAFSA to give a more complete picture of a family’s financial status.¹

Are you eligible for federal financial aid?
If you are not a U.S. citizen, you must be one of the following in order to be eligible to submit the FAFSA:
   - U.S. permanent resident with an Alien Registration Receipt Card (I-551)
   - Conditional permanent resident (I-551C)
   - Other eligible noncitizen with an Arrival-Departure Record (I-94) from the INS showing any one of the following designations: “Refugee,” “Asylum Granted,” “Indefinite Parole,” “Humanitarian Parole,” or “Cuban-Haitian Entrant.

You are also eligible if you have a criminal record. You may be asked more questions, but the application will still be considered.

To be considered for federal financial aid, you must submit the FAFSA by the earliest priority date of the colleges to which you are applying. See page 20 for a list of filing dates for many Washington colleges.

FAFSA Dependency Status

- Use this page to determine if you are a dependent or independent student when filling out the FAFSA.

**FAFSA START**
- Student Legal Name
- SSN or Alien Registration
- Date of Birth

**NEW** 2016-2017

**RENEW**

**MAKE CORRECTIONS**

**STUDENT INFORMATION**

**HIGH SCHOOL**
- List up to 10 colleges

**COLLEGES**

**PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION**

- Married/Remarried
- Divorced, Separated, Widowed

**DEPENDENCY STATUS**
- Born before January 1, 1993
- Married
- Working on Masters or Doctorate Degree
- Have children that you financially support
- Veteran or Currently serving in the US Armed Services
- Since the age of 13, both parents were deceased, you were/are in foster care or ward of the court
- Emancipated Minor
- Have a legal Guardian
- On or after July 1, 2015, were homeless or at risk of being homeless

**STUDENT FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

**PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S) FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

- Both Parents'/Guardians' Demographic Information
  - If your parents are married, enter both of their information. If you parents are divorced and remarried, enter your parents’ information AND their spouses’ information.

- One Parent’s/Guardian’s Demographic Information
  - Provide the information of the parent you have lived with the most in the last twelve months. If you lived with both equally, enter the information of the parent who provided the most financial support.

**Signature**
- Student PIN & Parent/Guardian PIN

Source: NELA Center for Student Success
Notes
FAFSA Special Cases

Certain situations make it more complicated to fill out the FAFSA. Here is some guidance for those situations.

If your parents are divorced...

- Call the UW Financial Aid Office (206-543-6101) and speak to a counselor. They’ll help you even if you aren’t applying to the University of Washington.

If you are financially independent...

- You must have paperwork to demonstrate your financial independence; you can’t simply make the claim.
- There is a section on the FAFSA where you can mark if you are independent.
- You still need to check with individual colleges about whether you need to fill out the Parent section of the FAFSA – some may still want some documentation there.
- Claiming financial independence is not as easy as just saying it – you have to start by filling out a Dependency Review Form that you can get from the college to which you’re applying.
- Call the UW Financial Aid Office (206-543-6101) and speak to a counselor first! They’ll help you even if you aren’t applying to the University of Washington.

If your parents are undocumented...

Writing zeroes instead of a parent’s social security number has never put a student’s parents in any legal situation, as there are other ways a person might not have a social security number. Remember to print out the Signature Page, as your parent will have to physically sign the form, and mail it to:

Federal Student Aid Programs, P.O. Box 7006, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864-0076

Still need help?

Look at the FAFSA sidebar for assistance or call 1-800-4FedAid (1-800-433-3243)
Resources for Homeless Students

If you identify as a homeless student, you can fill out the FAFSA or WASFA without your parents’ financial information. This makes a huge difference in affording college.

The McKinney-Vento Act

- The act is a federal law that provides support for children and youth facing homelessness. It helps students finish high school and also makes college more financially accessible.
- Basic information on the act can be found at [www.k12.wa.us/HomelessEd/AssistanceAct.aspx](http://www.k12.wa.us/HomelessEd/AssistanceAct.aspx)

Am I homeless?

If you answer yes to any of these questions, you may qualify as a homeless student under the McKinney-Vento Act:

- Are you sharing housing due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason?
- Are you living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camp grounds due to lack of alternative accommodations?
- Are you living in emergency or transitional shelters?
- Were you abandoned in a hospital?
- Are you awaiting foster care placement?
- Is your primary nighttime residence not ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation (e.g. park benches, etc)?
- Are you living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations?
- Is your family migratory and living in any of the above situations?

National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth

- Visit [www.naehcy.org](http://www.naehcy.org) for resources, including scholarships for students facing homelessness, tips on filing the FAFSA, and other information that may help you graduate from high school and then college.
- For specific guidance on filling out the FAFSA without parental information, go to [www.naehcy.org/educational-resources/higher-ed](http://www.naehcy.org/educational-resources/higher-ed)
Understanding Loans

Financial aid can be confusing. This page outlines some key terms and concepts.

**Interest Rates**

*The interest rate* determines how much money is added to the original amount you borrowed each month or year. The lower the interest rate, the less expensive it is to repay the loan over time. Typically, government loans tend to have lower interest rates compared to private loans. Additionally, the interest rates for government loans are fixed (will not change over time) while private loans tend to have rates that could increase over time (making it more expensive).

**Subsidized vs. Unsubsidized**

*Subsidized loans* are loans on which the government pays the interest while you are in college. For most subsidized loans you do not have to make payments on the loan until you leave school (i.e., graduate or withdraw). If you qualify for one, it is always best to borrow a subsidized loan before an unsubsidized loan.

*Unsubsidized loans* are loans on which interest gets added to the amount of money you borrowed. This happens as soon as you borrow the money and continues to grow. Typically, you are required to make annual interest payments on the loan.

**Student vs. Parent**

The difference between student and parent loans is **who is legally responsible to repay the loan**. If you accept a student loan, you have the financial responsibility to repay that loan and its interest. If you accept a parent loan, both you and your parents are legally tied to that loan and its repayment. Many private loans require your parents to be cosigners, providing more assurance that it will be repaid.

**Federal/Government vs. Private**

- Federal Perkins loans, federal subsidized Stafford loans, federal unsubsidized Stafford loans, and federal parent PLUS loans are all examples of federal/government-supported loans. These are typically awarded to students with financial need. These typically have lower interest rates than private loans, but may be comparable to loans offered directly by a college.

- **Private loans** can be made through banks, colleges, and private organizations. You can always contact your potential colleges to ask about what private loans they would recommend to help supplement your financial aid package. Typically, loans from banks will have significantly higher interest rates compared to federal loans. Most private loans are not subsidized and start gaining interest as soon as you borrow the money.
Accepting/rejecting financial aid

Your financial aid letter might look something like this...

**OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL AID**

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
105 SCHMITZ HALL, BOX 355880
SEATTLE, WA 98195-5880
(206) 543-6101

**NOTICE OF PRELIMINARY AWARD**

YOU ARE A HUSKY PROMISE STUDENT, AND YOUR GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AT LEAST ENOUGH TO FUND YOUR TUITION. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION IS AT WWW.HUSKYPROMISE.WASHINGTON.EDU

I. We are pleased to offer you the financial aid described below under the conditions specified. It is based on the information you provided, your independent living status, and projected financial resources. Your award is subject to review, cancellation, or revocation if your financial resources change, you fail to maintain satisfactory academic progress, or if you fail to meet the eligibility requirements outlined in your financial aid offer.

II. ASSUMPTIONS. Your award is based on the following assumptions:

- **ATTENDING 3 QTRS; LIVING AWAY FROM HOME.**
- Comments:
  
  This award is based on estimated tuition. You can accept aid and get more information online at My UW.

III. RESOURCES: Based on the information you provided, we calculated your resources as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Total Resources</th>
<th>Parent's Contribution</th>
<th>Student Contribution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PARENT'S CONTRIBUTION: $2,506</td>
<td>$2,526</td>
<td>$2,506</td>
<td>$20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IV. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY AND AWARD:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Resource</th>
<th>Less Total Resources</th>
<th>Equals Need</th>
<th>Total Aid Offered</th>
<th>Unmet Need</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal Pell Grant</td>
<td>$2,526</td>
<td>$2,526</td>
<td>$15,816</td>
<td>$15,816</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Work Study</td>
<td>$2,526</td>
<td>$2,526</td>
<td>$15,816</td>
<td>$15,816</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Direct Sub Stafford Loan</td>
<td>$2,526</td>
<td>$2,526</td>
<td>$15,816</td>
<td>$15,816</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Need Grant/LEAP</td>
<td>$2,526</td>
<td>$2,526</td>
<td>$15,816</td>
<td>$15,816</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

V. OTHER RESOURCES: List any funds you will receive for the period of this award (unless already shown in Section III, above). Include scholarships, TA or RA positions, R awards, graduate fellowships, loans, gifts from parents (self-supporting students), and any other awards. Include benefits from federal and state programs such as veteran's benefits, vocational rehabilitation, etc. If you are not receiving additional funds, write “none”.

VI. CERTIFICATION: (Must be signed)

I, (Student Name), have read the conditions of this award carefully, and I certify that I do not owe a refund on any grant or loan, and I am in good standing with the University of Washington. I understand and agree to the conditions of this award stated on the reverse. I declare that I will use all funds I receive (federal, state, and University) for expenses associated with attending UW. I certify that the above Social Security Number is correct.

Signature: __________________________
Date: __________________________

This sample award letter was generated based on the actual award letters sent by the University of Washington Office of Student Financial Aid. The information in the letter is fictitious, but is representative of an actual student’s award. Financial aid award letters from other schools will look different but will contain similar information.
Update your FAFSA after taxes are filed

When you first fill out your FAFSA, you probably used last year’s information. After taxes are filed for the current year, what do you need to do?

Did you use last year’s (2014) or this year’s (2015) tax information when submitting your FAFSA?

- Last year’s (2014) tax information
  - After you and/or your parents submit your 2015 tax returns, you need to update your FAFSA. Return to fafsa.gov, log in, and change the drop down from “Will File” to “Already Completed.”
  - You must use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool if you’re eligible.* This tool automatically pulls your tax info.
  - Yes, I’m eligible.
  - The tool will automatically pull your tax information from the IRS.

- This year’s (2015) tax information
  - You’re done! You aren’t required to update your FAFSA.
  - I’m ineligible.
  - You will need to manually enter your 2015 tax information. Follow the prompts on the website.

WAIT

for your data to be transferred.

- If you and/or your parents filed taxes electronically, it will take 2 weeks for your data to transfer.
- If you filed by paper, it will take 6–8 weeks.

You're done!

* Why wouldn’t I be eligible to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool? Some cases are not compatible with the tool. For example, if your parents are married but filed separate tax returns and marital status has changed since January 1. For more information: www.finaid.org/fafsa/irsdataretrievaltool.phtml.
Applying for scholarships

It’s free money. If you put in time and effort, it can pay off in a BIG way!

1. Find a scholarship that fits you.

2. Make a list of the different pieces needed to complete the scholarship application.
   - Letters of recommendation required? Allow 4–6 weeks for a teacher, counselor, or adviser to write and submit your letter.
   - Transcript required? Allow 1–2 weeks for your counseling office to process and send it.
   - Financial Information? It might take time for you or your family to gather this information.

3. Read profiles of past winners, commonly found on the scholarship website. Try to find common characteristics that match yours.

4. Write your essay. Try using your college admission essay as a starting point!

5. Fill out the application. If you don’t feel comfortable giving some information like Social Security Number, talk to a Dream Team member to find out if it’s required.

6. Make a copy for your records.

7. Submit before the deadline.

How? Use some of these resources:
- www.theWashBoard.org
- www.fastweb.com
- www.scholarships.com
- www.finaid.com
- www.scholarshipjunkies.com
- www.ProjectOnStudentDebt.org
- Talk to mentors & counselors
- Use Google!

Beware of scams!
No legitimate organization will ask you to pay a fee to submit an application or create a scholarship profile. If a scholarship looks too good to be true, it probably is!

Common Scholarship Terms

Scholarship
A sum of money given to a student for the purpose of paying at least part of the cost of college. Scholarships can be awarded to students based on academic achievements, financial need or on many other factors. Scholarships and grants do not have to be repaid.¹

Renewable Scholarship
A scholarship that can be awarded for multiple years. Called “renewable” because there is usually a minimum requirement (such as GPA) that must be met in order for the scholarship to be provided in future years.

Merit Aid
Money offered to a student based on a specific talent, such as academics, athletics, etc.

Need-based Aid
Money offered to a student based on the financial status of the family.

Finding scholarships

Different types of scholarships have very different application processes.

Local vs. Institutional vs. National Scholarships

- **What’s a local scholarship?**
  
  A scholarship awarded to students from a certain region (school, city, state, etc.) by a private organization. Applicant pools for local scholarships are much smaller than national applicant pools. As such, students who apply for local scholarships have a higher chance of receiving the scholarship.

- **Where do I find local scholarships?**
  
  A good place to start looking for local scholarships is in your high school’s career center and/or your high school’s website. Don’t stop there though, look on other high schools’ websites for additional scholarship information.

- **What’s a national scholarship?**
  
  A scholarship awarded to any student from across the country by a private organization. Applicants may be required to meet certain eligibility requirements that are not limited to geographic location. National scholarships tend to have larger applicant pools and are much more competitive, but don’t be afraid to apply for a national scholarship that fits you well.

- **What’s an institutional scholarship?**
  
  A scholarship from a university or college that is only awarded to students who attend that specific institution. Sometimes they are awarded automatically to students who fit a set of criteria; other times there is a competitive process and separate application.

Online Scholarship Resources:

Use these tools as a starting point to find the right scholarships for you:

- **theWashBoard.org**
  
  A scholarship clearinghouse specifically designed for students in Washington state.

- **FastWeb.com**
  
  Customized college scholarship searches, detailed profiles on many colleges

- **CollegeBoard Scholarship Search Tool**
  
  bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search
  
  Scholarship search to help locate scholarships, internships, grants, and loans that match your education level, talents, and background

- **Scholarships.com**
  
  An easy-to-use scholarship search

- **Unusual Scholarships**
  
  www.finaid.org/scholarships/unusual.phtml
  
  A compilation of interesting, esoteric and unusual scholarships such as the Left-handed Scholarship, skateboarders with at least a 2.5 GPA, scholarships for twins, Tall people, little people, obese people, students with creative minds, surfers, etc.

- **ScholarshipJunkies.com**
  
  Advice from former national scholarship recipients on how to compile competitive scholarship applications.

High School Scholarship Links

- **Ingraham HS:**
  
  http://ingrahamhsseattleschools.org/modular.weebly.com/scholarships.html

- **Renton HS:**
  
  http://rentonschools.us/domain/684

- **Foster HS:**
  
  http://www.tukwila.wednet.edu/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=296&Itemid=560

- **Highline School District (Tyee Schools):**
  
  www.highlineschoolsfoundation.org/scholarships

- **Other High Schools:** Check with your Career Center
Writing your scholarship essay

Use the personal statements from your college applications as a starting point.

General Tips

- Brainstorm with bullet points first.
- You can take bits or entire sections from your college application personal statements and reuse them. Once you have a solid personal statement, it makes it easier to apply for scholarships.
- Scholarship essays can be reused for other scholarships. Sometimes you just need to tweak the details to make sure that you’re answering the prompt directly.

Things to keep in mind

- Be very personal. Just like your personal statement for college, think about this as if you’re talking to a real person.
- Show, don’t just tell. Give real examples instead of talking about abstract concepts.
- Don’t use big words if you don’t normally use them. Your essay won’t feel natural.

Sample Scholarship Essay Prompts

Many scholarship essay prompts are very similar to college application personal statement prompts. This often makes it easier to construct your scholarship essays because you can use the same tips and ideas. Here are some sample scholarship essay prompts:

- “Discuss a significant activity, leadership experience, or achievement that has changed your life and why.”

- “Who are you? (Include family/personal information, community service, positions of leadership, involvement in school and community, work experience, and youth group activities.)”

- “Why do you need this scholarship?”

- “How will this scholarship be a bridge to your future?”

- “Briefly describe a situation in which you felt that you or others were treated unfairly or were not given an opportunity you felt you deserved. Describe how you responded and if your response changed the situation.”

- “How will your area of study contribute to your immediate and long-term goals?”

- “What do you consider to be the single greatest challenge facing the youth generation today?”

- “How has your education contributed to who you are today?”

- “How do you plan to fund or finance your education?”
Select national and local scholarships

Spring of Junior Year

Nordstrom Scholarship
The Nordstrom Scholarship will be awarded to five students in the Washington/Alaska region. Each $10,000 scholarship will be paid over four years in equal installments of $2,500. Scholarships are for attendance at a four-year college or university. All scholarship awards will be paid directly to the educational institutions by Nordstrom.
- Due: Spring 2015
- Website: shop.nordstrom.com/c/nordstrom-cares-scholarship

Fall of Senior Year

Horatio Alger National Scholarship
The Horatio Alger Association offers up to $22,000 in scholarships for students who have demonstrated integrity and perseverance in overcoming adversity, strength of character, financial need, a strong academic record, commitment to pursue a college education, and a desire to contribute to society.
- Due: Early Fall 2015
- Website: www.horatioalger.org/scholarships/index.cfm

Elks Most Valuable Student Competition
Elks National Foundation awards 500 four-year scholarships ($1,000 to $12,500 per year) to high school seniors who demonstrate scholarship, leadership and have financial need. Students that receive the award must be pursuing a four-year degree on a full-time schedule and attending a college or university in the U.S.
- Due: Fall 2015
- Website: www.elks.org/enf/scholars/mvs.Cfm

Ron Brown Scholar Program
The Ron Brown Scholar Program “recognizes African-American students who will make significant contributions to society.” The program awards a minimum of ten scholarships of $10,000 a year for four years to students that demonstrate leadership potential and community involvement.
- Due: Winter 2016
- Website: www.ronbrown.org/section/apply/program-description

Dell Scholars Program
The Dell Scholars program recognizes students who have overcome significant obstacles in pursuing their education. The program awards 300 scholarships at $20,000 each and also provides students with technology, a scholar networking community, resources and mentorship to provide them with the support necessary to succeed in college.
- Due: Fall 2015
- Website: www.dellscholars.org

Winter of Senior Year

Washington State Governor’s Scholarship
The Governors’ Scholarship for Foster Youth is a scholarship program that helps young men and women who are currently in an open dependency court order in Washington State, or an open dependency tribal court order, continue their education and earn a college degree. Scholarship award amounts range from $2000 to $4000 depending on the college of attendance.
- Due: Winter 2016
- Website: www.collegesuccessfoundation.org/wa/scholarships/governors

Gates Millennium Scholarship
Gates Millennium Scholars Program (GMS) seeks to “promote academic excellence and to provide an opportunity for outstanding minority students with significant financial need to reach their highest potential.” GMS offers scholarships for minority students (African America, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian-Pacific-Islander American, and Hispanic American) who exhibit “academic achievement, leadership potential, and community service.”
- Due: Winter 2016
- Website: www.gmmsp.org

Ronald McDonald House Charities U.S. Scholarship
Ronald McDonald Care offers scholarships to students in financial need who have demonstrated academic achievement and community involvement. Students may only apply for one of the four scholarships listed.
- Due: Winter 2016
- Website: www.rmhc.org/rmhc-us-scholarships

Mount Baker MLK Scholarship
To further the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Mt. Baker Community Club awards approximately 15 scholarships in the amount of $3,000 each to local high school seniors who reside in one of the following zip codes: 98104, 98108, 98118, 98122, 98134, 98144. Students must also be a member of a racial or ethnic group that is underrepresented in higher education and will be selected based on overcoming adversity, financial need, academic progress, community service and desire to continue their education.
- Due: Winter 2016
- Website: www.mountbaker.org/scholarship/

Washington State Opportunity Scholarship
The Washington State Opportunity Scholarship (WSOS) supports low- and middle-income students pursuing eligible, high-demand majors in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and health care, and encourages recipients to work in Washington state once they complete their degrees.
- Due: Winter 2016
- Website: www.waopportunityscholarship.org/overview

** Note: Some scholarship deadlines listed above are approximate. Be sure to check on the actual due date early in the process! **
Select national and local scholarships continued

Winter/Spring of Senior Year

Washington State Scholarship Foundation Scholarship
The Washington State Scholarship Foundation awards a number of $5,000 scholarships to graduating high school seniors in Washington who will be attending four-year institutions. High school seniors planning on attending two-year institutions have the opportunity to be awarded $2,500 scholarships.
- Due: Winter 2016
- Website: www.washscholarships.org

Washington PTA Scholarship
Washington State PTA awards 6 $1,000 scholarships to Washington State high school seniors who will be entering their freshman year of college. Awards are based on “financial need, academic performance, and community service.”
- Due: Winter 2016
- Website: www.wastatepta.org/programs/scholarship/index.html

UW Alumnae Board Scholarship
University of Washington Alumnae Board (UWAB) will provide renewable full-tuition scholarships to incoming freshmen and current undergraduate students at the University of Washington based on “financial need, scholastic achievements, leadership, community service, and a demonstrated strong work ethic.”
- Due: Winter 2016
- Call 206.543.0540 to check for availability

Seattle Swedish Community Scholarships
The Seattle Swedish Community Scholarships provide $1,000 to $3,000 scholarships for high school seniors in King County. Scholarships will be awarded based on the candidate’s high school record, ACT or SAT score, financial assessment, and leadership and community service.
- Due: Winter 2016
- Website: www.swedishclubnw.org/scholarships.htm

Nellie Martin Carman Scholarship
This scholarship is open to high school seniors nominated by schools in King County. One nomination per school will be eligible for up to $2,000 renewable for an additional three years, with a 3.0 GPA or better. You must be a U.S. citizen and plan to attend a Washington college or university. This award is based on your financial need, academic record, college test scores, and school and community activities. Music and Art Majors are not eligible. Students must be nominated by their high school. If you feel you fit the criteria, see the Career Center if you would like to be nominated.
- Due: Winter 2016
- Website: www.carmanscholarships.org

KOHLS Kids Who Care
194 regional winners will receive $1,000 scholarships based on community involvement. Volunteer efforts should have made a positive impact on others and occurred in the last 12 months. The activity cannot be performed solely to benefit a family member. Winners are chosen based on the project, benefits, and outcomes.
- Due: Winter 2016
- Website: www.kohlscorporation.com/communityrelations/scholarship/program-information.asp

Edmund F. Maxwell Foundation Scholarship
This is a scholarship for Western Washington students planning on attending an INDEPENDENT institution (not a STATE school). Freshman amounts will be around $5,000. Renewable for four years up to $20,000.
- Due: Spring 2016
- Website: www.maxwell.org

Edwin T. Pratt Scholarship
The Metropolitan Seattle Urban League is offering a four-year renewable scholarship for African-Americans to pursue higher education. This is based on financial need and is given to students who would otherwise be unable to continue their educational goals. Applicant must be a resident of King County, have a minimum 2.5 GPA. Contact the Seattle Urban League in mid-February for information about this and other local awards.
- Due: Spring 2016
- Contact: 206.461.3792

Wendy Jackson Hall Memorial Scholarship
A $15,000 scholarship awarded over the first two years of college. Students must be graduating from a Washington state public high school, demonstrate a love of the arts, and accepted into an art program of an accredited 4-year school as a full-time student.
- Due: Winter 2016
- Website: www.jacksonhall.com

Alpha Omicron Boule Scholarship
These 6 awards of $1,000/yr for 4 years by the Alpha Omicron Boule of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity are to contribute to the education of male African American students who have shown the potential to successfully complete a university or jr college program.
- Due: Winter 2016
- Apply online at thewashboard.org

Washington State Employees Credit Union Scholarship
Student must be a WESCU member.
- Due: Winter 2016
- Website: www.wescu.org/x1854.xml

US Bank
US Bank Student Banking Division will award 5 $5,000 scholarships for full time students to use at 2 or 4 year colleges next fall. Scholarship award recipients are selected through a random drawing process.
- Due: Winter 2016
- Website: www.usbank.com/student-lending/scholarship.html

iModules Scholarship Program
iModules believes helping deserving students to further their education is one of the rewarding four-year colleges with an opportunity for renewed scholarships. Since 2008, the iModules Scholarship Program has awarded high school and university students in order to help them in their academic pursuits.
- Due: Winter 2016
- Website: scholarships.imodules.com

** Note: Some scholarship deadlines listed above are approximate. Be sure to check on the actual due date early in the process! **
Scholarships for Undocumented Students

Scholarships that do not require US citizenship or a social security number.

Que Llueva Café Scholarship
The “Que Llueva Café” Scholarship aims to support the dreams, hopes and aspirations of college bound undocumented students so that they can earn their college education and allow for all of their hard work and sacrifice to persevere. Applicants are evaluated on their personal story, involvement in extra-curricular activities, and future academic potential.
- Due: Winter 2016
- Website: www.ca-core.org/que_llueva_cafe_scholarship_program

Leadership 1000 Scholarship
The Leadership 1000 Scholarship is a scholarship program funded by individuals, foundations, or businesses and provides college scholarships to deserving students who need assistance to attend an eligible four-year college or university in Washington State. A Leadership 1000 Scholarship can be customized around a general set of requirements requested by the donor. Scholarships awarded will range from $2,500 to $5,000. Some scholarships will be for one year only while others will be renewable for up to three additional years.
- Due: Spring 2016
- Website: www.collegesuccessfoundation.org/wa/supports-and-scholarships/scholarships/leadership-1000?

Pride Foundation Scholarship
This foundation awards numerous scholarships open to students who are residents of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington, with preference given to those students in the LGBTQ community but available to all students. The award amount varies between recipients.
- Due: Winter 2016
- Website: www.pridefoundation.org/scholarships/

Princeton Prize in Race Relations
The Princeton Prize in Race Relations is offered to high school students who can demonstrate that they have helped create a harmony and understanding among people of a different race—cash prizes up to $1000 are awarded.
- Due: Winter 2016
- Website: www.princeton.edu/pprize

Golden Door Scholars
Applicants must be eligible for DACA. Award is full tuition, room and board for a 4-year degree.
- Due: Fall 2015
- Website: www.goldendoorscholars.org

Univision’s “Es el momento” Scholarship
For latino/a students with minimum GPA of 3.00 on a scale of 4.00, and have a history of extracurricular activities.
- Due: Fall 2015
- Website: www.univision.hsfts.net/#/

Frank Kazmierczak Memorial Migrant Scholarship
Must have recent history of migration for agricultural employment, have teaching as a career goal, demonstrate scholastic achievement, and have financial need.
- Due: Winter 2015
- Website: www.migrant.net/migrant/scholarships/

Chin: Shui Kuen and Allen Chin Scholarship
Be an incoming freshman or current, full-time undergraduate at a four-year college or university in 2016-17, have parent or self currently or formerly employed at an Asian-owned or Asian cuisine restaurant, demonstrate community advocacy and social justice work on behalf of Asian American, immigrant, gay and lesbian and/or other progressive causes, have a minimum 3.0 GPA and have financial need. No citizenship status requirement.
- Due: Winter 2016
- Website: asianpacificfund.org

Want to find more scholarships?

Students at UW Bothell have created an extensive list of scholarships for which undocumented students are eligible.
- www.uwb.edu/financialaid/hb1079/financial-resources-at-uwb

Also, visit e4fc.org/resources/scholarshiplists.html for an even more extensive scholarship list.

** Note: Some scholarship deadlines listed above are approximate. Be sure to check on the actual due date early in the process! **
Accepting and declining offers

■ You must accept an offer of admission and submit a deposit to secure your spot at the college of your choice.

Receive admissions letters
The letter will say that you have been accepted, denied, or wait-listed.
*(See “What does this admission decision mean?” on the back of this page)*

Receive financial aid award letters
(from schools that accept you)
Each school will detail its financial aid package for you in a letter.
*See page 50 for a sample.*

Compare colleges and financial aid awards
- Don’t decide on an offer of admission until you see all financial aid award letters.
- Refer back to page 6 (“Which colleges fit you the best?”). Think about which college would be the best fit for you.
- Discuss your options with family members, counselors, teachers and Dream Project mentors.
- Make sure you understand the terms of accepting offers of admission and financial aid. If you have questions, call the admissions office or financial aid office of that school.

Choose which college you will attend no later than May 1st

Accept one offer of admission
Send back your notification of acceptance and pay enrollment deposit. Some colleges allow you to defer paying your deposit until you receive your financial aid.

Decline all other offers of admission
Send back notification declaring that you will not be attending. Once you do this, it is a final decision.

Accept financial aid award
The award letter will ask you to “accept” or “reject” each piece of your award. At this point, you should accept all of your award (you can reject awards later if you need to).

What if I’m wait listed at my first-choice school?
You should accept an offer to your second-choice school so that you have a guaranteed place in the fall. If you are accepted to your first-choice school later, you can accept that offer and decline the offer you already accepted at your second-choice school (you may lose your deposit at that school, though).

Notify the Dream Project of your final decision.
Accepting and declining offers, continued

What does this admission decision mean?

- **Accepted** — You’re in! You need to choose whether you will attend this college and send in your Enrollment Verification and Deposit no later than May 1st.

- **Denied** — Go to plan B. Wait to hear back from other schools or look into alternate opportunities for the next year.

- **Wait-listed** — The school is waiting to see how many students will choose to go there. A school may offer you admission later (after May 1st), but you should accept another school’s offer to ensure that you have a place in the fall.

- **Deferred** — The school, or you, have decided to wait a certain amount of time before you enroll. For example, you might decide to travel for a semester and defer admission so you won’t have to re-apply when you get back. Not all schools offer this as an option.

Petitioning or appealing your admission decision

If you have been denied, you have the ability to submit a letter of petition or appeal and request that your application be reconsidered. Each college has a different process for how they accept these, so you should contact the college directly if you choose to challenge your denial.

- If your application was closed or denied because you did not submit all the required documents or information:

  You should act as quickly as possible and contact the college to discuss your situation. You will most likely have to submit the additional information and submit a letter of petition requesting that the late information be considered. Examples of missing components include:
  - Late SAT/ACT test scores
  - Transcript was not received

- If you received a letter of denial:

  There can be many factors that go into the review process for admission. If you were denied, you can submit a letter requesting that the college reconsider its decision. You will have to make the case as to why you should be accepted, provide any additional information that was not in your original application, submit mid-year grade reports, or include letters of support/recommendation. Each college will have a different process and possible requirements; contact the college to learn what you can do.

- If you received a wait list letter:

  Some colleges encourage waitlist applicants to submit additional informational or a letter of petition to get off of the waitlist, while other colleges do not consider new information. Additionally, certain colleges rank their waitlist so you can know your chances, while other colleges do not rank the waitlist. Contact the admissions office to learn about what you could do to support your application and place on the waitlist.

⚠️ Submitting a letter of petition does not guarantee that you will be considered or admitted. In fact, it may result in more bad news. But if you think that you should be reconsidered, contact the college directly to learn about its process.
Earning + Transferring AP and IB credits

Universities can be selective about the credits they allow to transfer based on test score and program.

**Advanced Placement (AP) Credits**

Program offered in the USA and Canada by the College Board that offers college-level curriculum and examinations to high school students. Class subjects range from art history to statistics to foreign languages. Upon completion of the course, the student takes an AP exam, scored on a scale of 1-5, 5 being the highest. A 3 is the average score a student must earn to gain college credit for the course, however the score needed varies from college and even depending on the subject.

Information regarding the credit transfer process:

- Not always accepted at schools abroad.
- You must have your scores sent to the school of your choice by the college board, this will be noted when you go to take the test.
- If you need to send your scores to more than one school, there is a fee.
- Most of the time, when scores are sent to the school, they will get back to you with what they can offer you in exchange for those scores. Some schools offer credit and higher placement, others will just offer higher placement. Look into each school's specific policy.

**International Baccalaureate (IB) Credits**

An international education program in which students may earn a full diploma or certificates of merit for certain courses during their last two years of high school.

Requirements to earn a full IB Diploma:

- At least three subjects completed at Higher Level (HL) and three at Standard Level (SL).
  - should four subjects be completed at HL, then only two need to be completed at SL.
- All six subjects have been awarded a numerical grade higher than 1, with a minimum total score of 24.
- 150 hours of community service completed, called Creativity-Action-Service (CAS).
- The extended essay and Theory of Knowledge (TOK) course have been completed and essays submitted.
  - Must earn a grade D or better on both for them to count.
- If the overall score is 24-27, there is no grade 2 at HL and not more than one grade 2 at SL; if the overall score is greater than or equal to 28, not more than one grade 2 at HL and no more than two grades 2 at SL; altogether, there are no more than three grades 3 or below.
- at least 12 points (12 for overall score 24-27; 16 if four HL subjects are taken) have been gained on HL subjects, and 9/8 (6/5 if only two SL subjects are taken) on SL subjects
- Final award committee does not judge the student to be guilty of malpractice.
- A minimum amount of hours must be achieved per year by students in order to pass. If an excessive amount of hours are missed, they may have to resit the year.

Requirements to earn an IB Certificate:

- Requirements are the same for the full IB apart from the fact that the student need not complete TOK, CAS, or the extended essay.

Information regarding the credit transfer process:

- Most American colleges will only give college credit to students for taking higher level courses, and require a score of 6 or 7, though sometimes 5 is accepted
- Transferring credit to university is done through the student’s high school’s IB coordinator.
Enriching your college experience

Here are a few tips to help you succeed in college, both in and out of class.

Academic

- **Get to know your advisors.**
  These are staff members who can direct you to your college’s resources. They can make sure that you succeed academically, socially, and personally. You need to make sure that you reach out to them—even on your first day—to make a positive transition and work toward graduation.

- **Get to know your professors.**
  These are the individuals who have the knowledge and access to enriching experiences. They are at the school because they want to affect students’ lives. Talk to them after class, visit them at their office hours, and send them an e-mail. Ask questions about class and their area of study. Your professor can help you decide what you want to study, provide access to jobs/internships/study abroad experiences that will help make the most of college.

- **Utilize campus resources.**
  All colleges will work to make sure students have the support to succeed. Use professors’ office hours, tutoring centers, writing centers, career centers, alumni associations, financial aid offices, etc. as a way to navigate your college. Feel empowered to ask for help at any point and in any situation.

- **Explore a wide variety of classes and majors.**
  College is a great opportunity to determine where your true interests lie. Don’t limit yourself to your intended major or what you think is important to study. Try different topics. You might enjoy something you didn’t expect and it will help expand your perspectives.

- **Plan for your major.**
  Identify the requirements within the majors you are interested in and plan your schedule accordingly. Talk with academic advisors and departmental advisors to get to know what that major includes and decide if it is right for you.

- **Choose your classes wisely.**
  Use your resources when choosing classes. Ask upperclassmen, friends, and faculty for advice on what classes to take and which ones to avoid. The best classes are taught by the best teachers so look up your teachers beforehand on ratemyprofessors.com or your school’s rating system (most schools have this so ask someone if you cannot find it).

- **Form study groups for your classes.**
  Within your classes, get together with other students and friends to gain a better understanding of the material. Meet throughout the class and before mid-terms and finals to study.

Opportunities

- **Get involved in clubs or student organizations.**
  It will make the campus feel smaller and you’ll meet some of your best friends through these communities. They can help you engage in your passion and allow you to get away from the stress.

- **Engage in on-campus jobs/internships/fellowships.**
  A great way to get real experience is to continue your exploration outside of the classroom. Use your college’s career center and academic advisors to search for internships/fellowships/jobs in your area. This is a great way to build your résumé while seeing if that area of study is a good fit for you.

Continued on the next page
Enriching your college experience continued

- **Engage in volunteering or service-learning.**
  Impacting your community certainly does not end in high school. Colleges have courses that will enable you to get off campus and enrich your community.

- **Study abroad at some point in your college career.**
  This will be one of the most influential experiences of your college career. It will allow you to move outside of your comfort zone and immerse yourself in a new culture. The great thing is you can get financial aid and scholarships to help pay for it and receive college credit.

- **Continue to look for funding.**
  Scholarships are not just for seniors in high school. There is financial support for students throughout their entire college experience. Talk with your college’s financial aid office, undergraduate scholarship office, and academic advisors to find scholarships that fit you. Be proactive in searching and applying. The scholarships will free you to focus more time on your studies.

**Personal**

- **Remember why you are going to college.**
  There are many benefits from going to college and earning a degree. Do not forget how hard you have worked to get to college and how worthwhile it is to finish.

- **Take care of yourself and pay attention to your body.**
  Eat healthy, exercise regularly, recharge, and take time for yourself. Use the resources on your campus, such as counselors and health services, to make sure you are listening to what you need and not taking on more than you can handle. Talk with other students, resident advisors, and upperclassmen to get advice about how to survive and thrive.

- **Keep in touch with old friends and family.**
  It’s easy to lose track of time and the people you love. They were, and are, your support system even if you are in the new world of college. Do not forget to call or send an e-mail every once in a while.

- **Attend school social events.**
  Go to dorm floor meetings, attend a school sporting event, go to a free campus movie, or another school-organized event. Becoming engaged will help you do well academically and will help you learn more about yourself. Plus, you will meet students who are going through the exact same thing you are.

- **Study hard but be sure to explore other interests.**
  College is about much more than what happens in the classroom. Explore everything that the college has to offer and it will allow you to grow as an individual.

- **College is about change and discovery.**
  Students change their major often, find new passions, and learn how to evaluate critically their place within their community and the world. You will experience this too. Make sure you challenge yourself outside and inside the classroom. Do not be afraid to ask for help. All colleges are working so that you succeed. Your success determines their success.

- **Join the Dream Project or start your own.**
  You have just gone through this experience, now you can give back. If your school does not have a Dream Project, create your own. The Dream Project at the University of Washington was started by students just like you. The UW Dream Project can help you start one at your new college. Just let us know at uwdreamproject@uw.edu.
College Housing Options

Once you have confirmed which college you will be attending, you will need to choose where to live next year.

Residence Halls and Dorms

- Living in the dorms generally means you will be housed on the campus of your university. Paying for “Room and Board” each quarter or semester means that you will be provided with a furnished room, utilities, and a meal plan (money to be used in the dining halls). Check your university’s website to see if freshman are required to live in the dorms for the first year, how much Room and Board will cost, and if there are different dorm facilities to choose from.

- **Special Interest Housing:** Some dorms have specific communities that students with shared interests can join. These include floors for certain majors, the honors program, pre-business, pre-medical, college athletes, and international students.

Off-Campus Housing

- Students can also rent apartments or houses near campus. This option is more common for upperclassmen, and can be cheaper or more expensive than living in the dorms (depending on where you go to school).

- **Community College:** Most Community Colleges do not provide housing, so you can either commute from home or rent something off-campus. In either option, you should investigate bus routes or carpooling options to save gas money.

Greek Life

- Many colleges also offer housing in various fraternities and sororities. These are large social organizations that either house only boys (fraternities) or only girls (sororities). Greek Life provides organized social activity while attending university, most have their own housing costs and dining plans, and you have to be invited to join after “rushing” (visiting the house, meeting its members, or participating in a “rush week” organized by the Greek system). Check with your university to see if this is an option.
Prepare your résumé

- Create your résumé early and keep it up-to-date throughout college.

**Identifying Information.** Anyone reading a résumé wants to find information easily and quickly, so your contact information should stand out clearly.

**Objective.** The objective is a concise statement (generally 1–2 lines) that specifies a position, field of work or skills to be used on the job. The objective provides the focus for your résumé; it is an optional section.

**Headings.** Headings are used to highlight your particular areas of strength or experience. Create headings that best fit your experience. Some examples are: Special Skills, Related Projects, Internships, Leadership, Computer Experience.

**Education.** This entry should include the name of your college, the city and state, the degree you received or expect to receive, and the date of the degree. If you are a recent graduate, this may be your strongest section so you may want to enhance it by including information on projects, curriculum or honors. Study abroad experience could also be included in this section.

**Work and Experience.** List your position title, place of employment, city, state and dates. Write supporting statements that give evidence that you have the skills the employer needs and wants. Avoid “responsibilities included.” Instead, make your descriptions powerful by starting each one with a verb. Below is a list to get you started.

**Activities.** If your work history is limited, this section may provide the primary material for your résumé. If this is the case, rather than just listing the name of the group you were affiliated with or the position you held, describe what you accomplished or the purpose of the group (if not evident from the group’s name). If space is at a premium, you may simply list the organization and your position.

**References.** It is optional to include a statement indicating that references are available. If you want to list your references, do so on an attached sheet, not on the résumé itself.

**Cover Letter.** Many jobs request a cover letter. The cover letter is your first opportunity to engage a prospective employer. It provides the employer with other important information not necessarily present in the resume, like what your personality is like and how your experience and skills match the specific job. Avoid repeating parts of your resume, do not lie about anything, and proofread it for grammatical and spelling errors before submitting.

**Résumé Key Points**

- **The purpose of a résumé is to get you an interview.** Your interview should get you a job. If you’re getting interviews from your résumé, it’s doing its job.

- **A résumé is a marketing piece, not a history piece.** Decide carefully what to include and leave out. It’s not your life story; it’s your personal sales piece.

- **Your résumé should be targeted to the job for which you are applying.** Be specific and particular in showing your interest and suitability.

- **If possible, keep your résumé to one page.** Definitely use a clean, concise style. Your résumé may be judged in 10–30 seconds. Grad students can usually go to two pages.

- **Read job descriptions and requirements carefully.** These tell you what to emphasize on your résumé.

- **Have someone proofread your résumé carefully.** Errors often screen out otherwise qualified candidates.

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**Résumé Action Words** Use action words to create short and powerful statements.

- Administered
- Analyzed
- Appraised
- Audited
- Balanced
- Budgeted
- Collaborated
- Communicated
- Compiled
- Completed
- Conducted
- Consulted
- Contributed
- Coordinated
- Created
- Critiqued
- Decreased
- Demonstrated
- Designed
- Developed
- Directed
- Distributed
- Documented
- Edited
- Enhanced
- Established
- Expedited
- Facilitated
- Financed
- Generated
- Improved
- Implemented
- Initiated
- Investigated
- Led
- Managed
- Negotiated
- Organized
- Planned
- Presented
- Prioritized
- Produced
- Published
- Reviewed
- Researched
- Scheduled
- Supported
- Supervised
- Trained
- Updated
- Worked
- Wrote
Preparing your résumé continued

High School Student Résumé Example

Juana B. Hired
1111 555rd Pl NE
Seattle, WA 98105
(206) 555-0123

OBJECTIVE: Interested in working with youth as a summer camp counselor.

EDUCATION:
Inglemoor High School
Kenmore, WA 98028
Graduation Date: 06/2012
• Honor Society Inductee
• International Baccalaureate
• DECA Competitor ‘10 & ‘11
• Amnesty International

EXPERIENCE:
08/2011-Present
Microsoft: Xbox Consumer Engagement Team
Redmond, WA 98052
Position: Intern
• Aided the new manager of the Xbox Newsletter, helping him revamp the entire production process of the newsletter
• Gave insight and presentations on market data trends, aiding Xbox in more adaptive and error-free marketing
• Learned ins and outs of Microsoft Office suite, gaining new skills in the process and also teaching full-time employees new Office skills
• Completed marketing and business projects as assigned by Innovation and Operations manager

09/2010-6/2011
Inglemoor High School Student Store
Kenmore, WA 98028
Position: Runner, Stocker
• Procured order with speed, giving the customer their product in a quick and efficient way
• Stocked student store thoroughly, assuring that the store would not run out of products so they could continue selling

09/2011-Present
King County Libraries Bothell Library
Bothell, WA 98021
Position: General Volunteer
• Organized book holds and necessary books, helping the library in its successful operation and allowing members to find what they need

06/2010-6/2011
McDonald’s
Kirkland, WA 98034
Position: Cashier
• Achieved 100% customer satisfaction, leading to no complaints filed at any time and making every customer’s visit a positive experience

ACHIEVEMENT/ACTIVITIES:
• National Society of High School Scholars
• Quad-lingual: English, Spanish, Gujarati, Hindi
• 1st Place Washington DECA
• Quick Serve Restaurant Management
• Interviewed and was chosen from over 250 candidates for Microsoft Internship

REFERENCES:
Ron M. Donald
Manager of McDonald’s
(425) 555-1395
Belinda Quiet
Dean of the Library
(206) 555-3141
THOMAS DAVIDSON

Current Address:
401 Haggett Hall
University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98195
206-543-1212

Permanent Address:
400 Whitney Avenue
Yakima, WA 98955
360-555-1212

OBJECTIVE
Internship in the Human Resources field

EDUCATION
Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration, GPA: 3.4, June 2011
University of Washington, Seattle, WA
Completed 12 credits in Human Resources

Diploma, Roosevelt High School, Seattle, WA, June 2007

EXPERIENCE
Customer Service Representative, September 2009 - present
Key Bank, Home Loan Center, Seattle, WA
Lead educational seminars for first-time home buyers. Train new staff members to process home equity loans. Assist managers in organizing employee orientation.

Mentor/Tutor, December 2008 - June 2009
Early Scholars Outreach Program, Seattle, WA
Monitored school performance of students from inner-city schools. Planned motivational activities for students. Designed and led workshops for parents of students.

Hall Government Committee Member, September 2007 - June 2008
University of Washington, Seattle, WA
Planned activities designed to enhance students’ university experience. Collaborated with administration to ensure quality of services. Trained and supervised student staff.

Courtesy Clerk, June 2005 - September 2007
Safeway Stores, Seattle, WA

ACTIVITIES
Active Member, Distributive Education Club of America (DECA), Roosevelt H.S., 2006 - 2007
Member, Speech and Debate team, Roosevelt High School, 2004 - 2005

HONORS/AWARDS
Dean’s List, UW - 3 quarters
Golden Acorn Award (for outstanding community service), 2006

Reverse Chronological Resume Example

John Tran
555 North Pine Street
Seattle, WA 98105
206-555-5555
jtran@uwashington.edu

OBJECTIVE
Entry level position in mechanical engineering with the Boeing Company

EDUCATION
University of Washington
Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering
GPA in major: 3.3
Supported 75% of college costs.

Special Projects
Automated SwingAway Pitchless Batting Tee, Winter 2010
• Designed motion control system using stepper motor, Motorola 68HC11 microcontroller, and LCD screen.
• Wrote computer code using Assembly computer language.
• Researched human factors for required torque load of stepper motor.

RELATED EXPERIENCE
Micro Encoder, Inc.
Kirkland, WA
Test Engineering Intern June 2009 - present
• Designed test system using servo-mechanical components.
• Conducted research and tests on next generation linear encoder scales.
• Documented test system including details and schematics using AutoCAD.
• fabricated mechanical and electrical components for repair and creation of test equipment.

Charles A. Gove and Associates, Inc.
Seattle, WA
Computer Aided Drafter Summer 2008
• Drafted plans and details using AutoCAD for mechanical, electrical, and environmental engineers.
• Updated Spill Prevention and Containment Countermeasure plans as specified by federal law.

OTHER EXPERIENCE
University of Washington Career Center
• Peer Advisor
• Provided career services information to student groups up to 135.
• Assisted with web site upgrade.

Avoid purely personal evaluations. “I am an intelligent and diligent researcher” is not recommended. Instead, “Successful completion of three major research projects is more effective.”
Chris Wong  
4523 Brooklyn Avenue NE  
Seattle, WA 98105  
206-555-5555  
chris.wong@aol.com

OBJECTIVE: Position in the non-profit environmental sustainability field using my outreach and coordination skills.

SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS
- 15 months experience in recruitment and training of volunteers and staff
- Strong background in fund-raising, community activism, and event planning
- Extremely resourceful and creative in optimizing available resources
- Effective communicator with ability to motivate others
- Excellent computer and web design skills
- Commitment to and enthusiasm for community activism

EDUCATION
University of Washington, Seattle, WA  
Bachelor of Arts, Anthropology  
Minor: Law, Society, and Justice  
Anticipated – June 2011

Coursework: Ecological Anthropology; Culture, Ecology, and Politics; Environmental Anthropology; Research methods; Politics and Law of International Human Rights; Introduction to Environmental Economics

RELATED PROJECT: “Reductions of Pesticide Use on University of Washington Recreational Fields” (Final project for ANTH 499: Culture, Ecology, and Politics, Winter 2009) Course project submitted as a proposal to the UW Health and Safety Committee in April 2009. The committee chair accepted the proposal for consideration, and it is currently under review.

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE
Community Outreach Intern, Northwest Non-Profit Foundation, Seattle, WA, June 2007 – August 2008
- Assisted in organizing major annual fund-raising events
- Organized and coordinated volunteers for Seattle community events
- Gathered data, interviewed stakeholders, and wrote reports regarding events
- Participated as a member of Foundation’s policy development committee
- Revised and maintained organization’s web pages (www.nnpf.org)

Vice-President, Students for Social and Environmental Justice, UW, September 2008 – Present

Membership Chair, September 2007 – August 2008
- Co-founded campus environmental and human rights group
- Contributed to creating and revising organization’s constitution and policies
- Developed and implemented marketing and fund-raising plans
- Coordinated development of environmental justice internship program

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE
Administrative Assistant, Financial Aid Office, University of Washington, September 2007 – Present


AWARDS AND ACTIVITIES
- Rotary Club Scholarship (2007)
- Employer-of-the-Year Award (Columbia Bread/Bakery, 2006)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS
American Anthropology Association (Anthropology and the Environment Section), Student member

University of Applied Anthropology (Environmental Anthropology Division), Student Member

March 1, 2009
Mr. Richard E. Parsons  
Community Director  
Association for Environmental and Social Justice  
16259 Quentin Blvd.  
Washington, D.C. 20020

Dear Mr. Parsons:

I would like to apply for the Citizen Outreach Director position in the Environmental Leadership division of the Association for Environmental and Social Justice. Because of my interest in and commitment to environmental and social justice, I visit your website frequently and was thrilled to see that you are currently seeking applicants for this position. I will be graduating from the University of Washington in June, and citizen outreach regarding the environment is exactly the type of career that I am seeking.

I believe that my education, values, and background provide an excellent match with your organization’s values and mission. I have a lifelong interest in and commitment to environmental and social issues. Last year I worked as the Community Outreach Intern specializing in environmental issues for the Northwest Non-Profit Foundation (NNPF). In this position, I engaged in outreach, fund-raising, and policy development. NNPF membership grew by 27% during my internship there, and our fund-raising efforts exceeded our goals by over $100,000.

In addition to my membership-building and fund-raising activities, I have strong leadership, organizational, and communication skills. As co-founder and Vice-President of the Students for Social and Environmental Justice organization, I engaged in extensive coalition-building, coordinated our primary fund-raising event for two years, wrote petitions, and led letter-writing drives. Also, due to my strong work ethic and interpersonal skills, I received the Employee-of-the-Year Award in 2007 from my employer, the Columbia Bread and Bakery Shop. Please see my enclosed resume for more details.

I am very interested in the Citizen Outreach Director position not only because I believe that my skills and experience provide an excellent match for this position, but also because I passionately believe in the Association’s mission and core values. Your commitment to creating and sustaining environmental balance for the welfare of all represents the exact values to which I am personally and professionally committed. I look forward to talking with you soon.

Thank you for considering my application.

Sincerely,

Chris Wong

Enclosure
Tips for successful interviews

Use these tips to help you present yourself well in an interview.

- **Dress neatly and cleanly.** Do not under- or over-dress. It is suggested that you do not wear T-shirts or casual clothing and do not wear a full suit. Find an appropriate medium that shows who you are and that you take the interview seriously. Be comfortable in what you wear.

- **Arrive on time.** Plan to be there at least 15 minutes before the scheduled interview.

- **Make eye contact with the interviewer when you are talking.** This shows your confidence and that you are focused on the conversation.

- **Consider the interview as a conversation.** This will make you more relaxed and allow you to open up. Take the chance to learn more about the interview and your potential employer.

- **Research the company and its mission.** You will most likely be asked why you want to work there and how you would fit into the company.

- **Bring a few copies** of your résumé, cover letter and references list.

- **Review the résumé and cover letter that you submitted.** You may be asked about something specific that you mentioned so you should be prepared.

- **Prepare some questions that you can ask the interviewer.** Take this as an opportunity to gain the interviewer’s perspective. An example is, “What is a typical day in this job look like?” or “Are there any opportunities for promotion or advancement in the future?”

- **Avoid eating or drinking during the interview.** It can take away the focus from your conversation and provide distractions.

- **Remember to stay calm and be yourself.**

- **Be polite to everyone you meet.** Everyone, including the office receptionist, may have the ability to comment on your interaction with them.

- **Bring something to take notes with.** You may have questions that come up in the conversation and it allows you to write thing down along the way.

- **Always thank the interviewer** for their time and the opportunity to meet with him or her.

- **Follow up with a personalized thank you note to the interviewer.** Write down something specific that you discussed or learned to personalize the note. You can also use this as a chance to mention anything you did not discuss.