

Improving Student Affordability and Access

The inability to pay should not prevent any Washington student who academically belongs at the UW from coming here to earn a degree. This is one of the most important goals Washingtonians share, and programs that increase access to education have been a major focus of this year's new investments in students.

Increased financial aid eligibility has enlarged the pool of resources available for undergraduate education. We have taken important additional steps to increase support and ensure accessibility.

Starting in autumn 2007, the HUSKY PROMISE guarantees that full tuition will be covered by grant or scholarship support if a student is low- or lower middle-income and a Washington resident.

5,500 students, almost 20 percent of the entire student population, at all three UW campuses will take advantage of the Husky Promise. Students who qualify for the Husky Promise can be assured that if tuition increases, the UW has them covered, and their grants and scholarships do not have to be repaid.

The Husky Promise complements the already outstanding support the state of Washington provides low-income students through the State Need Grant Program. And it augments the larger pool of financial aid created by the new state investments made earlier this year.

An economically diverse student body is one of the UW's great strengths and a distinctive contrast to most other states' premier research institutions. Close to a third of new entering freshmen have a family income that is below the state median, and one third of freshmen will be the first in their families to earn a bachelor's degree. The UW has the third-highest percentage (25 percent) of students receiving Pell Grants at any of the nation's large public universities. These new investments ensure that qualified students from all economic backgrounds can afford a great, in-state research university education.

UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT AUTUMN 2007 THE UW'S MOST DIVERSE CLASS IN TEN YEARS

28,570 total undergraduate enrollment

- 8% increase in underrepresented minorities (URM's)
- 2.3% increase of URM's since Autumn 2006 in entering freshman class

