



Frequently Asked Questions About the UW

Question: How much is tuition?

A: \$8,701 annually (2010/11). Although tuition has risen in recent years, UW tuition (resident undergraduate) is very low compared to other universities across the country.

Question: Tuition and fees seem expensive—how does the cost of UW compare nationally?

A: A college education remains one of the most beneficial investments a person can make, with the average UW college graduate earning more than twice what non-college graduates make over a lifetime. To put the costs of college into comparison of other expenses:

- ▶ UW has one of the lowest tuitions in comparison to its Global Challenge peer states.
- ▶ UW undergraduate tuition is almost 70% less than the cost of Seattle-area private schools.
- ▶ UW tuition is about \$1,700 less than the annual cost of Seattle-area daycare.

Question: What percentage of undergraduate students are from the state of Washington?

A: 83%. This is a high percentage compared to other public university peers. (65% University of Michigan, 69% University of Virginia, 65% University of Colorado).

Question: What about economic diversity? Can anyone afford to attend the UW?

A: Yes. The UW is one of the most economically diverse public universities in America. We believe finances should never be a barrier to a college education. More than 7,000 academically qualified students from Washington, 1 out of every 4 resident undergraduates, benefit from the Husky Promise program. Husky Promise is our pledge to students from lower income families that when they are admitted to the UW, we will make sure their tuition and fees are covered by grants and scholarships. Nearly half of these students are the first in their families to attend college.

Q: Is it difficult for students to be admitted to the UW? How important are grades and test scores?

A: The competition for a place at the UW has intensified in recent years. As of July 2010, the UW received over 22,000 applications for about 5,500 places in the freshman class (this does not include transfer student applications). Admission to the UW is not based solely on grades and test scores. Several years ago, the UW adopted a new “holistic” admissions process during which an admissions official takes a comprehensive look at each individual. Test scores and grades still matter — but so do experience, motivation and background.

Question: Can the UW use the millions of research dollars it brings in each year to help solve its budget problems?

A: Our faculty's prowess in competing for research grants helps drive \$3 billion in economic impact for Washington each year, which accounts for over 22,000 direct and indirect jobs. When top faculty compete and win federal and industry research grants, these funds must be spent solely on the research project. By law, these funds cannot be diverted to fund other university needs.

Tuition and state funds pay faculty salaries, provide financial aid, improve access to high-demand degrees, ensure enrollment, etc. When state funding declines, not only does our teaching enterprise suffer, but we also risk losing top faculty who win these research awards.

Question: Can the UW use the billions of dollars it raised in private gifts to help deal with the budget crisis?

A: During the last fund-raising campaign ending in 2008, the University was fortunate to raise more than \$2.6 billion, and while it made a terrific difference in so many important ways, it cannot be applied to offset budget cuts or mitigate their impacts. Like the research dollars the University receives, spending private philanthropic dollars is directed by the wishes of each of our donors.

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The vast majority of these private gifts are directed to specific purposes, such as professorships, scholarships or capital projects like the new Foster School of Business building, Paccar Hall. We are also fortunate to receive gifts into the University's endowment — gifts whose principal cannot be spent. Annual earnings from the endowment do supplement the University's annual budget, providing over \$50 million of support to the UW core education enterprise in 2011.

Question: If the University is facing such a dire budget shortfall, why are you trying to renovate Husky Stadium?

A: The UW's Athletic department receives no state funding, and is not currently seeking any public funding for the stadium renovation project. The project will be funded with a combination of major private gifts and new annual revenue sources, including premium seating opportunities and potential naming rights.

Husky Stadium is in significant need of repair and upgrade. The football program generates the vast majority of all Athletic Department revenues, so renovating Husky Stadium is an investment that will pay dividends to all athletic programs at the UW for many years to come.

Question: What is the relationship between the teaching and research faculty at the UW?

A: The large majority of UW faculty are both teachers, scholars and researchers. Teaching and research go hand in hand — faculty research informs graduate and undergraduate teaching at the UW, graduate students learn the craft of being a researcher at the UW and undergraduates participate in research via experimentation in the classroom and participation in labs and on research projects outside of the classroom. UW students learn directly from the people making discoveries — which greatly enhances the quality of instruction.

Questions?

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