

UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON
2015 State Legislative Agenda

TOGETHER UNDAUNTED FOR A WORLD OF GOOD

Driven by the determination to transform our world, people at the University of Washington are working to find solutions to today's major challenges, from producing more health care professionals to serve in our state's rural and underserved areas, to helping address critical workforce shortage areas in computer science and other science, technology and engineering fields, to working on breakthroughs in clean energy and environmental sustainability. With campuses in Seattle, Bothell and Tacoma, a world-class academic medical center, and extensive continuing education programs, the opportunities at the UW are limitless.



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2015 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

THE UW IS MINDFUL OF THE CONTINUING BUDGET CONSTRAINTS FACING THE STATE OF WASHINGTON. WE SEEK STATE SUPPORT FOR STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS IN THE UNIVERSITY'S CORE STRENGTHS THAT WE BELIEVE WILL HAVE MEASURABLE AND TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACTS ON OUR STUDENTS, OUR STATE'S ECONOMY AND THE WELL-BEING OF ITS RESIDENTS.

PRIORITY NO. 1: KEEP THE UW AFFORDABLE

The Legislature's forward-looking investment in higher education in the 2013–15 budget allowed the UW to freeze resident undergraduate tuition for the first time since 1986. Continued state investment will help us keep tuition affordable for all Washington families without compromising the high-quality UW education our students expect and deserve. Washington's public colleges and universities are jointly requesting a **\$198 million** state investment for 2015–17 (the UW's share is \$68 million) to expand student access and support the state economy while maintaining current tuition levels.

PRIORITY NO. 2: RAPIDLY INCREASE HEALTH CARE ACCESS FOR ALL WASHINGTONIANS

The UW requests **\$4 million** per year to double the class size at the **University of Washington School of Medicine in Spokane** by the fall of 2017. Due to a variety of factors, our state is expected to face a shortage of physicians in the years ahead. This shortage is predicted to be particularly acute in rural and underserved areas of our state, where a generation of health care providers are set to retire. The UW School of Medicine is nationally recognized for both excellence and cost-effectiveness. With continued investments, our goal is to grow the Spokane class to 120 students per year by 2021. Our community-based medical school has the **No. 1 primary care, No. 1 family medicine** and **No. 1 rural medicine** programs in the country, and is ready to grow without delay.

The UW requests **\$2.6 million** for the biennium to double the class size of the University of Washington School of Dentistry's **Regional Initiatives in Dental Education (RIDE) program** in Spokane and Eastern Washington by the fall of 2017. RIDE trains dentists for rural and underserved areas of our state in partnership with the UW School of Medicine, Eastern Washington University and community health centers. Over 90 percent of practicing RIDE graduates are currently practicing in underserved and rural areas of Washington state.

PRIORITY NO. 3: INVEST TO FULLY FUND STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

The State Need Grant (SNG) and College Bound Scholarship (CBS) programs are both vital to keeping the UW affordable and accessible to low-income and first-generation college students. Fully funding these programs will help ensure that students of all economic backgrounds have the opportunity to attend the UW. The UW supports the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) request for an additional investment of **\$48 million** in 2015–17 toward the SNG, growing the pool of students who qualify by 4,000 yearly.

KEY CAPITAL INVESTMENTS IN HIGH-DEMAND AREAS

COMPUTER SCIENCE & ENGINEERING BUILDING

The UW requests **\$40 million** in state funding for the construction of a new 130,000-square-foot building to create expansion space for the highly successful UW Computer Science & Engineering program. Today, the program's existing space in the Paul G. Allen Center is overflowing and must expand in response to high demand for enrollment and for graduates in the UW's Computer Science & Engineering fields. The UW would develop more than half of the funding for the total cost of this project through donor and other local fund sources, as well as in partnership with major industry stakeholders. Funding this project would enable the UW to double the number of degrees produced in computer science and engineering from 300 to 600 annually.

LIFE SCIENCES BUILDING

The UW requests **\$40 million** in state funding for the construction of 148,000 square feet of research-intensive facilities, learning and faculty office space for the College of Arts and Sciences to accommodate enrollment growth in the life sciences and high-demand science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) degrees.

A new 25,000-square-foot greenhouse for botanical research and studies will also be constructed as part of the project. With the state's investment, the UW would raise the remaining three-fourths of the total project cost through other local sources and public-private partnerships. Biology is quickly becoming the most popular major among undergraduates, and a degree in this field is fundamental to pursuing a number of STEM fields. This new facility is critical in meeting rapidly growing demand in this important science field.

CRITICAL INVESTMENTS

URBAN SOLUTIONS: RENOVATIONS ON THE TACOMA CAMPUS

The UW requests **\$18 million** in state funding for the construction of the UW Tacoma Urban Solutions Center. Housed in the former Tacoma Paper & Stationery Building, the project will create capacity to dramatically expand programs in engineering, environmental sciences, GIS, general engineering and big data computing. The 40,000-square-foot building is critical in growing to serve 7,000 students over the next 5–7 years. The construction would build upon a 2013–15 state appropriation of \$1.9 million for predesign and design.

SCHOOL OF NURSING SIMULATION LEARNING LAB

The UW requests **\$4 million** in state funding for design and construction to increase the size of the School of Nursing simulation lab from 2,500 to 10,000 square feet. The lab expansion will enable the school to train more nurses in response to state and regional demand. The new lab will include state-of-the-art simulation technology to improve and advance nursing education and skills training with new active learning space as well as additional inpatient and outpatient simulations. Existing facilities will not sustain program growth.

CRITICAL CAPACITY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND MARINE RESEARCH

The UW requests **\$11.2 million** in state funding for the predesign, design and construction of a new local class research vessel to replace the research vessel R/V Clifford A. Barnes, which will reach the end of its useful life in 2016. The new vessel will be designed for research and education purposes, and to function in a variety of marine environments in the region. The new vessel will be used by students and researchers across the UW as a whole, as well as federal and state agencies, tribal communities and other public colleges and universities.

UW AT A GLANCE

The UW's overall economic impact in the state of Washington is **\$12.5 billion**. This is up from **\$9.1 billion** just five years ago. UW Medicine alone contributes **\$7.8 billion**.

Seventy-five percent of UW undergraduate students are Washington residents.

Eighty-two percent of entering freshman graduate from the UW within six years, the highest percentage of any public university in the state. The UW's average time to degree is **four years**.

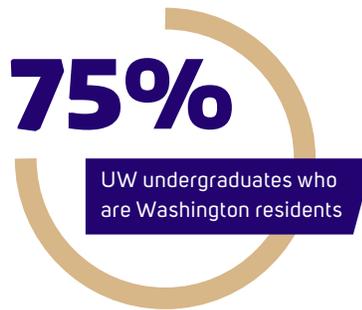
The UW is the **third largest** non-federal employer in Washington.

U.S. News & World Report recently ranked the UW as the **No. 3 best global university** among U.S. public universities, and **No. 14 overall**.

More than **280 companies** have been started by UW students and faculty or with UW technology.

Half of all UW undergrads graduate with no debt.

The UW serves more Pell Grant-eligible students than the entire Ivy League combined.



No. 3 best global university



No. 14 public university

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