

# Partnering for Student Transfer Success



Independent Colleges of Washington  
Better Together: Partners in Student Success

Washington's community and technical colleges, private non-profit baccalaureate, and public baccalaureate colleges and universities have a proud history of partnering to serve students. Nowhere is our cooperation more evident than in the smooth transfer process from community and technical colleges into the four-year colleges and universities.

## National research cites four factors that lead to efficient transfer <sup>1,2</sup>

### 1. Complete an associate's degree before transfer.

Washington students transfer with an associate's degree and earn bachelor's degrees at much higher rates than students nationally.

	Washington	Nationally
% transferring with AA degree	66%	20%
BA within 3 years post-transfer ◆ Transferred with AA	68%	41% <sup>3</sup>
BA within 3 years post-transfer ◆ No AA	60%	31%
BA within 6 years post-transfer ◆ Transferred with AA	81%	72%
BA within 6 years post-transfer ◆ No AA	75%	56%

2. Follow a clear pathway. Statewide transfer agreements allow students to transfer to universities with two years of college-level coursework with general education requirements, already completed (for DTA).

### Direct Transfer Agreement associate's degree (also called "the DTA") with clear pathways –

Major Related Programs in:

- ◆ Biology
- ◆ Business
- ◆ Computer Science
- ◆ Construction Management
- ◆ Math Education
- ◆ Music
- ◆ Nursing
- ◆ Pre-Nursing

### Associate of Science – Transfer (AS-T) — with

Major Related Programs in:

- ◆ Bioengineering and Chemical Engineering
- ◆ Computer and Electrical Engineering
- ◆ Mechanical/Civil/Aeronautical/Industrial/ Material
- ◆ Engineering Technology

Transfer degrees are honored by all Washington's public and most private colleges and universities.

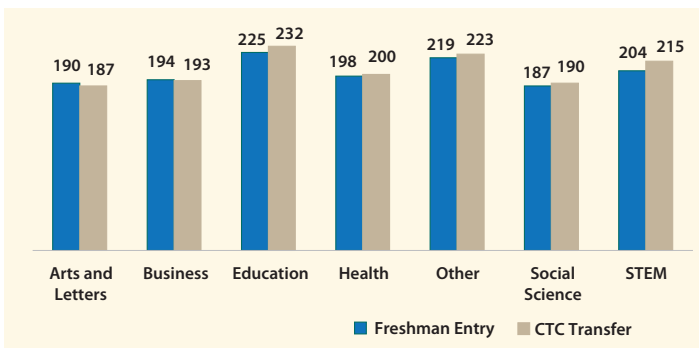
## Key Facts

- ◆ **16,025** Washington students transferred from community and technical colleges to four-year institutions in 2014-2015.
- ◆ Transfer students are **40%** of all bachelor's degree graduates from Washington public colleges and universities, including:
  - ✓ 47% of business graduates
  - ✓ 46% of health field graduates
  - ✓ 35% of STEM majors graduates
- ◆ Washington **ranks 1st in the nation** for the average rate by which a community college student transfers to a four-year institution earns a bachelor's degree within six years of entering higher education.
- ◆ Washington **ranks 5th in the nation** for the average rate by which a community college transfer student earns a credential before transferring to a four-year institution.
- ◆ Two basic **associate's degrees smooth the process** for the majority of WA transfer students:
  - ✓ DTA for social sciences, humanities and some sciences
  - ✓ AS-T for engineering, physics, chemistry
- ◆ **98% of AS-T** graduates who earn a bachelor's degree do so in a STEM-related field.

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**3. Make sure all academic credits transfer.** In Washington, transfer students graduate with a bachelor's degree with a similar number of total credits as those who start at four-year universities as freshmen. This is not true nationally, where "lost" credits result in far more total credits and more expense for the average transfer student.

*"Students who transferred almost all of their community college credits were 2.5 times more likely to earn a bachelor's degree than students who transferred fewer than half of their credits."*<sup>4</sup>



**4. Utilize a multi-sector group to solve emerging issues.** The **JOINT TRANSFER COUNCIL** is a collaboration that includes the community and technical colleges and public and private baccalaureate institutions that guides college-transfer policy across the state. It is involved in the development of new transfer pathways and new multi-institution agreements. Its members continually look at emerging issues and opportunities to make the transfer experience better.

*"Washington state is fortunate to have a 40-year history of public two- and four-year institutions working together to facilitate the transfer process for students."*

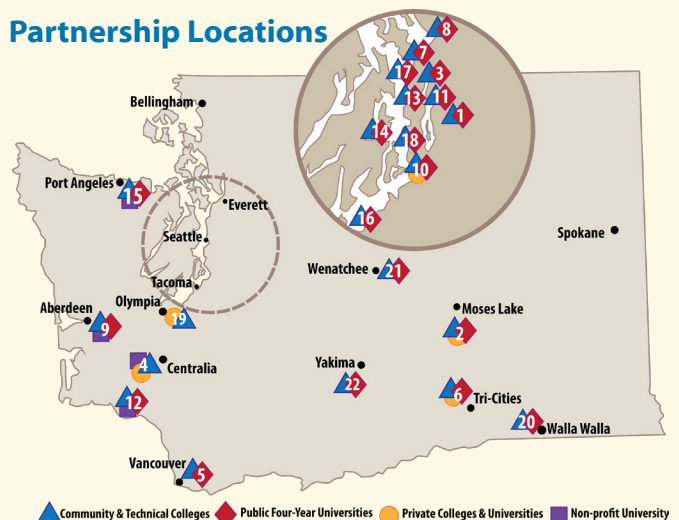
*Community College Research Center, Columbia Teachers College. July 2014<sup>5</sup>*

**University bachelor's degrees are also available at most of Washington's 34 community and technical colleges.**

## Campus-based partnerships (degrees vary by location)

1. Bellevue College – EWU
2. Big Bend Community College – CWU
3. Cascadia College – UW
4. Centralia College – City U/St. Martin's
5. Clark College – EWU
6. Columbia Basin College – WSU/Heritage
7. Edmonds Community College – CWU
8. Everett Community College – CWU/EWU/WWU/ Evergreen/UW/WSU/Hope International Univ.
9. Grays Harbor College –Evergreen
10. Highline College – CWU
11. Lake Washington Institute of Technology – CWU
12. Lower Columbia College – EWU /WSU /City U/ Warner Pacific Univ
13. North Seattle College – CWU/EWU/WWU
14. Olympic College – Brandman Univ/Old Dominion Univ/WSU/WWU
15. Peninsula College – CWU/WWU/Evergreen/ City U
16. Pierce College Ft Steilacoom – CWU
17. Shoreline Community College – UW
18. South Seattle College – EWU
19. Tacoma Community College – St. Martin's
20. Walla Walla Community College – WSU
21. Wenatchee Valley College – CWU
22. Yakima Valley Community College – CWU/WSU

## Partnership Locations



1. WICHE, *Successful Student Transfer: A Key Building Block of the Completion Agenda*, November 2014.  
 2. Community College Research Center, Columbia University, January 2015.  
 3. Crosta, P.M. and Kopko, E.M., *Should Community College Students Earn Associate Degree Before Transferring to a Four-Year Institution?*, Community College Research Center, 2014.  
 4. Community College Research Center, Columbia University, January 2015.  
 5. Community College Research Center, Columbia University, July 2015.