

Career Connect Washington: How to Get Involved as a Washington Public Four-Year Institution

Part of the [Career Connect Washington](#) initiative, programs provide students with real-life work experience related to their classroom studies. Students graduate with skills to be competitive in the job market and with a valuable credential beyond a high school diploma.

Career Connect Washington describes Career Launch as “the most intensive type of career connected learning program.” Its goal: to have 60 percent of young adults beginning in the class of 2030 participate in a career launch program.

Career Launch Endorsement

The [Career Launch Endorsement](#) demonstrates a career-oriented program meets specific, rigorous requirements that ensure students complete with strong academic knowledge and workplace-ready skills. Career Launch programs can be offered at community and technical colleges, training centers, universities and K-12 schools that partner with higher-education institutions.

A program endorsed as Career Launch provides students with the opportunity to recognize a path to work-based learning. It allows institutions to access funding beyond their approved annual operational allocation. This funding will help develop programs, expand existing programs, and provide equipment to support the endorsed program.

Career Launch programs can take three general paths towards approval:

- Registered apprenticeships — automatically receive Career Launch endorsement. An endorsement application is not necessary. View the list of [active apprenticeship programs](#).
- Existing college programs — will need to demonstrate that they meet Career Launch criteria in the application.
- New educational programs — must go through their standard program-approval process before applying for Career Launch endorsement.

How to Obtain a Career Launch Endorsement

A multi-sector work group that includes representatives from public and independent four-year institutions, community and technical colleges, K-12, the business community, and state agencies developed the [Career Launch Endorsement Review](#) (CLER) process and criteria.

To receive the Career Launch Endorsement for an academic program, the program application must successfully meet all the criteria required in the CLER process. Registered apprenticeships are automatically considered Career Launched endorsed.

To be considered for an endorsement as a Career Launch program, a program must complete a Career Launch Endorsement Review letter of intent and application.

The Washington State Board for Community and Technical College is the state lead with respect to the CLER process. An online application and more information can be found [here](#).

Funding Opportunities for Endorsed or Not-Yet Endorsed Programs at Public Four-Year Institutions

Offered through the Employment Security Department, this [funding](#) can be used to develop new Career Launch programs or to prepare an existing program to become endorsed as a Career Launch program. Colleges, business partners, industry leads, and K-12 partners can all apply for this funding. [Apply through the WEBS system](#)

Contacts

The CLER process is dynamic. If you have questions or ideas on improving the process to increase eligibility for programs or reduce barriers, please share them with COP staff.

- Paul Francis, Executive Director, pfrancis@councilofpresidents.org, 360-292-4101
- Julie Garver, Senior Director of Policy and Academic Affairs, jgarver@councilofpresidents.org, 360-292-4102