

College Admissions & Standardized Testing

Washington Senate Higher Education & Workforce
Development Committee

January 2024

We Want and Welcome Washington High School Students

- We are excited to welcome Washington high school students to any one of our public four-year college or universities! **We want you!**
- **Your students are our students.** We serve students in our local communities and across the state.
- **We believe college is for everyone that wants to attend,** and we are here to help make this a reality. We are committed to serve all students with a focus on identifying and reducing gaps among student populations.
- **If a student wants to earn a bachelor's degree, is thinking of doing so or has not considered, there is a place at one of the state's public baccalaureate institutions for students in Washington to earn a bachelor's degree and achieve their dreams, attain further career credentials, and follow their passion.**

Sector Snapshot

- **Largest** producer of bachelor's and graduate degrees in the state.
- **Over 80%** of students are Washington residents.
- **Over 50%** of students identify as non-White.
- **Top 10** among all states for low average undergraduate tuition and fees.
- **Ranked 2nd** in nation for Pell Grant recipients.
- **Ranked 2nd** in graduation rates for the West region and above the national average.
- **4.02 years** average time to degree.
- **Strong predictor** for earning a lifetime living wage and closing the gap around disadvantages created by structural barriers.
- **Strong ROI** – an affordable option for strong access, retention, completion and employment.

Admissions Selectivity

- **Total applications are increasing.** Between 2019-20 and 2021-22 application volume rose by 18% in Washington.
- Though admissions have become more competitive **generally the odds are in student's favor.**
- Washington's public baccalaureate institutions **continue to be accessible relative to peers.**

Fall 2022 Admissions Information First Time, First Year Students		
Institution	Admit Rate	GPA of Admitted Students (Middle 50%)
Central Washington University	94%	3.29
Eastern Washington University	79%	3.31
The Evergreen State College	74%	3.14
University of Washington Bothell	88%	3.47-3.92
University of Washington Seattle	54% ¹	3.74-3.97
University of Washington Tacoma	88%	3.25-3.84
Washington State University Pullman	84%	3.35-3.87
Washington State University Tri-Cities	77%	3.16-3.83
Washington State University Vancouver	82%	3.20 – 3.83
Western Washington University	93%	3.36 – 3.9

Sources: *Deadline Update: First Application Trend through March 15.* [Common App](#). *Fall Counselor Workshop Higher Education Book 2023-24.* The Washington Council for High School-College Relations (WCHSCR) ¹Link to college selectivity context.

Applications and Paths

Common App and Institutional Applications

- Both applications are **accepted by institutions**; [UW Tacoma](#) only accepts the Common App.
- **Both applications** receive full consideration for admission and scholarships.
- **Only one** should be submitted. Students should not complete both applications.
- This institutional application might be best for students who are applying to **only a few schools**.
- The Common App is a single application students can use **to apply to more than 1,000 schools**, including every public four-year college and university in Washington.

Admissions Paths

- **General Admissions:** Student applies to a college and then may be admitted to an institution.
- **Guaranteed Admissions:** Student is admitted to an institution and then may apply.
- **Direct Admissions:** Student is admitted directly to a specific degree program offered by an institution.

Paths to College	
General Admissions	Washington Guaranteed Admissions Program (WAGAP)
Complete application and send transcripts.	Cumulative high school GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
Admissions Offices review high school and college grades, coursework, senior year courses, personal achievements and characteristics.	• Complete a series of required high school classes.
All Washington public baccalaureate institutions.	Meet above criteria guaranteed admissions to WAGAP participating institutions : Central Washington University, Eastern Washington University, The Evergreen State College, University of Washington Tacoma, Washington State University and Western Washington University.
	Complete application and final transcripts.

Admissions Application Deadlines

- **Students should try to apply early**, this provides maximum opportunities for admission decisions and scholarship opportunities.
- Students who miss an application deadline **should still apply**.
- **Early Decision Deadline:** Early decision is a binding commitment, meaning those who apply in this round must attend the selected college if they are accepted. You can only apply to one school early decision because of that binding commitment.
- **Priority /Early Action Deadline:** Applications that are submitted before the deadline will receive priority in the review. It is not a hard deadline. Students who submit after the priority deadline will generally have their applications reviewed, but not until the school has reviewed all the applications submitted before the priority deadline.
- **Regular Decision Deadline:** Regular Decision is the regular application deadline,. Apply Regular Decision means you are not applying in the early round. Students may apply after the regular deadline
- **Rolling Admissions:** Rolling admissions is where students have a much wider window to apply and applications are reviewed as they are received. Washington public baccalaureate institutions, except the UW Seattle, open their admissions in September and generally close at the end of summer.

Application Deadlines for 2024-25 AY		
	Priority/Early Action Deadline	Regular Decision Deadline
Central Washington University	March 1, 2024	-
Eastern Washington University	February 1, 2024	-
The Evergreen State College	December 1, 2023	-
University of Washington Bothell and Tacoma	November 15, 2023	January 15, 2024
University of Washington Seattle	November 15, 2023 (single deadline)	-
Washington State University All Campuses	March 31, 2024	-
Western Washington University	November 1, 2023	January 31, 2024

Application Components

- **High school students** should apply as **first-time, first-year students** in the admissions process. This includes:
 - Students who have earned some college credit, earned an associates degree through dual credit or are enrolled in dual credit.
 - A student has graduated high school or earned a GED and have not enrolled in any college coursework since graduating
- **Fee Waivers.** Each institution requires an application fee. Students may apply for a few waiver. These may include but are not limited to the following fee waivers: ACT/ SAT, Median Family Income, NACAC, TRiO, Veterans, Active Duty, Institutional Waivers, federal free or reduced-price lunch program eligible, public assistance, GEAR UP, TRIO, qualify for subsidized housing, foster home, homelessness, orphan, Pell Grant eligible.
- **Transcripts.** Students are required to submit unofficial transcripts when they apply. Official transcripts will be required once a student enrolls.
- **Dual Credit.** Washington's public baccalaureate institutions accept multiple types of dual credit and do not have a preference of one type over another (AP, CI, CiHS, IB, RS).
- **Essays.** Most Washington public, baccalaureate institutions do not require an essay except for certain circumstances.
- **Letters of Reference.** Washington public, baccalaureate institutions do not require letters of reference.

Essay and Reference Letter Requirements		
	Essay Required	Reference Letters Required
Central Washington University	Essay required only for students with a GPA under 2.5	No
Eastern Washington University	No	No
The Evergreen State College	If no SAT/ACT score then an essay is required.	No
University of Washington Bothell and Tacoma	Yes	No
University of Washington Seattle	Yes, a personal statement See Notes Below	No
Washington State University	No	No
Western Washington University	Yes	No
UW Seattle Personal statement can help applicants by giving more information on achievements or provide context for any gaps or dips in academic performance. UW Seattle requires a "short response"		

Test Optional & Applications

- **All Washington public baccalaureate institutions permanently test optional.** Students will not be penalized during the admissions process or student eligibility for institutionally supported scholarships, course placement or admissions to Honors programs.
- **Test Optional:** Test optional is an umbrella term that includes multiple approaches to the role of SAT/ACT exam scores in the admissions process.
 - **Test Not Considered:** Institutions do not consider test scores, nor are test scores considered at any point in the admissions review process, even if a student chooses to submit a test score. No additional, alternative measure of college readiness is required in place of a test score.
 - **Test Not Required:** Institutions do not consider test scores in the admissions review process, even if a student chooses to submit a test score (see test not considered above). However, test scores may be considered for placement, entry into Honors program, and/or scholarship awards.
 - **Test Optional:** Students may choose to submit test scores to strengthen an application. Not submitting test scores will not disadvantage a student. In place of a test score, students who apply may be required to submit additional and alternative measures of college readiness such as successful completion of dual credit coursework, exams, or scores on high school college readiness assessments.

Test Not Considered	Eastern Washington University Washington State University
Test Not Required	All University of Washington Campuses
Test Optional	Central Washington University The Evergreen State College Western Washington University

Key Takeaways

- College admissions processes **do not define a student**.
- Encourage students to **consider a range** of institutions.
- **Balance** aspirations with realistic expectations.
- The application is an opportunity to share who the student is, **what they are excited about** and **who they are authentically and their experience**.
- How a student **goes through and experiences** college is **more important** than where a student may go. **Find your fit!**

Institutional Admissions Websites	
Central Washington University	https://www.cwu.edu/admissions-aid/
Eastern Washington University	https://www.ewu.edu/apply/freshman/
The Evergreen State College	https://www.evergreen.edu/admissions-and-aid/first-year-student
University of Washington Bothell	https://www.uwb.edu/admissions/apply/first-year
University of Washington Tacoma	https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/admissions/freshmen
University of Washington Seattle	https://admit.washington.edu/apply/
Washington State University	https://wsu.edu/admissions/#process
Western Washington University	https://admissions.wvu.edu/first-year



You are College Material!

Whether you're planning for college, considering it, or haven't thought about it yet, there's a place for you at a Washington public, four-year college or university where you can pursue your dreams, obtain career credentials, and follow your passion.

Recommendations for Successful Transition to College

- Communicate with high school counselors and college admissions advisors **early and often**.
- **Apply early!**
- Institutions will guide students on the next steps and are committed to reaching out and welcoming students.
- Ask about special programs and student support programs and services while in high school.
- **Ask** questions and **seek** clarity.
- **Remember, Yes You Can!**