



Puget Sound College and Career Network

Financial Aid Application Reminder



December is a good month for students to finalize their financial aid application. To support your work with students, here are a few reminders for the senior class:

Financial Aid: Students will soon start receiving acceptance letters. Help your students explore financial aid and scholarships packages at the colleges they have applied. This will give them a good grasp of how much they can save because aid packages differ from one school to the next.

Meeting December deadlines: The deadline for most college application is in December. Remind your students to submit their college application and encourage them to keep track of all the deadlines for all the schools they intend to apply.

Finalize all documentation for the application packet: By now students should have written essays, taken exams, and should have secured letters of recommendation. December is also a good time to confirm test scores have been officially submitted to every potential college.

For additional information on financial aid, go to the [PSCCN website](https://www.pccn.org/cf_enotify/view.cfm?n=22)

Be sure to check out PSCCN's [Financial Aid Toolkit](#). As fall comes to an end, and many of you are beginning to prepare for new phases of the financial aid process, PSCCN's toolkit will help give you the resources to support your students at every point of the Financial aid completion process. This includes resources regarding FAFSA/WASFA forms, appeals, verification process and more. PSCCN's Financial Aid Toolkit can help you come up with your plan on how to support students. Resources include"

[Common scenarios and District Strategies:](#)

- Better understand the various situations students can face when completing financial aid and learn about cohesive, data driven approaches to build your district's financial aid strategy.

[Student & Family Engagement:](#)

- Presentations, activities and worksheets can be used during the school day, at a youth or family program, and at school or community events or conferences to help educate and inform students and families about financial aid.

Some examples of resources include:

- [2020-21 FAFSA Screenshots](#)
- [Human Bingo: Financial Aid Terms](#)
- [Financial Aid Award Letter Templates](#)
- [Verification Fact Sheet](#)

[Promotional Materials:](#)

- Materials for you to easily enhance your communication strategies such as webinars, email campaigns and website content.

Some examples of resources include:

- [FAFSA or WAFSA Flow Chart](#)
- [Desktop Wallpaper](#)

And more!

Opportunities and Resources

<p>Baccalaureate Scholarship</p> <p>For scholars who intend to earn their bachelor's degree. Para obtener información en español haga clic aquí.</p> <p>LEARN MORE ></p>	<p>Career and Technical Scholarship</p> <p>For scholars who intend to earn their certificate, apprenticeship or associate degree.</p> <p>LEARN MORE ></p>
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Washington State Opportunity Scholarship (WSOS)

WSOS supports students with flexible financial aid and student support services such as mentorship, professional development and networking. WSOS helps students achieve success from their first day on campus to the launch of their professional careers in Washington state.

Scholarship programs

The Baccalaureate Scholarship (BaS) offers up to \$22,500 for Scholars pursuing a bachelor's degree in a high -demand STEM or health care field. [Learn more about BaS here!](#)

- The BaS 2021-22 application period will close on February 11, 2021.

The Career and Technical Scholarship (CTS) offers \$1,500 per quarter for Scholars pursuing a certificate, apprenticeship or associate degree in a high-demand trade, STEM or health care field. In addition to CTS, rural CTS applicants are eligible for

additional funding through the Rural Jobs Initiative (RJI). RJI provides an additional \$2,000 in the first quarter, \$1,000 in the second quarter and \$500 per quarter for the remainder of the program. [Learn more about CTS and RJI here!](#)

For applicants planning to enroll in the 2021 spring quarter, the CTS Spring application period opens on January 6, 2021, and closes on February 11, 2021.

- For applicants planning to enroll in the 2021 fall quarter, including current high school seniors, the CTS Fall application period opens April 14, 2021, and closes on June 4, 2021.

The 2021 Hamilton Award application is Open

High school juniors can apply to be a Hamilton Scholar and win \$500 to pay for college expenses and empowerment support throughout their college years. [Apply by Jan. 27.](#)

Student Borrowers Face Repayment Disarray in the New Year

Following the federal government's declaration of a national emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic in March, the Department of Education (ED) responded quickly to provide relief to federal student loan borrowers. Borrowers with loans held by ED had their loan payments and interest accrual suspended; and ED also halted collections on defaulted loans. Though the March enactment of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) initially offered the relief until Sept. 30, 2020, action since taken by the president extended relief until Dec. 31, 2020. [Click here to read more](#)

News from the Region



Good news about the Seattle Promise:

Seattle's tuition-free community college program comes to the rescue during the pandemic. [Click on this link](#) to read the full article.

Other news to note:

How COVID-19 could lead to fewer Washington students going to college in 2021 and beyond.

[Click on this link](#) to read the full article.

Enrollment at regional colleges drops, leading to cuts. [Click on this link](#) to read the full article.

UW drops SAT, ACT requirement, extending coronavirus accommodation.

[Click on this link](#) to read the full article.

Washington's constitution protects K-12 funding. The coronavirus will test that promise.
[Click on this link](#) to read the full article.

Upcoming Events and Trainings



Washington State Opportunity Scholarship Upcoming trainings

WSOS will be hosting Zoom webinars for partners, applicants and families to learn more about the Baccalaureate Scholarship and Career & Technical Scholarship. We encourage anyone who works directly with eligible students to join. Register using the links below:

- [January 7, 2021, at 6 p.m. PST \(English\)](#)
- [January 11, 2021, at 6 p.m. PST \(Spanish\)](#)

For application support, please contact awards@waopportunitiescholarship.org.

NCAN webinars

Cultivating Cultural Humility in College Access Spaces

Thursday, January 7

2-3 PM ET

Register [here](#).

Bridging the Gap: How High School Counselors, CBOs & College Staff Can Come Together to Better Serve Students

Wednesday, January 20

2-3 PM ET

Register [here](#).

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Puget Sound College & Career Network, in partnership with the Puget Sound Educational Service District
800 Oakesdale Ave SW
Renton, Washington 98057

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