



COLLEGE AND FINANCIAL AID NIGHT

Financial Aid Program
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COLLEGE INFORMATION

- FAFSA & Financial Aid Presentation by Esmeralda Marquez
- Different types of higher education options
- Resources
- Testing
- College Applications
- Scholarships/ Letters of Recommendation

DIFFERENT TYPES OF HIGHER EDUCATION

4-year College/University: Bachelor's Degree

- Both Public and Private schools, Universities and Liberal Arts Colleges
- <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges/college-101/types-of-colleges-the-basics>
- [More Information than you wanted to know Washington State:](#)

Vocational-Technical and Career College-Associates in Applied Science or Certification Programs geared toward specific career fields and Applied Learning.

- <https://www.findmytradeschool.com/trade-schools/washington-state/>
- <https://www.niche.com/colleges/search/best-trade-schools/s/washington/>
- Unions (seek each by name) and Apprenticeships: <https://secure.lni.wa.gov/arts-public/#/all-programs>

2 year or 90 credit hours Community College- Associates or a Certification: credit hours vary depending on program

- Offer Associates and Certifications that are specific to a certain career.
- Offer Associates degrees that can transfer on to a 4-year college or university in the State of Washington.
- Transfer student option once you complete an Associates at a 2-year college, Direct Transfer Agreements (DTA) can identify a specific area of focus. <https://wsac.wa.gov/transfers>.

GOOD RESOURCES FOR THE PLANNING PROCESS

To explore about Technical and Community Colleges of Washington:

- www.sbctc.edu
- Explore whether you are a student who is better with in-person learning or online
<https://www.sbctc.edu/becoming-a-student/right-degree-you/is-online-learning-for-me.aspx>

To explore Universities and other College resources:

- Registration and information link for Juniors: <https://www.nacacattend.org/fairs/attend>
- <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>

FIND YOUR BEST MATCH

Common Data Set

- Among other figures, the statistics for each school include:
 - The cost to attend.
 - How much student loan debt the average graduate incurs.
 - What percentage of applicants are accepted.
 - Average grades and test scores of incoming freshmen.
- <https://www.collegedata.com/resources/getting-in/what-do-colleges-look-for-in-students>

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

Where and How to apply

❖ Direct with School:

- ❖ Students can apply directly to Colleges and Universities through that Schools website.

❖ Common App:

- [http://www.commonapp.org/search-colleges?f\[0\]=field_admissions_office%253Afield_address%253Aadministrative_area%3AWA](http://www.commonapp.org/search-colleges?f[0]=field_admissions_office%253Afield_address%253Aadministrative_area%3AWA)

- This platform has expanded over the years and is the most used site for multiple applications, but not all schools participate, so make sure you check.
- Common App: your school counselor will upload transcript and School Profile.
- Make sure you get your counselor's email correct!
- Know if your school requires a counselor letter of recommendation!

❖ Sending your “Official” transcript at the end of the year:

- **Bring in an envelop to Ms. Bitts with the desired school's admissions address and a stamp on it.**
- Counselors will upload a final transcript to Common App as well.

Guaranteed Admissions Program

What is WAGAP: Students that meet criteria are guaranteed admission to one of the following College/Universities, by submitting an application. Please note, this does not mean they are guaranteed enrollment in a specific degree program. Students doing WAGAP still need to complete the application process.

Participating Institutions: Central Washington University, Eastern Washington University , Washington State University, University of Washington (Tacoma branch only), Western Washington University, The Evergreen State College.

What is needed to qualify for guaranteed admissions? To be eligible for guaranteed admission students must meet or be on track by fall 2025 admissions to meet two requirements:

- ❖ Earn a 3.0 cumulative GPA AND
- ❖ Complete ALL Washington's College Academic Distribution Requirements (CADRs)

If interested email Leigha Patton at: lpatton@sw.wednet.edu stating your permission to send your and your student's contact information to the Guaranteed Admissions Program.

Please indicate the following information: Student's legal first and last name, Date of Birth, Mailing address, Student's personal email address, Student's school email address, Parent/Guardian email address, Any additional parent/guardian email addresses

TESTING: Things Have Changed!

There are around 1800 Colleges/Universities that are test blind or test-optional!

- <https://fairtest.org/test-optional-list/>

SAT:

- We now offer School Day SAT, this is only for SWHS students (will typically be in the Spring for Students and Fall for Seniors only)
- Where to find test dates and test locations off-site (Weekend) Testing
 - ❖ <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/dates-deadlines>
- How to understand scores
 - ❖ <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/about/scores/structure>

ACT: Where to find test dates and test locations

- <http://www.act.org/>

Comparing the SAT and ACT:

- <https://www.princetonreview.com/college/sat-act>

ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery):

- <https://www.todaymilitary.com/joining-eligibility/asvab-test>

RECOMMENDATION LETTERS

□ When and Who to ask for Letters of Recommendation?

❖ **When?** The earlier the better, most people need a 2-week window to get the letter done.

➤ When a college application or scholarship requests it.

❖ **Who?** Students should ask someone, that knows them well.

➤ A teacher you have had more than once, or one you have a strong relationship with.

➤ A coach that has seen the student grow in that sport/ as a musician/ as an actor/artist/dancer.

➤ A mentor that has been helpful in the students personal and/or academic life.

➤ Other ideas are an employer/manager, youth group leader, or a supervisor in places a student has volunteered.

✓ Local Scholarship providers have been informed that school teachers/school counselors will not be providing letters of recommendation.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Different Types

- Academic: mostly given out through the College/University specifically.
- Athletic: given out only by specific Colleges/Universities.
- Community Service/Leadership: Local and National Scholarships that will require essays or documentation of skills.
- CollegeBound: <https://wsac.wa.gov/college-bound>
- Needs Based: FAFSA/Grants/aid based on family income.

SCHOLARSHIPS (CONT)

❖ Where to find Scholarships!

- Scholarships Platform: <https://www.bestcolleges.com/blog/finding-scholarships-for-college-students/>
- TheWashboard.org (State of Washington Site): <https://washboard.wsac.wa.gov/login.aspx>
- GoingMerry: <https://www.goingmerry.com/>
- Fastweb: <https://www.fastweb.com/>
- South Whidbey Seniors Google Classroom: Senior Information Page

❖ Local Scholarships for SWHS

- Will be available early February 2025 and the deadline will be April 7th unless a specific scholarship posts a different deadline.
- Will be posted to the Senior Google Classroom and District Website.

FINANCIAL AID & CONSIDERATIONS

❖ Types of Financial Aid

- **Scholarships**- Money that is not paid back
- **Grants**- Typically Needs Based
- **Loans**
 - **Parent Plus Loans**
 - **Federal Loans**
 - **Private Loans**

Compare apples to apples. Once you have offers in hand, scour them carefully. Though the bottom lines may be equivalent, one package may be more heavily tilted toward loans than another; colleges often are more generous in giving outright grants to students they really want.

- ✓ Take the cost of each school and subtract the grants and scholarships. What's left is the amount you'll pay out of pocket, which may or may not include loans.
- ✓ It's also important to consider how your burden will change in subsequent years. Some scholarships and grants will automatically renew, while others may be one-time awards or require that the student maintain a certain GPA. If those details are not in the offer letter, be sure to ask the financial aid office to clarify.

FAFSA

(FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID)

6 things to have ready before you start filling out your FAFSA forms:
https://www.collegecovered.com/paying-for-college/financial-aid/fafsa-101-your-financial-aid-faqs-answered/?acmpgn=E_EAW_CSEM_BM_X_BMHS13

1. Set up a FSA ID for **both student and parent separately**, prior to starting your application.
2. Social Security Numbers on hand for both student and parent.
3. Driver's License Number for both student and parent.
4. 2023 Tax Records.
5. Records of your untaxed income.
6. Records of your assets (money).

FAFSA Deadlines: Class of 2025

- **Federal Deadline:** The FAFSA form must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. Central time (CT) on June 30, 2025.
- **State Deadline:** Washington College Grant <https://wsac.wa.gov/wcg> - As soon as possible.
- **College Deadline:** Check the website of the college(s) you are interested in attending. You may also want to ask your college about its definition of an application deadline - whether it is the date the college receives your FAFSA, or the date your FAFSA is processed.

FAFSA APP

- FAFSA ID Information: https://wsac.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2023-24_12thYear.FSAID_WASFA_Worksheet.pdf
- Create your FASFA Account: <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch>
- The FAFSA application opens on Dec. 1st this year. <https://studentaid.gov>

WASFA

(Washington Application for State Financial Aid)

The WASFA is only for those that do not qualify for the FASFA!

There are limited circumstances, beyond the applicant's immigration status, in which a person may choose to complete a WASFA instead of a FAFSA, including:

- Your parents are undocumented, or your family members do not wish to file a FAFSA.
- You or your parent(s) do not and will not file federal income taxes.
- You have federal loans that are in default.
- You owe a repayment on federal grants.

Students' ineligible for federal aid but who meet State financial aid program and residency requirements should complete the: <https://wsac.wa.gov/wasfa>