

LAKEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

Senior Handbook

Class of 2027

Home of the Cougars



Your timelines, requirements, and next steps for senior year — and beyond.

Graduation · College admissions · Financial aid · Careers & training · Military · Registration · Support

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The Senior Handbook identifies and clarifies the events and timelines you need to know during your senior year. It covers graduation, college admissions, financial planning, and post-high-school planning in general. Please share it with your parents/guardians — we believe it will be useful well beyond your senior year.

Nondiscrimination Notice. Lakewood School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, ethnicity, color, religion, creed, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, homelessness, immigration or citizenship status, disability, neurodivergence, the use of a trained dog guide or service animal, age, and honorably discharged veteran or military status and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Lakewood School District, 17110 16th Drive NE, Marysville, WA 98271, Attention: Title IX and Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator, Timothy Haines, 360-652-4500, thaines@lwsd.wednet.edu, or Section 504/ADA Coordinator, Lissan Wipfli, 360-652-4500, lwipfli@lwsd.wednet.edu. Title IX inquiries may also be directed toward the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR). Information about the nondiscrimination and sex-based discrimination policies and grievance procedures, and how to report a concern or complaint, is available at www.lwsd.wednet.edu.

Senior Timeline

Class of 2027 — what to do, and when.

Key dates at a glance

Oct 1	FAFSA / WASFA — complete as soon as it opens	Jan 31	WWU application deadline & WSU scholarship deadline
Oct 14	Senior Info Night for parents & guardians, 6 pm	Feb 1	CWU & Gonzaga application deadlines & EWU scholarship deadline
Nov 1	WWU Early Action deadline	Mar 17	Local Scholarship Notebooks due, NOON
Nov 15	UW–Seattle deadline · Gonzaga Early Action	Mar 31	WSU priority deadline
Dec	Local Scholarship Portfolio info distributed	May 1	CWU deadline
Jan 10	Senior yearbook photo due	Jun 8	Senior Awards Night, 6 pm
Jan 15	SPU deadline	Jun 11	LHS Graduation, 7 pm (tentative)

October 2026

Oct 1	Complete financial aid. Complete the FAFSA (https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa) or WASFA (https://wsac.wa.gov/wasfa) online as soon as it opens, and gather the information you'll need first. Use only the official websites — other sites may try to charge you money.
Oct 7	Senior information presented in 12th grade History classes.
Oct 14 · 6 pm	Senior Info Night for parents & guardians — Theater.
Oct 15	ASVAB offered at LHS. Considering military service or training? Get information from the Career Center, your counselor, and recruiters about branches of service and career options.
ONGOING	College applications. Applications are open at UW–Seattle and many other colleges. Some colleges send acceptance notifications earlier if you apply earlier. If you haven't started, begin as soon as possible.
ONGOING	College entrance exams. See your counselor or the Career Center for information about the SAT and ACT. Test dates are posted in the Career Center and on the testing websites. <i>Many colleges do NOT require a college entrance exam. Check the admissions requirements at the college of your choice.</i>
ONGOING	LHS Scholarship Bulletin. Available online or in the Career Center. Check application dates and apply — new scholarship notices arrive frequently, so check often.
ONGOING	Career search. Investigate options that fit your strengths, abilities, likes, and dislikes, and identify the education each requires. Visit your counselor and the Career Center for resources.

ONGOING	Colleges & vocational schools. Visit the Counseling Office or Career Center about programs and options at schools you're interested in. Check application deadlines and procedures.
ONGOING	Out-of-state schools. Check the websites of schools you're considering. Apply online.
ONGOING	Campus visits. Arrange visits to colleges and vocational schools.
ONGOING	Student-athletes. Planning to play for a Division I or II school? Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center (https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/) or the NAIA for smaller colleges.

November 2026

Nov 1	Western Washington University Early Action deadline (check other schools for early dates too).
Nov 5	Senior Class Meeting — Jostens caps & gowns, during Advisory — Theater.
Nov 10	EvCC Running Start registration opens for Winter & Spring quarters. Meet with your counselor to confirm you're meeting graduation requirements and to complete your RSEVF before registration dates.
Nov 15	University of Washington – Seattle deadline. Gonzaga Early Action deadline. Early Decision deadlines for some private colleges.
ONGOING	Apply to colleges. Applying online is the easiest and quickest way. Look into scholarship and work-study opportunities.
ONGOING	Check deadlines for admissions, financial aid, and housing applications. Meeting the "Early Decision" deadline also places you in the financial aid pools available through the college.

December 2026

Before break	Local Scholarship Portfolio information will be distributed to seniors before Winter Break.
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January 2027

Jan 4	Running Start Winter Quarter at EvCC begins. Consult your counselor when choosing Running Start classes — not all classes are acceptable substitutes for LHS requirements.
Jan 10	Senior yearbook photo due. Upload here (https://snap.yearbookforever.com/upload/1-5H-3161) — enter code LHSyearbook27 and tag the photo "Senior Portrait." Optional Senior Ads or Business Ads (https://yearbookforever.com/school-store/pEKX3Ru5Fm77uHAaVsWI2JXh) are available. Questions? dcorvin@lwsd.wednet.edu
Jan 15	SPU deadline.
Jan 26	LHS Semester 1 ends.
Jan 31	WWU application deadline & WSU scholarship application deadline.

February 2027

Feb 1	CWU & Gonzaga application deadline & EWU scholarship application deadline.
Feb 24	EvCC Spring Quarter Running Start registration begins. Meet with your counselor to confirm graduation requirements and complete your RSEVF.
Feb 26	Final day to turn in senior and baby pictures for the graduation video.
ONGOING	Scholarships. Keep checking and applying.

March 2027

Mar 17	Local Scholarship Notebooks due by NOON to the Career Center. NO EXCEPTIONS!
Mar 31	WSU priority deadline.
ONGOING	Keep planning for your career, college program, military training, and more. Visit the Counseling and Career Centers for guidance.

April 2027

Apr 5–9	LHS Spring Break.
Apr 5	Spring Quarter begins at EvCC.

May 2027

May 1	CWU deadline.
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June 2027

Jun 5	PROM
Jun 6	Baccalaureate (tentative)
Jun 8 • 6 pm	Senior Awards Night
Jun 9	Senior Check Out (tentative)
Jun 10	Senior Picnic (tentative)
Jun 11 • 7 pm	LHS Graduation (tentative)

Graduation Requirements

All students graduating from LHS must pass each requirement established by the State Legislature, the State Board of Education, and the Lakewood School District Board of Directors. A minimum of **24.0 credits** must be earned to graduate.

LHS & State Requirements	Credits	College Academic Distribution Requirements (CADR) for Admission to Washington Universities		
		Seattle Pacific, Gonzaga & PLU	Evergreen State, Central, Eastern & Washington State	University of Washington & Western
Career & Technical Ed.	1.0	—	—	—
English 9th English or Honors 10th English or Honors 11th English options 12th English options	4.0	4.0	4.0 Includes college-preparatory composition and literature	4.0 Includes at least three credits in composition and literature
Fine Arts *1.0 credit may be adjusted based on Grad Pathway	2.0*	Depends on the individual university	1.0 *or 1.0 from CADR	0.5
Mathematics Algebra · Geometry · Financial Fitness · Bridge to College Math · Algebra 2 · Pre-Calculus · Calculus · Statistics	3.0	3.0 or 4.0 Algebra, Geometry & Algebra 2 (or above). Algebra 2 is the MINIMUM! If math beyond Algebra 2 isn't taken in 11th grade, a math-based class in 12th grade is required.		
Health & Physical Education 1 Health and 3 PE classes	2.0	—	—	—
Science Lab- and algebra-based courses Science 9 (Earth/Physics or Intro to Ag) Science 10 (Biology/Chem or Animal Bio) Science 11 (Chem/Physics) Adv Animal Bio · Chemistry · Advanced Bio/Forensics · Physics · Ocean/Marine Biology	3.0	2.0 Must be lab-based	2.0 Must be lab-based	2.0 Must be lab-based
Social Studies World History or Military History (10th) US History or Honors US (11th) CWI/Civics or Honors Gov (12th)	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
World Language *Credits may be adjusted based on Grad Pathway	2.0*	2.0 In a single language	2.0 In a single language	2.0 minimum In a single language
Electives	4.0	—	—	—
CREDITS REQUIRED	24.0			

Not sure whether your course choices meet a specific university's requirements? Check with your counselor and the admissions page for each school.

Credit Remediation

If you are deficient in graduation requirements, contact your counselor about:

- **Alternative Education classes at Lakewood High School.** See your counselor for more information.
- **Correspondence courses and make-up classes** through a community college or online program. These must be approved in advance through your counselor, are paid for by the student, and must be completed through an accredited program.

My Graduation Plan

NAME _____

DATE _____

24.0 CREDITS (.5 credit per class)

ENGLISH (4.0 credits)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ☐ 9 | ☐ 9 |
| ☐ 10 | ☐ 10 |
| ☐ 11 | ☐ 11 |
| ☐ 12 | ☐ 12 |

MATH (3.0 credits)

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ☐ _____ | ☐ _____ |
| ☐ _____ | ☐ _____ |
| ☐ _____ | ☐ _____ |

SCIENCE (3.0 credits)

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ☐ _____ | ☐ _____ |
| ☐ _____ | ☐ _____ |
| ☐ _____ | ☐ _____ |

SOCIAL STUDIES (3.0 credits)

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ World History | ☐ World History |
| ☐ U.S. History | ☐ U.S. History |
| ☐ Current World Issues | ☐ Civics |

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (1.5 credits)

- | |
|--------------------------------|
| ☐ _____ |
| ☐ _____ |
| ☐ _____ |

HEALTH (.5 credit)

- | |
|--------------------------------|
| ☐ _____ |
|--------------------------------|

CAREER/TECHNICAL EDUCATION (1.0 credits)

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ☐ _____ | ☐ _____ |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|

FINE ARTS (2.0 credits) *Can waive up to 1.0 credits

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ☐ _____ | ☐ _____ |
| ☐ _____ | ☐ _____ |

WORLD LANGUAGE (2.0 credits) *Can waive up to 2.0 credits

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ☐ _____ | ☐ _____ |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|

ELECTIVES (4.0 credits)

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ☐ _____ | ☐ _____ |
| ☐ _____ | ☐ _____ |

☐ **WASHINGTON STATE HISTORY** is required for graduation. Most students take this in middle school. *If you have not passed this class, see your counselor!*

HSBP (High School & Beyond Plan)

- ☐ Career/Technical Field
- ☐ General Postsecondary Education
- ☐ Military Enlistment

Graduation Pathway

- ☐ CTE sequence (Dual Credit or Industry Cert.)

Notes: _____

- ☐ ASVAB score

Postsecondary Education:

- ☐ SBA ELA _____ SBA Math _____
- ☐ SAT or ACT _____
- ☐ College/Dual Credit in ELA _____ or Math _____
- ☐ Bridges English _____ Bridges Math _____
- ☐ AP/IB/Cambridge Course/Exam _____
- ☐ Combination of ELA or Math option

Notes: _____

Semester Record

Grade/Semester	Credits
7th/8th	_____
9-1	_____
9-2	_____
10-1	_____
10-2	_____
11-1	_____
11-2	_____
12-1	_____
12-2	_____
TOTAL credits	_____

Additional Notes

Colleges & Universities

What admissions teams look for

Many colleges and universities take a holistic approach to admissions. They look at your choice of courses during your junior and senior years, grade trends, community service, leadership, adversities overcome, and your college essay or personal statement.

Private & out-of-state colleges

Each school has its own admission guidelines. Consult the school you're considering for specific information.

Community colleges, vocational/technical & trade schools

A specific GPA is usually not required, but success at this level is directly tied to the courses you take during your junior and senior years. Continuing math, science, and English will help you reach the highest level possible on entrance placement exams.

Attend the orientations offered at community colleges and vocational schools. **Apply early and apply online.**

Financial Assistance

Scholarships

The Career Center is committed to helping you find scholarships. The **LHS Scholarship Bulletin** is available online and lists many scholarships with dates and application details; applications for some are available in the Career Center. You can also enlist the help of parents, friends, and employers. Most scholarships weigh some combination of:

Financial need	Academic & achievement record	Athletics, activities & leadership	SAT/ACT scores	Letters of recommendation
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How to apply for a scholarship or job

1. Build a portfolio or résumé

Gather these items for college applications, scholarship searches, résumés, and job applications. Keep them in one folder — paper or digital — so they're ready when you need them.

☐ Transcript copy, GPA, class rank	☐ Volunteerism or community service
☐ Test scores: PSAT, SAT, ACT	☐ List of deadlines
☐ School and community activities	☐ Official transcripts
☐ Honors or awards	☐ Applications and forms
☐ Hobbies and interests	☐ Copies of essays
☐ Letters of recommendation	☐ Envelopes and stamps (for paper applications)
☐ Work history	☐ Parent/guardian's most recent tax return (for FAFSA and scholarships)

2. Keep examining your personal goals

Be prepared to write essays on topics related to the awarding agency or on personal subjects.

3. Get letters of recommendation

Ask three people — community leaders, teachers, or employers — if they'd be willing to write a letter of recommendation for you.

- Complete your personal student data sheet and give it to the person writing your letter (see the Career Center).
- Watch deadlines. Allow at least **two weeks** for a letter to be completed.
- Be as specific as you can — details help someone write a personal letter.
- Follow up with a thank-you note, or at least a "thank you" the next day.

Strategies that work

- **Be persistent.** You will need to put in a lot of time and effort before you get the results you want.
- **Someone is going to win the scholarship.** If you apply, it might be you. If you don't, it won't be. Scholarships don't come looking for students — find the ones that fit your goals and apply.
- **The greater the effort, the greater the chance of reward.**

Start early in your senior year and build a file of scholarships, information, and applications. The requirements of one scholarship may be easy to meet while another is out of reach. Some are eagerly sought; others go unused. Start looking now.

Where to look

- **Local Lakewood scholarships.** Local organizations award several scholarships to Lakewood seniors. Many are selected from the **Local Scholarship Portfolio** — available online in December and due before Spring Break.
- **Employers.** Check with your or your parent's employer(s), union, and professional organization. Many offer scholarships, and you may have a built-in advantage.
- **Military.** If you're willing to serve for a period of time, scholarships and aid are available.
- **The colleges you're considering.** Every school has a financial aid office designed to help students find scholarship information. Start early — most financial decisions and awards are finalized by March or April for the following fall.
- **Free searches.** Many websites offer free scholarship searches. You should never have to pay for a site to do the searching for you.

Financial Aid

Financial aid is a combination of grants, work-study, and low-interest loans, and the amount you receive is based primarily on financial need — family and/or student income is the determining factor. Start the **FAFSA** (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) or **WASFA** (Washington Application for State Financial Aid) as soon as it opens this fall, and don't delay — resources are limited. The official sites are [FAFSA: studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov) and [WASFA: wsac.wa.gov/wasfa](http://wsac.wa.gov/wasfa).

If you are accepted for enrollment at an approved postsecondary institution and are an eligible U.S. citizen (or meet other criteria), you qualify for consideration through either form. The same form enrolls you in the Washington State Need Grant program. Once you're enrolled, each institution's financial aid office decides what assistance to offer, and both state and private colleges control their own funds. Students and families are encouraged to apply even if they think they won't qualify — most schools base loan qualification on this information, and many people pursuing higher education will need loans to help pay the way.

Grants Gifts that do not need to be repaid. Pell and SEOG grants are for students with significant financial need.	Loans Available from the federal government and from private lenders. Generally low interest, with repayment starting after you leave school. Be an informed borrower — don't borrow more than you really need. Loans must be repaid.	College Work-Study Employment with non-profit organizations, usually within the school you attend. Typically only for students with the highest need. Contact your school's financial aid office.
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Employment & Career Training

Vocational Training

Specific career training is available through a community college, a technical college, or a private vocational school. Each has strong points — investigate carefully to make sure the school is a good fit for you.

- **Community colleges and vocational-technical schools** offer vocational training at a lower cost.
- **Private schools** offer shorter completion times and let you enter the labor market sooner. Tuition may be higher, but scholarship opportunities may be greater as well.

How to choose a school

Compare each school you're considering on these points:

State licensing & accreditation	Is the school licensed by your state's post-secondary school licensing bureau? Accreditation is an important indicator: it means an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education has examined the school's educational quality, teaching ability, and administrative integrity.
Courses	Are the courses up to date, well rounded, and high quality? Will they prepare you for your field? Do instructors have professional experience in the career? How long will training take? Can you start right away, or is there a waiting list — and if so, how soon can you start and what must you do while waiting? Do you need a state license or to be bonded before practicing this occupation?
Facilities & equipment	What buildings, classrooms, facilities, and equipment does the school offer? Is the equipment current with what's used in the field?
Hands-on training	Does the school have a lab or shop that duplicates a real work environment?
Placement assistance	Does the school offer regular placement help? How does it help graduates find jobs, what kinds of jobs do they get, and what is the school's placement record?
Cost	What is the total cost of tuition, supplies, and fees? Can you realistically afford it? What is the school's refund policy?

Apprenticeship Training

Apprenticeship can be a great way to learn one of the high-demand, high-paying trades in our state — **and you earn a wage while you learn**. About 200 trades and crafts in Washington have apprenticeship programs, and the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries offers information about them. Apprenticeships are generally available in trades that involve working with your hands.

Requirements vary by trade and area. State law requires that you be at least sixteen, and most programs require eighteen. Most require a high school diploma or GED. Terms typically run one to five years, depending on the occupation; to master a trade, an apprentice must learn and perfect each skill to the speed and accuracy the job requires. Once you're selected, a written agreement is made, and you'll work with and be supervised by skilled craftspeople — journeypersons or masters — who have earned that title in their trade.

Learn more at [the L&I apprenticeship page](https://www.lni.wa.gov/licensing-permits/apprenticeship/become-apprentice/) (https://www.lni.wa.gov/licensing-permits/apprenticeship/become-apprentice/), see your counselor, or contact the Washington State Regional Apprenticeship Coordinator.

Military Service

Military training and service offer a variety of opportunities. Members of each branch receive equal pay and benefits. Graduates who enter the service are encouraged to take part in the Educational Assistance Program, which helps pay for higher education and training once your tour of duty is complete. Check with your recruiter for more options and program specifics.

Immediate benefits • Educational and career training (technical and professional) • Opportunity to become a commissioned officer through ROTC or military academies • Travel • Specific guaranteed training on entry • Free medical and dental care • Guaranteed pay • Promotion opportunities	Long-term benefits • G.I. Bill • Scholarships and fellowships • Pay bonuses • Thirty days of paid vacation every year • Certain housing, medical, and educational services for families • Low-cost life insurance • FHA In-Service Insured Loan for buying a home • Retirement benefits with 20 years of service
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See the Career Center for military contact information.

Selective Service Registration

WHO	All males within 30 days before or after their 18th birthday.
WHERE	Online at www.sss.gov , or at any U.S. Post Office.
HOW	Fill out a registration form. You'll need your name, birth date, address, Social Security number, telephone number, and other information, plus identification if you register in person.
WHY	Registration is required by law. Failure to register is a felony, punishable by a \$250,000 fine and/or a five-year prison term. Registration is also a requirement to obtain federal financial aid, job training benefits, and federal employment.

Registration rules can change — confirm current requirements at sss.gov.

Voter Registration

Voting is the privilege and responsibility of all citizens 18 and older. [Register to vote online](https://voter.votewa.gov/portal2023/login.aspx) (<https://voter.votewa.gov/portal2023/login.aspx>). To register you must be a U.S. citizen, have lived in the state, county, and precinct for 30 days before the election, be 18 by the time you vote, and not be serving a sentence that denies your civil rights.

Where to Turn for Help

Counseling Center

The counselors at Lakewood High School are here for you. They're trained to help with personal, academic, vocational, career, and social matters, with the overall goal of helping you be productive and fulfilled in every area of your life. They can personally and confidentially help with anything that may be an obstacle to your success and happiness, in school or outside it. Counselors can help with:

- Crisis intervention and support
- Substance abuse issues
- Career awareness and planning
- Educational and training opportunities
- Conflict resolution and anger management
- Decision making and goal setting
- Study techniques and placement

Career Center

The Career Center is where you can explore career options and personality traits. It offers the information you need to make informed decisions that lead to a successful, satisfying career. You'll find it next to the Counseling Center within Student Services.

Student Services Center

Name	Role	Phone	Email
Calista Ham	Counselor (A–K)	(360) 652-4505 x 8108	cham@lwsd.wednet.edu
Marco Quezada	Counselor (L–Z)	(360) 652-4505 x 8107	mquezada@lwsd.wednet.edu
Kassie Maras	Registrar	(360) 652-4505 x 8111	kmaras@lwsd.wednet.edu
Melanie Irish	Career Center	(360) 652-4505 x 8109	mirish@lwsd.wednet.edu

A note from all of us

We sincerely hope this Senior Handbook proves useful as you plan your senior year and your goals beyond high school. As you look ahead, we hope you'll approach your career decision-making with respect, thoughtfulness, and care. We believe in you, and we predict you'll choose paths that bring contentment, fulfillment, and personal success in the years ahead. Don't hesitate to call on us — we are here to help.