



COLLEGE AND FINANCIAL AID NIGHT

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COLLEGE INFORMATION

Different types of higher education

Resources

Testing

College Applications

Scholarships/Rec Letters

FAFSA

Financial Aid Presentation by Debbie Wysomierski

DIFFERENT TYPES OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Vocational-Technical and Career College-Associates in Applied Science or Certification

- Programs geared toward specific career fields and Applied Learning.
- Unions and Apprenticeships.

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

- Offer Associates degrees that can transfer on to a 4 year college or university in the state of Washington.
- Offer Associates and Certifications that are specific to a certain career.

4 year University/College-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>
- A student can start after they graduate High School, or go as a transfer student once they complete their Associates at a 2 year college (DTA) <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 at face to face 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:

- Sunday 11/14/21 10:00am - 3:00 PM (PST): https://www.nacacfairs.org/globalassets/college-fair--homepage/virtual-college-fairs/attend/fall-2021/nacac_virtualcollegefairs_fall2021_nov14.pdf
- <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

- Easiest way is to go directly to the university/college's website.
- Have all of your information ready before you start the application process.
- Keep track of the essays you write, many schools will ask similar questions.
- Sending your "Official" transcript:
 - ❖ Bring in an envelop to Ms. Bitts with the desired school's admissions address and a stamp on it.
 - ❖ Common App/SendEDU/Coalition your school counselor will upload it once you finish the application.
 - ❖ You can also stop by Student Services and sign a release for it to be sent electronically; if the school prefers it sent that way.

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)
- ❖ Many private colleges in Washington use this for applications, it is a one application site that can be used for schools across multiple states.

Coalition App

- <http://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/members.html>
- ❖ University of Washington and all of its campuses use this site.

TESTING: Things Have Changed!

There are now around 1700 Colleges/Universities that are test blind or test-optional!
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/12Me6GBNHMIU5VBeLAXqAjc9n1rjHAomv/edit#gid=1780282727>

SAT:

- We now offer School Day SAT, this is only for SWHS students (will typically be in the Spring for Juniors)
- Where to find test dates and test locations off-site (Weekend)
 - ❖ <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 Rec.

- **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 they have had more than once, or 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 a students employer/manager, youth group leader, or a supervisor in places a student has volunteered
 - In the past, Local Scholarship providers have been told that school teachers/school counselors will not be providing letters of rec.

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!

- TheWashboard.org (State of Washington Site): <https://washboard.wsac.wa.gov/login.aspx>
- GoingMerry: <https://www.goingmerry.com/>
- Fastweb: <https://www.fastweb.com/>
- Microfunding: <https://www.raise.me/>

Local Scholarships

- Will be available the beginning of February 2022 and deadline will be April 1st unless a specific scholarship posts a different deadline.
- Will be able to be found on the Student Services page on the school's website.

FINANCIAL AID

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

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. 2020 Tax Records.
5. Records of your untaxed income.
6. Records of your assets (money).

FAFSA Deadlines: Class of 2022

- **Federal Deadline:** The FAFSA form must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. Central time (CT) on June 30, 2022. Any corrections or updates must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CT on Sept. 10, 2022.
- **State Deadline:** Washington College Grant <https://wsac.wa.gov/wcg> - As soon as possible after October 1, 2021.
- **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

- MyStudentAid
- You can start filling out your FAFSA application on the app Oct. 1st

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>