

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON DREAM PROJECT

Dream Scholar Workbook

Ninth Edition, April 2014

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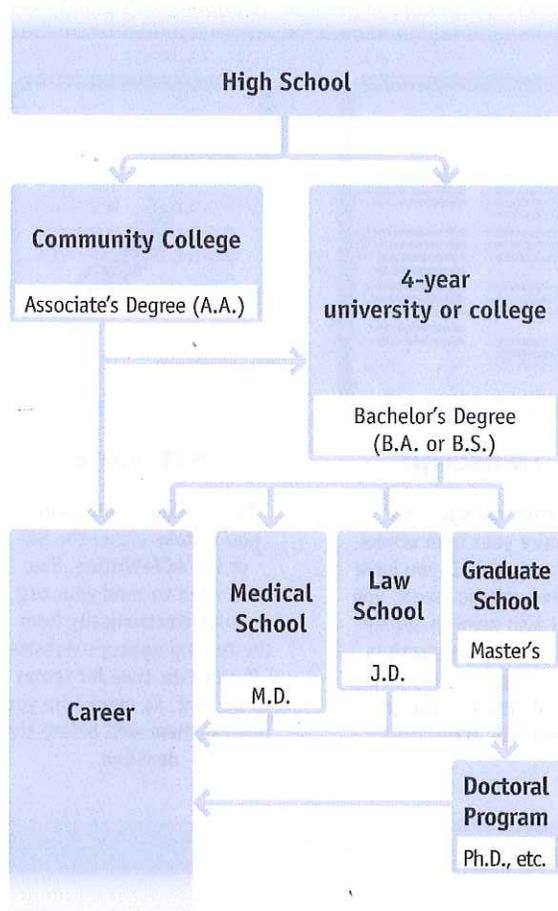
More information about the Dream Project is available at www.dreamproject.uw.edu.

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The Process of Higher Education

■ This chart can help you plan **your path** through higher education.



Average Income by Education Level¹

Less than H.S.	\$21,491
H.S. Graduate	\$33,618
Some College	\$38,676
Associate's Degree	\$41,226
Bachelor's Degree	\$60,954
Master's Degree	\$71,236
Doctorate Degree	\$99,995
Professional Degree	\$125,622

College

The general term for all higher education.

University

A four-year institution that has both undergraduate and graduate students. A university often includes many "colleges" or "schools" within it, such as the College of Engineering or the School of Law.

Branch Campus

Some universities have a main campus and multiple branch campuses located elsewhere around the state. They typically offer a limited number of programs compared to the main campus.

Community College (previously known as Junior College)

A two-year institution that offers only associate's degrees, which is typically the equivalent of the first two years of a four-year degree.

Technical College (or Vocational School)

A school that provides specialized training for a certain industry.

M.S.I. (minority-serving institution)

Institutions with more than 25% of their students from a particular minority student population. Examples: HBCU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) & TCU (Tribal Colleges and Universities).

Major

Primary area of study at college, such as English, International Studies, or Civil Engineering.

Double Major

When a college student has two primary areas of study. This second focus typically requires extra coursework.

Minor (or emphasis)

Secondary area of study at college. This may or may not be related to your major.

A.A. or A.S.

Associate of Arts or *Associate of Science*. A two-year degree from a community college. Also referred to as an Associate's Degree.

B.A. or B.S. (or undergraduate degree)

Bachelor of Arts or *Bachelor of Science*. A four-year degree often referred to as a Bachelor's Degree, undergraduate degree, or college degree.

M.D. (doctor)

Medical Doctorate. A degree required to be a doctor of medicine. Three to four years of extra schooling after B.A. or B.S.

J.D. (lawyer)

Juris Doctorate. A law degree required to be a lawyer. Typically three years of extra schooling after B.A. or B.S.

Master's

Degree earned after completing graduate school. One to two years of extra schooling after B.A. or B.S.

Ph.D.

Doctor of Philosophy. Degree earned after completion of a doctoral program. Requires extra years of schooling after master's degree.

Professional Degree

Usually, the highest degree for a specific career, such as M.D., J.D., etc.

1. Annual Social and Economic (ASEC) Supplement. Bureau of the Census, Bureau of Labor and Statistics. http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/cpstables/032009/perinc/new03_001.htm. Accessed March 17, 2010.

Parts of a College Application

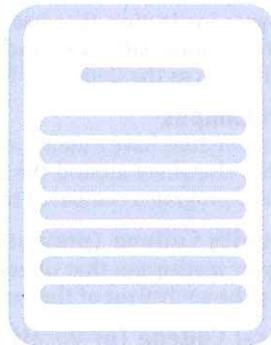
■ Every college application is different, but here are the most common components.

Required components of any college application



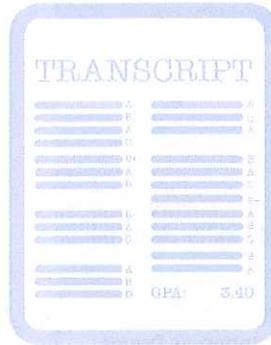
The Application

Most colleges use their own custom application form, but many schools use a shared application called the Common App. You can usually submit the application online or on paper, and you'll include all of the other components (listed here) together.



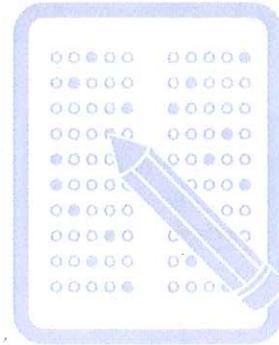
Personal Statement/Essay

This is perhaps the most critical element of your application. Think of your personal statement as a way for admissions officers to get to know who are you and why you want to attend their college.



Transcript

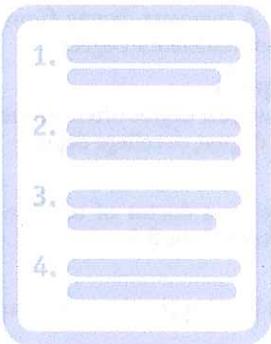
Most colleges will require your high school transcript(s). If you have earned college credit, you will also need to submit your college transcripts. In the application process, colleges only accept "official" transcripts.



Test Scores

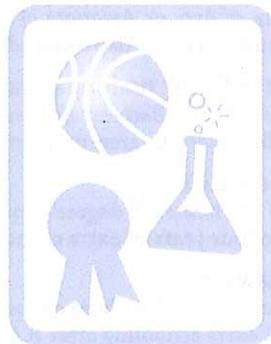
Most colleges will require you to take either the SAT or the ACT+Writing. You will need to send your test scores electronically from the testing agency's website. It can take time for scores to be sent, so make sure you request them well before the deadline.

Other components, depending on the college's process



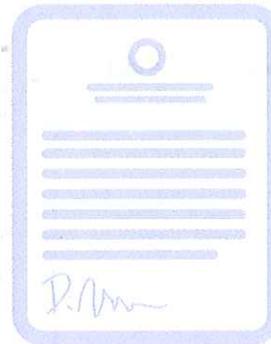
Short Answer Responses

Many schools ask extra questions beyond your personal statement. These short responses usually focus on specific concepts like diversity and culture.



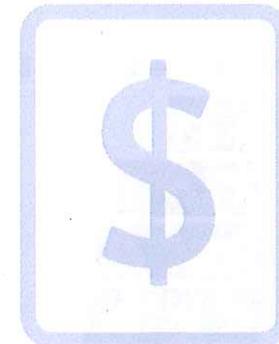
Activities Log/Résumé

Colleges often ask for a listing of your extracurricular activities to get a sense of your involvement outside of school not covered in your personal statement.



Letters of Recommendation

Sometimes a college will require one or more letters of recommendation. Identify individuals (typically not family) in your life who can write you a strong letter.



Financial Aid (FAFSA)

Eligible students should fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in order to be considered for federal and state financial aid.

Myths and facts about college

■ You've probably heard a lot about college. Some of it may not be true.

About finding the right college...

MYTH: There is only one perfect college for me.

FACT: There are probably many colleges that would be good fits for you. The bottom line is that you want to choose a college that you will enjoy being at for the next few years, offers the programs you might be interested in studying, and is located in an area that will allow you to grow socially and academically. Doing your research will decrease your stress and allow you to have a positive college experience.

MYTH: College campuses are so big. I won't be able to find the help I need.

FACT: Yes, there are some college campuses that are as large as cities. But there are also college campuses that may be even smaller than your high school. Regardless of what college you ultimately attend, there will be resources on campus to help ease your transition and help you succeed in college. Your job is to seek them out for help and be persistent.

MYTH: I've never heard of that college before; therefore, it must not be a good school.

FACT: There are more than 4,000 colleges and universities across the country. Sometimes a little research and exploration about a particular college will tell you much more than just a name. So, don't judge a college just by its name or its reputation.

MYTH: I have to declare my major and decide my career before I choose my college.

FACT: Absolutely not. Most college applications only ask you what your "intended" major might be, but that does not mean it is set in stone. College is a time for you to explore your academic interests and discover an area you might want to major in. More often than not, you'll find your major is something you never even heard of in high school, so you have a good amount of time to discover and decide in college.

About getting accepted into college...

MYTH: I can't get accepted. I didn't get all A's. Colleges only look at my GPA and test scores.

FACT: While your grades are important, getting into college is not only about your grades. The minimum GPA for a four-year college or university in Washington State is 2.0. But doing your best academically is still important. In addition to your grades, colleges also want to know what kind of classes you are taking, what activities you have participated in during high school, and what your personal story and journey toward college has been.

MYTH: I don't participate in extra-curricular activities because I am too busy working or helping my family. Without a lot of activities on my list, I won't seem competitive as an applicant.

FACT: Colleges understand that personal and familial circumstances might limit your participation in activities. If that is the case, your application allows for the opportunity to share some of these situations. However, working or helping your family also count as legitimate extra-curricular activities that colleges will be interested in hearing about.

MYTH: I can't get into college if English isn't my first language.

FACT: There are plenty of students currently in college whose first language is not English. If English is not your first language, you may face a few additional hurdles in your college application process (i.e. ELL classes and college entrance requirements). The bottom line is that you can go to college even if English is not your first language. Make sure to work with your Dream Team mentor to ensure that any ELL classes you have taken will count toward your college entrance requirements. ("ELL" = English Language Learner; "ESL" = English as a Second Language)

MYTH: Just applying to college costs a lot of money (application fees, test fees, etc.)

FACT: While it's true that there are a lot of fees and costs associated with college applications, you can often get a fee waiver if you meet certain criteria. Your high school counselor can help you get a fee waiver for the SAT or ACT tests, and you should talk to each college individually about waiving your application fee. Often, if you can show that you were given an SAT or ACT fee waiver, the college will automatically waive your application fee.

Myths and facts about college *continued*

About affording college...

MYTH: The school I want to go to has an estimated cost of \$20,000. I will never be able to pay that much money.

FACT: While you may not be able to pay that cost out of pocket, there is definitely financial aid available for you from multiple sources. This means everyone (including you) can afford to go to college. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is a great opportunity for you to apply for financial aid from the federal government and your university in the form of scholarships, grants, work-study, and loans. Beyond the FAFSA, you can also apply for scholarships from private organizations to help cover the costs of attending college.

MYTH: I don't think I qualify for any scholarships, and I can't pay for college without them.

FACT: A majority of students pay for college only with financial aid (grants, loans, and work study). Scholarships reduce the amount of money you have to borrow or pay out of pocket. There are billions of dollars in scholarships available for all sorts of students. Some scholarships may be based on financial need; others may be based on academics, athletics, community service, leadership, overcoming adversity, or any other criteria. Your job is to find as many of these scholarships as you can, and apply for all the ones for which you qualify. While scholarship contests are typically very competitive, the only way you are guaranteed to not get a scholarship is if you don't apply.

MYTH: Because of the cost of higher education, I can only apply to inexpensive schools.

FACT: You don't really know how much college will cost out of pocket until you apply, are accepted, and receive a financial aid package. This means that you should apply to colleges that fit you, regardless of cost. With the availability of financial aid, you can have many options for schools. At the same time, it would be wise to consider costs among your set of criteria for choosing the best college that fits you—but it should not determine your choice.

About going to and succeeding at college...

MYTH: College will be way too hard. It's just not for me.

FACT: In some ways, college may be harder than high school. But in other ways, college may actually be easier than high school. You may not get the grades you expected and/or got in high school; however, college offers you the opportunity to explore your academic interests and pursue areas of study in which you know you will succeed. Colleges also offer opportunities to help you succeed in school, get to know your professors, and other helpful resources on campus.

MYTH: I don't know what I want to study and once I pick a major I have to stick with it.

FACT: Most people enter college not knowing what they want to study or end up changing their major by the time they graduate. College is an opportunity to explore your academic interests, and you do not have to choose your major until perhaps your junior year of college. If you plan well with your advisors and counselors, you may be able to even pursue multiple majors.

MYTH: Since I live close to my college, I have to live at home and commute.

FACT: While living on campus means additional costs, your financial aid award will include funds for living expenses. The experience of living in a residence hall on a college campus is very unique. It allows you to be more connected with your classmates and activities happening on campus. The university itself is its own community, and being a part of this community will help you grow as a person and stay connected to important resources.

MYTH: Teachers at my school know me but none of the professors at college will ever get to know me personally.

FACT: In the same way that you develop your relationship with your teachers in high school by talking to them before, after or during class, you will have the opportunity to develop relationships with your professors as well. While they are also very busy individuals, they are there to help you learn. Depending on the size of your college class, you may have more or less access to your professor in class. However, each professor will also have office hours during which you can visit him or her. Your relationships with them will become very important when you need to request letters of recommendation for scholarships, internships, graduate school, or other activities.

**What other thoughts have you had about college?
Talk about it with a Dream Team member and get the real scoop about college!**

Learn about your college choices

College Mailing Lists

What will I get?

- Information about majors and programs
- Information about visiting the campus
- Application deadline reminders
- Sometimes football tickets and access to other activities!



Schools will not sell your information, so feel free to sign up for as many schools as you are interested in.

How do I sign up?

- Visit the Dream Project's college list website: www.dreamproject.washington.edu/CollegeList/
- Visit a college's admissions homepage and look for the "request information" link
- If you can't find a way to sign up for a mailing list, contact the admissions office directly

College Fairs

- Admissions counselors and colleges representatives meet in one place to talk with prospective applicants about opportunities at their schools.
- You can explore the wide range of colleges and universities that are out there, in one place.
- Your school may hold one of these fairs at your high school, so talk with your high school counselor to make sure you know when it is.

My College Fairs

Seattle NACAC College Fair

Washington State Convention and Trade Center
800 Convention Place, Seattle, WA 98101

Friday, October 31, 2014 9 am–12pm
Saturday, November 1, 2014 12–4pm

Register in advance at nacacnet.org to get a personal, scannable barcode!

My high school's college fair

Date: _____

Time: _____

Location: _____

College Admission Visits

- Admissions counselors or representatives come to individual high schools during the fall to talk directly with you.
- Sign up early with your high school counselor or at your college and career center.

Which colleges fit you the best?

■ Do your research to make sure your college selections are **good places for you.**

Factors to Consider and Discuss

- **Location.** Distance from home, weather, urban or rural, etc.
- **Programs Available/School Focus.** Are there programs or majors offered here that aren't available at other colleges?
- **Public vs. Private.** A public university's tuition is subsidized by the state government, so it can sometimes be cheaper.
- **Secular vs. Religious.** You don't have to be religious to go to a religious college and you don't have to go to a religious college to study religion. Some might require attendance at religious services.
- **Diversity.** The types of cultures, languages, and people represented on the campus or community.
- **Size.** Number of students, campus size, city population, etc.
- **In-state vs. Out-of-state.** In-state tuition at public schools is usually cheaper than tuition at out-of-state public schools.
- **Cost.** Don't let the listed cost of attendance stop you from applying. The amount you pay depends on a financial aid package, which is offered after you are accepted.
- **Selectivity.** How competitive is it to get in? How many new students do they accept each year?
- **4-year vs. 2-year college.** Community colleges offer 2-year degrees with a path to transfer to a 4-year school.

Apply to at least three: Reach, Solid, and Safety

You should **apply to at least three colleges**, and they should fall within these three categories:

- **Reach** – You might not get in, but it's worth applying because you really want to go.
- **Solid** – You're a competitive applicant and will likely be accepted.
- **Safety** – You'll definitely get accepted, and it's a backup in case the others don't work out.

Public 4-Year Colleges and Universities in Washington

There are **6 public** colleges and universities in Washington.

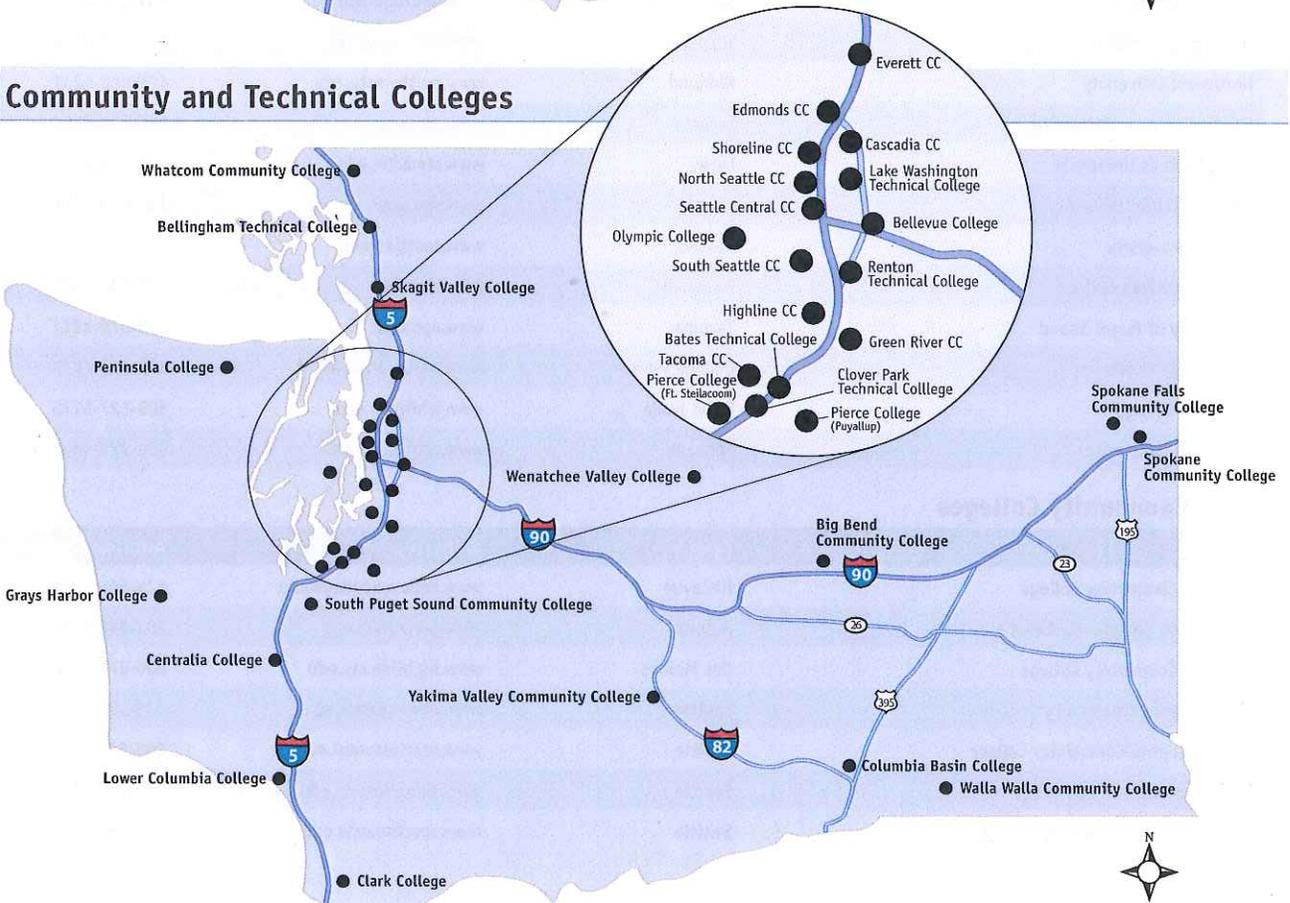
You can see a full interactive map of all public, private and community colleges online at <http://dreamproject.washington.edu/CollegeList>.



Private 4-Year Colleges and Universities



Community and Technical Colleges



Washington State

High School Graduation Requirements vs. CADRs

- Requirements to graduate HS and requirements for eligibility for a 4-year college are different.
- CADR stands for College Academic Distribution Requirements.

⚠ Check with your high-school counselor or Dream Project mentor for your school's requirements.
 Graduation requirements vary by high school.

	Minimum High School Graduation Requirements	Minimum CADR
Math	3 years	3 years Must complete Algebra 2 or Integrated 3
English	3 years	4 years Only one ESL/ELL year will count
Science	2 years Must include 1 lab science	2 years Must include 2 lab sciences
Social Studies	2.5 credits 1 credit U.S. History & Government and 0.5 credit Washington State History	3 years
Health & Fitness	2 credits	0 credits <i>No requirements</i>
Occupational Ed. <small>classes include (but not limited to): business, technology, family and consumer science, and other career and technical classes</small>	1 credit	0 credits <i>No requirements</i>
Arts	1 credit <i>*May vary by district</i>	1 credit <i>*Note that the University of Washington and Western Washington University only require 0.5 credit</i>
Foreign/World Language	0 credits <i>No requirements</i>	2 years Must complete through year 2 or higher
Electives	5.5 credits Pass HSPE Math, Science, Reading, Writing Complete Culminating Project Complete High School and Beyond Plan	<i>*Other: students must take a math-based class during senior year. This can be the course you take for your math requirement, or a math-based science class like physics or chemistry.</i>

Note that these are minimum requirements to be considered at public colleges in Washington state and do not guarantee admission. Also, remember that community colleges have no minimum requirements.

Summer activities before Senior Year

■ Even though the Dream Project doesn't meet regularly over the summer, there's still plenty that you should do to be ready for the fall!

1. Research potential colleges

- Use the concepts listed on page 6 (“Which colleges fit you the best?”) and brainstorm more potential colleges.
- Once you find schools, **visit their websites**, explore what **majors** they offer, and contact the admissions office for an **information packet**.

2. Visit potential colleges

- Take a **formal tour** from the Visitors Center or the Admissions Office.
- Attend an **information session** for prospective students.
- Go **sit in on a class**. Ask the Admissions Office for a list of available classes.
- Familiarize yourself with the **surrounding area**.
- Stop and **Talk to students** walking around campus (we're friendly, we promise). Ask them questions such as:
 - “Why did you choose this school?”
 - “Do you like being a student here?”
 - “What are the best and worst things about this school?”

3. Practice for the SAT or ACT+Writing

- Enroll in the **EAN Test Prep Class** in the summer.
- Get a **test prep book** – you can buy one or check one out from the library.
- Explore the free test prep sections at www.collegeboard.com and www.actstudent.org.
- Take a timed SAT or ACT **Practice Test**. Request a practice test from your counselor.

4. Search and apply for scholarships

- Create **free accounts at scholarship websites** like www.theWashBoard.org.
- Visit **ScholarshipJunkies.com** for tips, advice, and scholarship opportunities from past national scholarship winners.
- Search and **create a list** of potential scholarships by due date.
- Based on that list, **brainstorm topics** for scholarship essays.
- Think about which teachers, counselors, advisers, etc., could write **strong letters of recommendation** for you. *See page 25 for more information about letters of recommendation.*
- Find **at least 3 scholarships** you will apply for in the fall. *See page 52 for information about scholarships.*

5. Engage in activities that make your college applications more competitive

These sorts of activities can improve parts of your college applications such as your activities log.

- Become a **volunteer** at a community organization.
- Find an **internship** at a local company or get a **summer job**. *See the next page for ideas.*

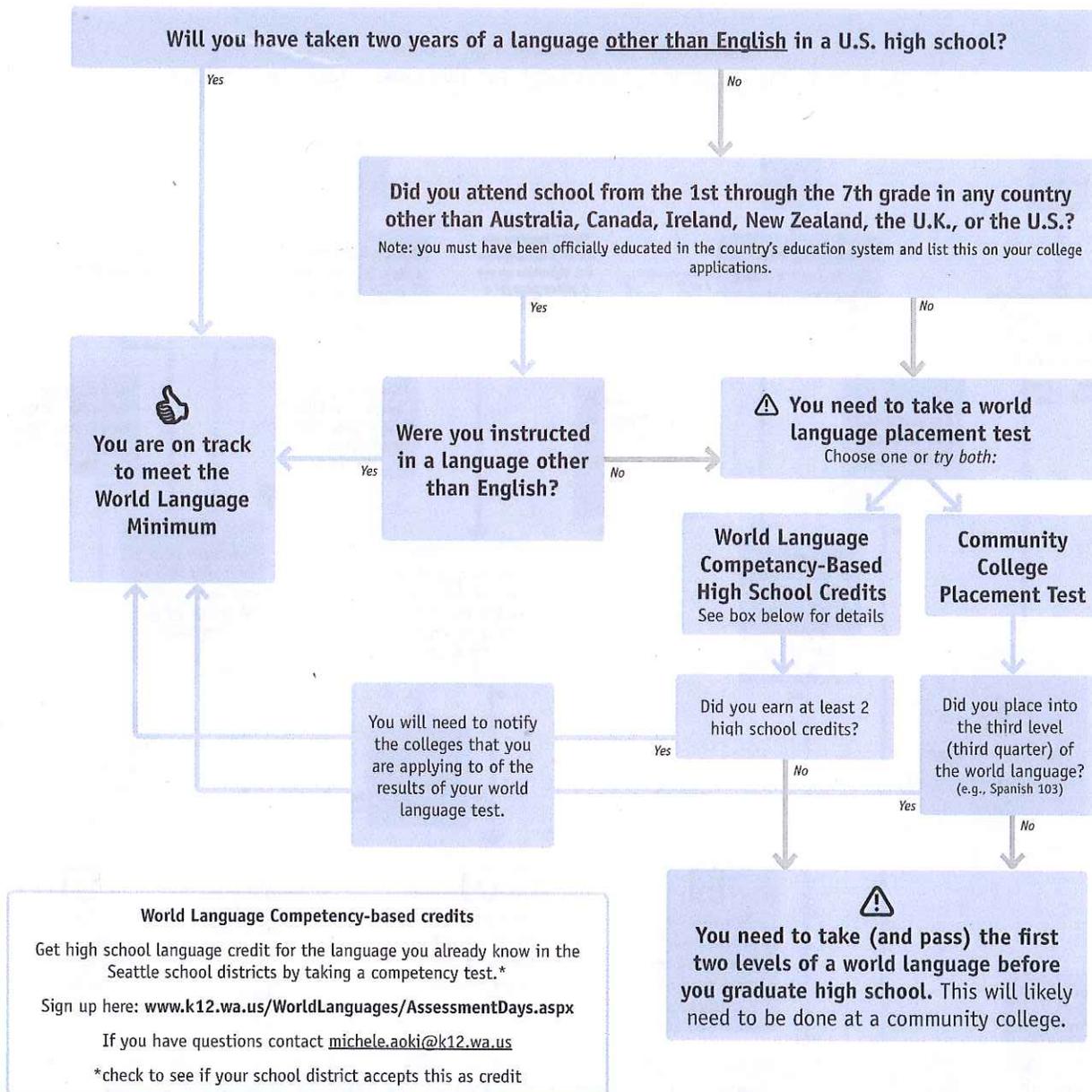
Notes

Minimum 4-year college entrance requirements *continued*

What if you already speak another language?

■ If English wasn't your first language, you grew up in a different country, or you took classes outside of the U.S., you should use this page to **make sure that you will meet the college entrance core requirements for world language.**

By the time you graduate high school...



I am on track to meet World Language Core: (circle one)



Yes



I need to take a test

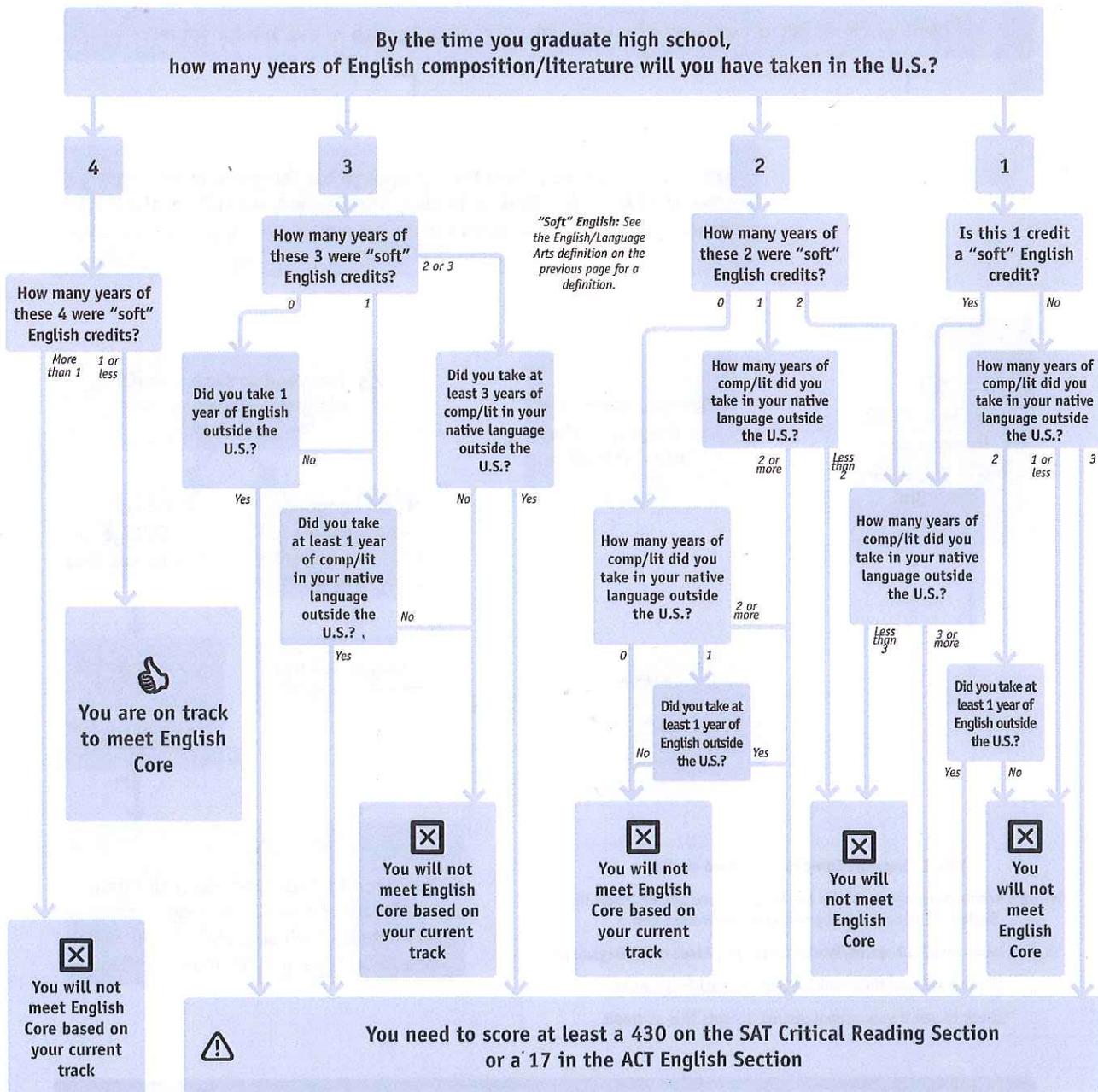


I need to take classes

Minimum 4-year college entrance requirements *continued*

How do you meet core requirements if your first language isn't English?

■ If English wasn't your first language, you grew up in a different country, or you took classes outside of the U.S., use this page to **make sure that you will meet the core requirements for English.**

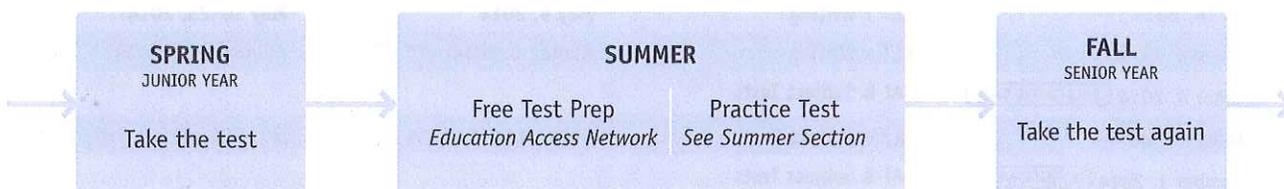


I am on track to meet English Core: (circle one) Yes I need a score of 430 or 17 No

Preparing for the SAT* or ACT tests

■ Take the time to learn the strategies for taking standardized tests.

Suggested Timeline



SAT*	- vs -	ACT
www.collegeboard.com	WEBSITE	www.actstudent.org
\$50*	COST	\$50.50*
Three Sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical reading • Mathematics • Writing 	SECTIONS	Five Sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Mathematics • Reading • Science • Optional Writing Section
Each section worth 800 points Total of possible 2400 points	POINTS	Each section worth 36 points Section scores averaged into " composite score " out of 36
4 hours , with short breaks	TIME	4.5 hours (including Writing Section), with short breaks
Correct answers get 1 point Wrong answers deduct .25 point	SCORING	Correct answers get 1 point No penalty for wrong answers (so answer every question)
Required and included	WRITING SECTION	Optional , but required for most colleges

To register for a test or learn more: www.collegeboard.com (for the SAT) or www.actstudent.org (for the ACT).

***How much does it cost? You can take it for free!**

- **SAT: \$50** each time you take it
- **ACT+Writing: \$50.50** each time

But if you qualify for free-or-reduced lunch you can receive a fee waiver and use the waiver up to two times for each test.

Talk to your counselor to request a fee waiver

- **If you take the ACT**, be sure to take the optional **writing section** so that your score meets the requirements at your college.
- **Some schools require SAT Subject Tests.** Check with the schools to which you will apply.

*In March of 2014 the CollegeBoard announced that major changes to the SAT will begin in 2016: this includes changes to total points possible, the writing section, and deductions for wrong answers.

Process for applying

■ These are the basic steps in the process for applying to college.

1. Create online account / request paper app
2. Write down and save your log-in information

- ↓
- IF YOUR COLLEGE REQUIRES LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION
3. Request letters of recommendation (from teachers or others) a month before deadline
- IF YOUR COLLEGE REQUIRES OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS
4. Request transcripts (from your counselor) at least two weeks before deadline
5. Request application fee waiver (from the college) at least two weeks before deadline

- ↓
6. Fill out the application
 7. Write your application essay
 8. Write additional sections

- ↓
9. Double-check everything and proofread
 10. Make a copy of your application or print a copy and keep it in a safe place.
 11. Submit it!

- ↓
12. Receive confirmation letter (or e-mail) that your application was received
 13. Check the status of your application
Make sure that the college received everything

- ↓
14. Hear back and make a decision

Common Admissions Process Terms

“Rolling Admission”

Decisions are processed depending on when the application is submitted. **Apply as soon as possible.**

“Regular Admission”

Most applicants will hear back in March. The date you submit your application does not affect the decision. **Apply by the final deadline.**

“Early Decision”

You sign a **legally-binding contract** that if you get accepted to that college, you *will* go there. You can only apply to one college as “Early Decision” but you can apply to as many other colleges as you want for Regular, Rolling, or Early Action Admission. **Apply before Early Decision deadline (usually in November).**

“Early Action” or “Restrictive Early Action”

No binding contract, but guarantees that the applicant will hear back by a certain date. Note that your application is not given any special consideration for applying Early Action. “Restrictive Early Action” means you can only apply early action to that specific school. **Apply before Early Action deadline (usually in November).**

“Priority Date”

Not a deadline, but a **suggested date** by which to apply so that you can be considered for scholarships or other programs. This does *not* give you special consideration for admission and is also not the same thing as Early Action or Early Decision. **Apply before Priority Date (usually in November/December).**

What does this decision mean?

Accepted

You're in! You need to choose whether you will attend this college and send in your Enrollment Verification and Deposit **by May 1st.**

Denied

Go to plan B. Wait to hear back from other schools or look into alternate opportunities for the next year.

Wait listed

The school is waiting to see how many students will choose to go there. A school **may offer you admission later (after May 1st)**, but you should accept another school's offer to ensure that you have a place in the fall. This may mean that you pay a deposit at a school that you will not attend, which is usually a non-refundable fee.

Deferred

The school, or you, have decided to **wait a certain amount of time before you enroll.** For example, you might decide to travel for a semester and defer admission so you won't have to re-apply when you get back. Not all schools offer this as an option.

If you were educated outside the U.S.

■ If you have immigrated to the United States there are some things you will need to consider in the application process.

Filling out information on an application

Many colleges will ask you if you have attended school outside the United States. **It is important that you provide accurate information and list all the schools** that you have attended. If the application is confusing or you think you need to provide more information, contact the specific college to make sure you submit all necessary information by the final application deadline.

About international transcripts

If you have attended any high school outside of the United States, you will most likely need to send an official copy of your transcripts to all the colleges to which you are applying. Your high school should have an official copy of your international transcript. You can ask your high school counselor to send a copy, along with your current U.S. high school transcript, in their official sealed envelope to all the colleges to which you are applying.

- What if my high school does not have a copy of my international transcript?
You will need to either request a copy from your high school(s) outside the United States or provide a copy that you have.
- What if I only have one copy of my international transcript and I cannot request another?
You should keep this copy. You can always contact the schools to which you are applying to let them know your situation. Most likely, you can send a photocopy of your official copy to all your colleges. You can also have your high school make a photocopy of this and they can send it out in their official sealed envelopes.
- What if I do not have a copy of my international transcript(s) and I cannot request one?
You should contact each of the colleges you are applying to and describe your situation. They may have specific procedures at each college for how you should proceed.

Translating international transcripts

If your international transcripts are not in English, you will have to have them translated into English. This can usually be done by anyone with the background in the language, such as a high school teacher, college professor, or translating company. You can also request your international high school send you a translated copy of your transcript. Most colleges require you to submit the translated transcript along with the original transcript. You should contact each of your potential colleges to determine how to submit the necessary documents.



Some schools may contact you via e-mail or mail and request that you submit additional information. Provide this information as quickly as possible and follow up to ensure that your application can be considered.

Notes

Undocumented students

■ Being a U.S. citizen or permanent resident is not a requirement to apply to and attend a college or university.

Filling out college applications

- When asked for your social security number, fill in the space with zeros, list the U.S. as your country of permanent residence, and write HB 1079 in the “other” section for immigration status or current/expected visa section.
- If there is no option to do any of these, contact your Dream Project mentor.

HB1079

In 2003, Washington state legislators passed a law called HB 1079 which says that individuals who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents have the ability to attend a 4-year public university and pay in-state tuition if they meet the following criteria:

1. Earn a high school diploma or equivalent (GED) from a Washington State high school;
2. Live in Washington State for three years prior to receiving a high school diploma or GED;
3. Live continually in Washington since earning the high school diploma or GED; and
4. Meet college or university admission requirements expected of all other students.
5. Print and fill out the Washington State Affidavit, certifying that you meet the criteria listed above, and send it to all the public colleges that you are applying to in Washington State: <http://registrar.washington.edu/forms/03-01-HB1079.pdf>

This process is confidential and you can always speak with an admissions counselor to make sure you are filling out your forms and applications correctly.

Real Hope Act

On February 26, 2014, Governor Jay Inslee signed the Real Hope Act that expands eligibility for the Washington State Need Grant to non-citizens who meet the program’s eligibility requirements as well as:

1. Have graduated from a Washington high school or obtained a GED
2. Have lived in Washington for three years prior to earning the high school diploma or equivalent and continuously since.
3. Sign an affidavit (written promise) to file an application to become a permanent resident of the United States when eligible to apply.

To learn more about being considered for Washington State Need Grant funds, check readyssetgrad.org/wasfa and talk to your Dream Project mentor for the most up to date information.

* Students granted deferred action for childhood arrival (DACA) can be eligible but must also complete and sign the affidavit.

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

On June 15, 2012, President Barack Obama announced that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) would not deport certain DREAM Act–eligible undocumented immigrants. Those eligible for DACA will be given temporary relief called “deferred action.” Deferred action will be valid for two years and may be renewed at the end of the two years. Individuals who receive deferred action may apply for and may obtain employment authorization. [NILC]

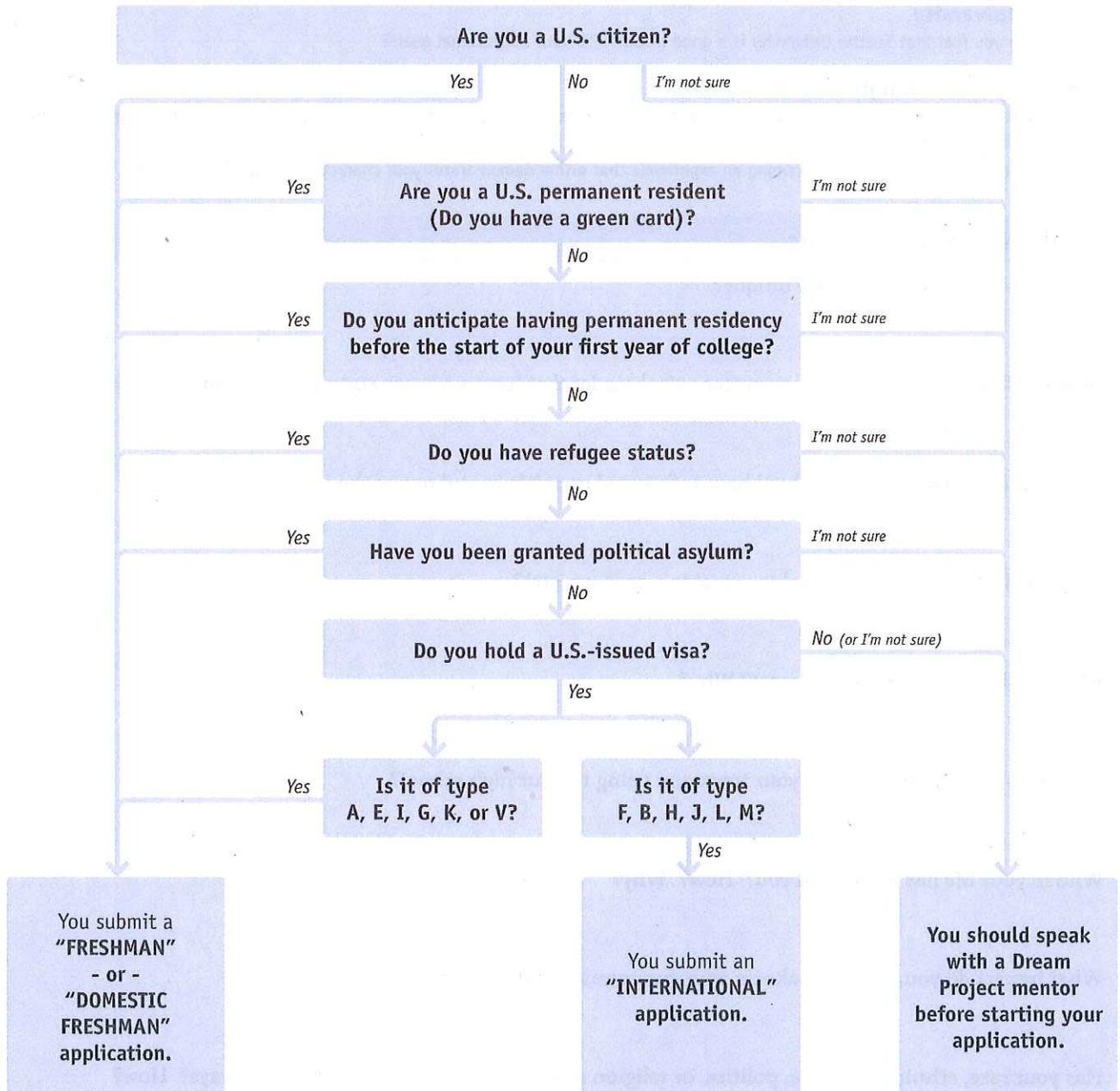
For advice on whether or not DACA is a good fit for you, visit www.nwirp.org/resources/dreamer

Eligibility Requirements:

- came to the United States before your 16th birthday
- were under age 31 and had no valid immigration status on June 15, 2012
- have continuously resided in the United States between June 15, 2007 and the present
- are currently in school, graduated from high school, obtained a GED, or were honorably discharged from the Armed Forces;
- have not been convicted of a felony, a “significant” misdemeanor, or three or more other misdemeanors, and do not otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety

What type of application do I submit?

■ For most colleges, there are **two types of freshman applications** that you can submit. Even if you have college credits (e.g., Running Start), you will still apply using one of these two applications. This chart can help you determine which type to submit.



I am applying as a: *(circle one)*

Freshman Applicant	International Applicant
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Brainstorming your Personal Statement

■ Your admissions essay can be a **HUGE** factor in your acceptance to college.

Sample Essay Prompts (from 2012)

Seattle University

- Why do you feel that Seattle University is a good match with your educational goals?

University of Washington

- Discuss how your family's experience or cultural history enriched you or presented you with opportunities or challenges in pursuing your educational goals.
- Tell us a story from your life, describing an experience that either demonstrates your character or helped to shape it.

Brainstorming Questions

What makes you or your family unique?

Have you faced any challenges or overcome any obstacles that have made you stronger? If so what were they?

What experiences outside of school have influenced your life in and out of the classroom?

What skills do you have (leadership, speaking, writing, etc)?

What book has influenced you most? Why?

What was it like growing up in your town and going to your high school?

Who in your life has influenced you? How? Why?

What impact do you want to make on your community or the world?

Has your race, ethnicity, culture, politics, or religion affected you in positive or negative ways? How?

Have you struggled due to socioeconomic status, physical ability or household situations? How?

Writing and Revising Personal Statement Essays

■ Tips for both writers and editors

For Writers...

Brainstorming

- What two qualities do you want to focus your essay on?
- What two accomplishments can you think of that you are most proud of?
- What is one thing about you that you want to make sure the admissions counselor knows?

Questions the essay should answer about **YOU**

- How did you feel?
- How have you changed since?
- What did you learn?
- Why is it memorable?

Read your essay OUT LOUD to hear how it sounds and catch awkward sentences.

For Editors...

General Advice

- Ask the writer: “What do you want to make sure I know about you after I’m done reading? What is/are the main point(s) of your essay?”
- Focus on **IDEAS** and **CONTENT** instead of grammar during the first two drafts.
- Maintain the writer’s voice; do not add your own words.
- Give **CLEAR** and useful feedback, directly on the paper (write what your marks mean).
- After reading, write some end-of-paper thoughts. Focus on the essay as a whole. Tell the writer which parts of the essay really stood out to you.

Highlighter Test (**with a real highlighter!**)

- Read through the essay and highlight every section where you learn something new about the writer.
- This is to make sure the essay focuses on the writer and tells his or her story—**NOT** someone else’s story.
- Check if non-highlighted parts answer any of the questions listed in the section above.
- Not every section has to be highlighted, but more highlighted sections mean that the reader has learned more about the writer, which is the goal.

Brainstorming + Feedback + Support = Great Application Essays

Completing the other writing sections

■ Many applications include multiple shorter questions and an activities list. Put **as much effort** into these as you did with your personal statement.

Colleges ask questions for a reason. Before you respond, think "Why is this college asking this question?"

Short response / Extra essay

University of Washington 2012 Short Response Prompts

- The University of Washington seeks to create a community of students richly diverse in cultural backgrounds, experiences, and viewpoints. How would you contribute to this community? (250–500 words)
- Describe an experience of cultural difference, positive or negative, you have had or observed. What did you learn from it? (250–500 words)

Washington State University 2012 Personal Statement Prompt (partial)

- Dealing with adversity: Describe the most significant challenge you have faced and the steps you have taken to address this challenge. Include whether you turned to anyone in facing that challenge, the role that person played, and what you learned about yourself. (about 100 words)
- Handling systemic challenges: Describe your experiences facing or witnessing discrimination. Tell us how you responded and what you learned from those experiences and how they prepared you to contribute to the WSU community. (about 100 words)

Western Washington University 2012 Short Response Prompts

- Describe any special circumstances or hurdles that have challenged you personally or academically and the steps you have taken to move beyond those challenges.
- What are you looking for in a university? Why is Western a good fit?

Activities List / Accomplishments / Résumé

Seattle Pacific University 2011 Involvement & Activities

- Please describe all high school/college, church, community, or professional activities in which you have participated over the last four years. This information provides an understanding of your participation in leadership and service and is used to determine scholarship eligibility.

University of Washington 2012 Activities Log Prompt

- Identify and describe up to five of the most significant activities you have participated in during grades 9–12. Your activities log should include activities, skills, achievements, or qualities from any of the following categories: (write a **substantial paragraph** for each activity)
 - Leadership in or outside of school—e.g., athletics, student government, cultural clubs, band, scouting, community service, employment
 - Activities in which you have worked to better your school or community
 - Exceptional achievement in an academic field or artistic pursuit
 - Personal endeavors that enrich the mind—e.g., independent research or reading, private dance or music lessons, weekend language/culture school

Some sample activities include:

- activities and clubs
- ASB or student government
- arts or music activities
- significant achievements
- jobs
- family obligations
- involvement at church/mosque/synagogue/place-of-worship/etc.
- personal endeavors
- sports
- community service
- study abroad

Letters of Recommendation

■ Another way to stand out from other applicants

Not every college or scholarship requires letters of recommendation. Confirm with the colleges and scholarships to which you are applying about the number of letters you need and any additional applications or forms they may want your recommenders to complete.

Whom should I ask to write a letter?

- Individuals who know you well and can speak to your academics, community service, involvement in and out of school, leadership, and your personal growth (teachers, coaches, volunteer coordinators, employers, religious leaders, etc.).
*Note: Most colleges and scholarships **do not** accept letters of recommendations written by relatives or family members.*
- Consider how long they have known you and in what capacity (e.g. a teacher who taught you during your junior year in an Honors course and now has you in an Advanced Placement course).

When should I ask?

- Ask your letter writers **4-6 weeks ahead** of when you need it back or when they need to send it. Depending on the application process, your letter writer might need to send the letter on his/her own.

How do I request a letter of recommendation?

- Your school's counseling center may have a form for you to fill out to give to your letter writers.
- **Read the instructions** on the application regarding letters of recommendation.
- Neatly assemble a packet including your essays, applications, and activities list that tells more about you and provide this to your letter writer (see box at right for other ideas).
- It may be helpful to provide a stamped, addressed envelope, a cover sheet, or other helpful items to make the process easier for your letter writer.
- If your letter writer should submit his or her letter online, provide the URL for online submission form.

More tips

- Don't be shy about talking to your teachers and coaches; they want to get to know you and help you succeed.
- Give your letter writers as much time and reminders as possible by communicating clearly and effectively about what exactly you are looking for.
- Don't assume that your letter writer knows every detail about you. See the box at right for ideas of what to provide to help out your letter writer.
- Send your letter writer a thank you card afterward.

Information to include in your request:

Even though your letter writer might know you well, it helps to provide some detail to make sure that the letter focuses on the aspects you want emphasized. Think about including some of the following:

- Deadlines or timelines
- Any forms or special format details from the application
- Grade Point Average (GPA) or unofficial transcript
- Teachers/staff who know you well
- Your college/career plans
- Advanced courses you have completed or are currently enrolled in
- Clubs, activities, sports, and/or student government participation (Specify any leadership positions)
- Any awards and/or honors you have received
- Community service or activities in which you have participated (Specify any leadership positions)
- Your travel experiences
- Your personal and professional goals
- Anything special or unique about you that you would like mentioned in your letter
- Copies of essays from your application
- A stamped envelope
- A cover sheet explaining what you've included for the letter writer, and a brief description of why you're interested in this college/scholarship.

Tips for submitting your applications

- **Make sure the last step goes smoothly.**
 - ❑ **Read through your entire application before you submit it.**
 - ❑ **Have at least one other person look over** your finalized application.
 - ❑ **Make a copy of your application** for your records.
If you submit online, print off a copy. If you mail in your application, make a photocopy before sending it in. Be sure to black out your social security number on your copy.
 - ❑ **Notify a Dream Team member** when you submit your application.
Some colleges allow you to list an additional e-mail address on your application which will receive a confirmation e-mail at the time of submission. Enter DreamScholarApps@uw.edu.
- **All schools will notify you once they receive your application**, either by e-mail or mail.
This is called an **Acknowledgement Letter** or **Confirmation Letter**. If you don't hear anything within two weeks after submitting your application, contact the admissions office of that school. Keep this letter in a safe place when you get it.
- **Deadline dates are usually postmark dates**, meaning that you need to get your application in the mail before the end of the day on that deadline day.

 **Submit your application well before the deadline** to avoid unforeseen problems and to limit your stress level!

Checking the status of your applications

- It is your responsibility to make sure all the pieces of your application have been received by the college. **You might be asked for extra information.**
 - **Check the status online**
Some colleges may have an **online account** where you can check the status of your application. Instructions should come with your Acknowledgement Letter after you first submit your application.
 - **Check your e-mail often**
Most colleges will communicate through e-mail if additional information is required. Check the e-mail address that you listed on your application **at least twice a week**. If an admissions office contacts you, reply as soon as you can.
 Check your junk mail box or add a filter so that college e-mail won't get thrown out!
 - **Contact the admissions office**
You can call or e-mail the admissions office **regarding the status of your application** at any time. You should call if you have not received an Acknowledgement Letter within two weeks of submitting your application.

 It is **YOUR** responsibility to make sure that each admissions office has every thing they need, **even if something gets lost or a mistake is made.**

The Common Application

■ The Common Application, or Common App, is a college admissions application that is shared by 488 colleges and universities in the US.

What is the Common App?

- The content of the Common App incorporates a broad range of questions, including:
 - academic achievements
 - test scores
 - extra-curricular activities (can list up to ten)
 - other general information that colleges use to evaluate students
- Some colleges may require an additional supplement form in addition to the Common App. Make sure you know all of the requirements of the schools to which you are applying.
- Once the Common App is completed, it can be sent to any number of participating colleges. As a result, you save time on gathering the parts of your application together.
- Not all schools take the Common App. Make sure you plan ahead and know which schools have their own application or have a supplement to the Common App.



Learn more online at www.commonapp.org

Notes

How to prepare for a college interview

■ Some colleges, mostly private colleges, offer an in-person interview in order to learn more about you.

Certain colleges may offer you the chance to interview with an admissions representative as part of the application process. A college interview is a chance for you to **go beyond what you submitted in your application** and show your strengths. The interviewer's recommendation could have a significant impact on your admission decision.

Not all colleges offer an interview as part of the admissions process. Contact each of your potential colleges to see if meeting with a representative is mandatory, optional or not considered at all.

Interview types

Formal interviews

These vary depending on the type of college and their admissions process and resources. Interviews are usually conducted by an admissions officer, a current student or an alumnus (someone who graduated from that college). You may have to travel to the college or meet somewhere in your city. Typically, formal interviews will last anywhere from 30 to 60 minutes.

Casual interviews

These can happen any time that you interact with an admissions representative. Some colleges may offer group information sessions where you can meet with admissions officers and current students. Additionally, admissions officers may visit your high school or a regional college fair and provide an opportunity for you to talk one-on-one. You should treat this like an interview.

Major-specific interviews or auditions

These may be required if you intend to study in a particular area, such as drama or music. You may also have the option to submit a portfolio that includes a collection of your work or achievements. These interviews can also be a factor in scholarship consideration.



Remember: Every time you communicate with a college representative, treat it like an interview. College representatives are constantly thinking about how you would fit in on their college campus. You always have a chance to make an impression, so make it a great one.

College Interview Tips

- **Always accept** a college's offer of an interview. If you decline, it will most likely be noted in your application.
- **Dress neatly and cleanly.** Do not under- or over-dress. It is suggested that you do not wear T-shirts or casual clothing and do not wear a full suit. Find an appropriate medium that shows who you are and that you take the interview seriously.
- **Arrive on time.** Plan to be there at least 15 minutes before the scheduled interview.
- **Make eye contact** with the interviewer when you are talking. This shows your confidence and that you are focused on the conversation.
- Consider the interview as a **conversation**. This will make you more relaxed and allow you to open up. Take the chance to learn more about the interview and your potential college.
- **Research** the college and its mission. You will most likely be asked why you want to attend the college and how you would fit into the campus community.
- **Bring any necessary materials**, such as your transcript, test scores, or personal statements.
- **Review the application that you submitted.** You may be asked about something specific that you mentioned so you should be prepared.
- **Never say that the college is your safety** or backup option. This shows that you are not fully committed and it could impact your admissions decision.
- **Prepare some questions** that you can ask the interviewer. Do not ask questions that can be easily found on the admissions website or brochure, but take it as an opportunity to gain the interviewer's perspective. A safe question is "Why do you like representing this college?" or "Tell me what students do on the weekend."
- **Avoid eating or drinking** during the interview. It can take away the focus from your conversation and provide distractions.
- Remember to **stay calm and be yourself**.
- **Be polite** to everyone you meet. If you are visiting the campus, everyone, including the office receptionist, may have the ability to comment on your admission decision.
- **Bring something to take notes with.** You may have questions that come up in the conversation and it allows you to write thing down along the way.
- Always **thank the interviewer** for his or her time and the opportunity to meet. Ask for contact information and correct name spelling.
- Follow up with a **personalized thank you note** to the interviewer. Write down something specific that you discussed or learned to personalize the note. You can also use this as a chance to mention anything you did not discuss.
- **DO NOT BRING YOUR PARENT/GUARDIAN INTO THE INTERVIEW.**

Transferring between 4-year institutions

■ With the admission priority going to 2-year community college applicants at many 4-year universities, it can be difficult to transfer from one to another.

How to understand the transfer process

- ❑ Ask yourself **“Why do I want to transfer?”**
 - You may be able to address problems you have at your current school by working with faculty and staff to get extra help or solve any issues.
 - Talk with other students who might be having similar issues.
- ❑ **Talk with your current academic advisor.**
 - Ask your current advisors about what you need to do if you choose to withdraw and enroll in another 4-year school.
 - Talk about resources that you can use to make sure that your current school is not the right fit for you.
- ❑ **Talk with an admissions counselor** at the school to which you want to transfer.
 - As soon as you get the idea that you want to transfer, talk with an admissions counselor or coordinator at your prospective schools to understand the transfer process.
 - There may be things that you can do to increase your chances for admission.
- ❑ Remember that many universities in Washington have a **priority for community college students.**
 - It can be difficult to transfer from one 4-year school to another 4-year school, so you may be able to attend a community college before you apply to your desired 4-year school.

Notes

Notes

What's out there besides 4-year college?

■ 4-year schools aren't the only option...

2-year Community College

 More on page 16

- Publically funded 2-year colleges that allow students to obtain an Associate Degree. This gives graduates certification to apply for jobs that require some but not a full four years of college education.
- After you earn your Associate's degree, you can transfer to a four-year university as a junior; your Associate's can count as the first two years of your four year Bachelor's degree.
- Learn more about what different programs are offered at the 34 different community colleges in Washington state: www.checkoutcollege.com

Technical College

 More on page 17

- Technical colleges provide training to meet the needs of the job market, business, and industry.
- When you apply to a technical college, you will apply for a specific program.
 - In this program, you will end up with a certificate which will allow you to apply for a job in your field.
 - Technical college programs last up to 2 years.
- Since you will acquire skills an employer is looking for, you will have an advantage.
- Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges: www.sbctc.edu

Vocational/Trade Schools

 More on page 17

- Vocational or trade schools provide an education that prepares students for specific careers from a craft or trade to a professional occupation.
Examples: Culinary schools, schools of criminal justice, schools of art and design, etc
- Applicants must be 18 years of age and have interest in their chosen program of study.
- Many nationally accredited vocational schools are for-profit, and you should check if credits earned at your school of interest can transfer to other colleges before applying.
- The Vocational Schools Database: www.rwm.org

Military

 More on page 18

- Learn life skills, acquire technical education for a variety of career paths, and travel the world.
- The United States military can provide scholarships and the pay can help towards funding a college education.
- Join ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) and earn a degree while training to serve in the military.

Community College Process

- If you are pursuing the community college option, the process is much simpler.

Factors to consider in choosing a community college

- **Location.** Consider how close you will be from home as most community colleges do not offer on-campus housing.
- **Academic Programs Available.** Find out what programs the community college offers. Focusing your education to specialized fields may help with the transfer process if you plan to attend a four-year university after community college.
- **Cost.** Check for financial aid and scholarships for merit and financial need.
- **Campus Life.** What activities or resources are available outside of the classroom on campus?
- **Size of student body.** Class size, student population, advisor-to-student ratio, etc.



Contact information for local community colleges can be found on **page 8**

Process for applying

Each community college is different in its application process, so make sure to find out the process for the colleges you might want to attend and work with your Dream Team mentor to make sure you know all the steps.

- Explore your options.
 - Learn more about Washington's community college system: **www.CheckOutACollege.com**
- Apply online or in-person.
 - Like the Common App, most Washington community colleges use the same online application: **www.public.ctc.edu/ApplicantWebClient/Applicant**
- Submit a financial aid application.
 - Submit your **FAFSA** to community colleges the same way as four-year colleges.
 - Many community colleges also have their own financial aid forms in addition to the FAFSA, so check with each school's financial aid office. If you do not turn in these additional forms, you can miss out on free money.
- Take your placement test.
 - Check with the community college to see which placement test is required.
 - The two most common tests are **COMPASS** and **ASSET**.
 - The **COMPASS** is an untimed placement test that is taken on a computer. It places you into appropriate classes at community college. The test includes math, writing, and reading, as well as English as a Second Language (ESL) if applicable.
 - The test includes multiple choice questions that increase in difficulty if you get them right, and get easier if you get them wrong.
 - Depending on the community college, you may have to sign up for the test in advance, or be able to take the test at your orientation, or be able to walk-in and take the test at any time. Check with your community college. **The cost is approximately \$18.**
 - Tips: Take your time, since there is no time limit. Remember that this test is for placement (not admission). You cannot fail.
 - Attend a **FREE** preparation workshop at Seattle Central CC, North Seattle CC, or South Seattle CC. These workshops have dramatically improved students' scores. Find out more about these workshops and find practice COMPASS questions at **www.beforeyoutest.org**.
- Schedule an advising appointment.
 - **Focus** your education. Plan out your community college experience to ease the transfer to a 4-year school if that is your goal.
- Enroll for classes and pay tuition.

Transferring from 2-year to 4-year

- If it's your goal, start planning your transfer as you start at community college.



If you want to attend transfer to a 4-year college, know that it is often *easier to be admitted* when you transfer from a community college rather than another 4-year college. This is due to state-wide policies about college admissions priorities.

How to transfer successfully

- ❑ **Talk with an academic advisor** at your community college early on in your college career.
 - Make sure you're on track to meet the **graduation requirements** for your Associate's degree.
 - Meet **at least every quarter** to make sure you're still on track so you aren't surprised later.
- ❑ Meet with a **transfer advisor at the 4-year college** to which you plan to transfer.
 - 4-year schools often have transfer advising sessions. For example, UW-Seattle offers Transfer Thursdays for prospective transfer students. These are weekly info sessions about the transfer process to UW. See www.washington.edu/uaa/advising/transfers/tt.php for details.
- ❑ **Prepare for your 4-year major** while at your community college.
 - At certain universities, when you apply to transfer you may also need to apply directly to your major. This requires that you take prerequisite courses before you transfer.
 - Some Bachelor's degrees take extra time and require sequential courses. Research your options and know what classes to take at community college. Without planning, some majors may take more than 4 years!
- ❑ Learn about **Direct Transfer**.
 - Most 4-year universities and colleges in Washington (except UW-Seattle) will automatically accept you as a transfer student if you meet minimum requirements, such a certain GPA and number of credits. This means that you automatically know that you can be accepted to a 4-year school.
 - Research each 4-year school you are interested in to understand its specific admissions process.
- ❑ Know how your **credits** will transfer before you take them.
 - Not all 4-year universities accept credits in the same way. Contact each admissions office to learn how you can intentionally take courses that will transfer and count toward your Bachelor's degree.
- ❑ Determine when you want to transfer and **apply**.
 - Make sure you meet all the necessary deadlines -- usually you need to apply 3-8 months before you start.
 - Use a **transfer student** application to apply to the 4-year colleges you want to attend.



Contact info for 4-year colleges can be found on page 8.

Equivalency Guides

Equivalency Guides show how all community college credits will transfer to a specific 4-year school.

- University of Washington: <http://admit.washington.edu/EquivalencyGuide>
- Washington State Equivalency Database: <https://webapps.wsu.edu/ais/myinfoservices/darstce/>
- Western Washington University: <http://admissions.wvu.edu/transfer/cc/>

Notes

Applying to vocational or technical schools

- Vocational and technical schools provide industry-specific training.

Technical College

Some examples of programs at Technical Colleges include automotive repair, carpentry, welding, computer repair, and culinary arts. You can look up other programs at www.checkoutacollege.com.

- Most Washington technical colleges use the same online application as community colleges:
<http://www.public.ctc.edu/ApplicantWebClient/Applicant/>

Fill out application

Most Technical College applications in Washington will require this information:

- Section 1: Personal Information
- Section 2: Course of Study
- Section 3: Residency Information
- Section 4: Race and Citizenship Information
- Section 5: Testing Information
 - Must take either the COMPASS, ASSET, or ACCUPLACER tests.
 - Check with the individual college to see which test is required.
- Section 6: Academic History

Submit application

- Once you get accepted, then you enroll in classes and pay tuition.
- Submit your FAFSA by the priority deadline. However, financial aid availability varies for different programs; contact an adviser at your community college for more information.

Requirements

In order to apply to vocational or technical schools, you must:

- be 18 years of age or older
- have a high-school diploma or G.E.D.

Vocational College

Choose a vocational school

- Identify the kind of job you want to end up with. Determine what kind of education you need to succeed in that career path.
- Research the various schools that offer training in the field you're interested in. Spend some time comparing your options at the schools you're considering. If you're looking for a specialized type of training, give strong consideration to the school that offers the best opportunities to get it.
- Compare the costs and benefits of each school and make a list of schools to which you want to apply.

Prepare your application.

- Look on the school's website for the course calendar from the department you are interested in. See what prerequisites you need in order to be considered.
- Fill out a basic application online (name, address, high school graduation date, etc.).
- Inquire about financial aid opportunities at the vocational school, if you think you will need help meeting your tuition and/or living expenses.

Submit your application.

Paying for college

■ With financial aid, every student can pay for college.

Financial aid helps pay for everything having to do with being a college student: tuition, food, rent, supplies... even your toothbrush.

Federal Financial Aid (FAFSA) — www.fafsa.ed.gov

You can apply for student aid from the government using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. It can provide many **different types of funding**:

- **Grants** – need-based money that you don't have to pay back
- **Scholarships** – merit-based money that you don't have to pay back
- **Loans** – money you borrow and repay over time, with interest added
- **Work Study** – special jobs for students where your wages go to pay for school costs (usually on-campus)

How it Works

Based on the information you provide in the FAFSA, the government calculates how much you and your family are expected to pay for your college education.

EXAMPLE	Cost of Attendance	\$ 19,138	← This is the total cost of going to college, including tuition, books, rent, food, etc.
	- Estimated Family Contribution	\$ 3,261	← The government calculates how much money your family can provide for your education. This is called the estimated family contribution. You can get an estimate of yours at www.finaid.org .
	= Your "Financial Need"	\$ 15,877	← This is the amount that schools should offer you in financial aid.

⚠ To be considered for federal financial aid, **you must submit the FAFSA by the earliest priority date** of the colleges to which you are applying. Every college's date is different, so check with each one. For deadlines in Washington State, see "Deadlines for Washington Colleges" on page 18.

Sample Costs of Attendance

Public institutions charge a different amount for in-state residents and out-of-state students. Private colleges usually charge the same, regardless of residency.

School	Type of Institution	2010-11 Cost of Attendance (estimate of tuition, books, rent, food, etc.)
Central Washington University	In-state Public	\$ 20,202
University of Washington (Seattle)	In-state Public	\$ 21,033
University of Oregon	Out-of-state Public	\$ 38,481
Seattle University	In-state Private	\$ 42,213 [†]
University of Southern California	Out-of-state Private	\$ 53,708 [†]
Stanford University	Out-of-state Private	\$ 54,485

How could you possibly afford these private schools? Because the cost of attendance is so much higher, private colleges are often able to offer more financial aid to you, so the price you pay may be much less.

College costs are different for every student. You can't know which school will be cheaper to attend until you apply, get accepted, and receive a financial aid package from the school!

⚠ You can estimate the amount of financial aid you will receive by using a Financial Aid Calculator at www.finaid.org or www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov. This will just be an estimate. Your actual package will vary, depending upon the school.

All attendance cost figures above were taken from each respective institution's web site, March 2008.
[†] Cost of Attendance estimates for Seattle University and University of Southern California are based on the 2009-10 academic year.

Submitting the FAFSA

- Fill out the FAFSA once and send it to all your colleges.

Even if your parents haven't completed their taxes yet, you can submit your FAFSA as soon as January 1.

1. Apply for a FAFSA PIN at www.pin.ed.gov and write it down in a safe place.
2. One of your parents/guardians applies for a separate PIN at www.pin.ed.gov.

3. Discuss family finances and gather important documents and info:
 - Your Social Security number (or Alien Registration or Permanent Resident card)
 - Your Driver License number
 - Your W-2 forms
 - Your family's income tax returns (1040 or 1040EZ, etc.) — *unless you're a student in foster care*
 - Your income tax returns
 - Untaxed income records
 - Current bank statements for you and your family
 - Business and investment records for your family (such as stocks and bonds, farm records, mortgages, etc.)

4. Begin to fill out the FAFSA January 1st of your Senior Year.
5. On the FAFSA, list all of the schools to which you have applied or will apply.

6. Submit the FAFSA by the earliest priority date of your different colleges. We suggest submitting it before February 1st.

Common Financial Aid Terms

FAFSA

Free Application for Federal Student Aid. In order to get student aid money from the federal government, you must fill out the FAFSA.

PIN (www.pin.ed.gov)

Personal Identification Number. This is your security number used to sign in and fill out the FAFSA. Keep it in a safe place. Do not lose it and do not lose it. If you forget it, you can request a new PIN at www.pin.ed.gov.

Financial Aid Package / Award Letter

Each college will offer you a customized financial aid package depending on the funds they have available and the amount for which you are eligible. This might include a variety of different award types, including grants, loans, and work study.

EFC (*Estimated Family Contribution*)

The government calculates how much money your family can provide for your education. This is called the estimated family contribution. Go to www.finaid.org/calculators/finaidestimate.phtml to calculate yours.

CSS/Profile

A College Board form that is another way for colleges to determine EFC. It is only used by some private colleges in conjunction with the FAFSA to give a more complete picture of a family's financial status.¹

Are you eligible for federal financial aid?

If you **are not a U.S. citizen**, you must be one of the following in order to be eligible to submit the FAFSA:

- U.S. permanent resident with an Alien Registration Receipt Card (I-551)
- Conditional permanent resident (I-551C)
- Other eligible noncitizen with an Arrival-Departure Record (I-94) from the INS showing any one of the following designations: "Refugee," "Asylum Granted," "Indefinite Parole," "Humanitarian Parole," or "Cuban-Haitian Entrant."

You are also eligible **if you have a criminal record**. You may be asked more questions, but the application will still be considered.



To be considered for federal financial aid, you must submit the FAFSA by the earliest priority date of the colleges to which you are applying. See page 18 for a list of filing dates for many Washington colleges.

Sources: U.S. Department of Education website at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

1. Punahou School College Handbook, Class of 2009. Used with permission.

Notes

Resources for Homeless Students

■ If you identify as a homeless student, you can fill out the FAFSA without your parents' financial information. This makes a huge difference in affording college.

The McKinney-Vento Act

- The act is a federal law that provides support for children and youth facing homelessness. It helps students finish high school and also makes college more financially accessible.
- Basic information on the act can be found at www.k12.wa.us/HomelessEd/AssistanceAct.aspx

Am I homeless?

If you answer yes to any of these questions, you may qualify as a homeless student under the McKinney-Vento Act:

- Are you sharing housing due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason?
- Are you living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camp grounds due to lack of alternative accommodations?
- Are you living in emergency or transitional shelters?
- Were you abandoned in a hospital?
- Are you awaiting foster care placement?
- Is your primary nighttime residence not ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation (e.g. park benches, etc)?
- Are you living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations?
- Is your family migratory and living in any of the above situations?

National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth

- Visit www.naehcy.org for resources, including scholarships for students facing homelessness, tips on filing the FAFSA, and other information that may help you graduate from high school and then college.
- For specific guidance on filling out the FAFSA without parental information, go to www.naehcy.org/educational-resources/higher-ed

Notes

Understanding Loans

- Financial aid can be confusing. This page outlines some key terms and concepts.

Interest Rates

- **The interest rate** determines how much money is added to the original amount you borrowed each month or year. The lower the interest rate, the less expensive it is to repay the loan over time. Typically, government loans tend to have lower interest rates compared to private loans. Additionally, the interest rates for government loans are fixed (will not change over time) while private loans tend to have rates that could increase over time (making it more expensive).

Subsidized vs. Unsubsidized

- **Subsidized loans** are loans on which the government pays the interest while you are in college. For most subsidized loans you do not have to make payments on the loan until you leave school (i.e., graduate or withdraw). If you qualify for one, it is always best to borrow a subsidized loan before an unsubsidized loan.
- **Unsubsidized loans** are loans on which interest gets added to the amount of money you borrowed. This happens as soon as you borrow the money and continues to grow. Typically, you are required to make annual interest payments on the loan.

Student vs. Parent

- The difference between student and parent loans is **who is legally responsible to repay the loan**. If you accept a student loan, you have the financial responsibility to repay that loan and its interest. If you accept a parent loan, both you and your parents are legally tied to that loan and its repayment. Many private loans require your parents to be cosigners, providing more assurance that it will be repaid.

Federal/Government vs. Private

- Federal **Perkins** loans, federal **subsidized Stafford** loans, federal **unsubsidized Stafford** loans, and federal **parent PLUS** loans are all examples of federal/government-supported loans. These are typically awarded to students with financial need. These typically have lower interest rates than private loans, but may be comparable to loans offered directly by a college.
- **Private loans** can be made through banks, colleges, and private organizations. You can always contact your potential colleges to ask about what private loans they would recommend to help supplement your financial aid package. Typically, loans from banks will have significantly higher interest rates compared to federal loans. Most private loans are not subsidized and start gaining interest as soon as you borrow the money.

Which loans are least expensive?

Starting from most desirable:

1. Federal Perkins
2. Federal subsidized Stafford
3. Federal unsubsidized Stafford
4. Federal parent PLUS
5. Private (Alternative)

Accepting/rejecting financial aid

■ Your financial aid letter might look something like this...



OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
105 SCHMITZ HALL, BOX 355880
SEATTLE, WA 98195-5880
(206) 543-6101

** NOTICE OF PRELIMINARY AWARD **

PAGE 1 OF 1
AWARD YEAR 2008-2009
AWARD PERIOD AUT WIN SPR
AWARD DATE 3/22/2008
REPLY DATE 5/01/2008
STUDENT NO. 0834462
SOC. SEC. NO. 321-44-0987

YOU ARE A HUSKY PROMISE STUDENT, AND YOUR GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AT LEAST ENOUGH TO FUND YOUR TUITION. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION IS AT WWW.HUSKYPROMISE.WASHINGTON.EDU

IMA HUSKY
1234 UNIVERSITY AVE. NE
SEATTLE WA 98105

These are all of the different awards you received. Refer to the descriptions of different awards in the Winter Section for info.

I. We are pleased to offer for your acceptance the financial aid listed below. This offer may be canceled unless the original is signed and returned to AND THE AWARD BULLETIN before signing the Certificate of Acceptance.

Acceptance or rejection of each award by marking with an X. This offer may be canceled unless the original is signed and returned to the Office of Student Financial Aid before the reply date printed above. CAREFULLY READ BOTH SIDES OF THIS LETTER.

AWARDS	AUTUMN	WINTER	SPRING	TOTAL	ACCEPT	REJECT
STATE NEED GRANT/LEAP	1289	1289	1289	3867	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT	33	33	34	100	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
UNDERGRAD TUITION EXEMPTION	1368	1368	1368	4104	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FED DIRECT SUB STAFFORD LOAN	1033	1033	1030	752	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FEDERAL PELL GRANT	586	586	588	1760	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FEDERAL WORK STUDY	963	963	963	2889	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Check the boxes for all the awards that you would like. If you decline any, then you must come up with that money on your own. You can always decline awards later.

I accept the total award I reject the total award Partial acceptance (please explain on the back)

II. ASSUMPTIONS: Your award is based on the following assumptions: RESIDENT; UNDERGRAD; ATTENDING 3 QTRS; LIVING AWAY FROM HOME.

Comments: This award is based on estimated tuition. You can accept aid and get more information.

Make sure these assumptions are correct, such as living with parents or away from home.

III. RESOURCES: Based on the information you provided, we calculated your resources as follows: Total resources: \$ 2,526
PARENT'S CONTRIBUTION: \$ 2,506; STD CONTRIB: \$ 20.

This is how much the government has decided you and your family can contribute to your college.

IV. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY AND AWARD:			
TOTAL BUDGET	LESS TOTAL RESOURCES	EQUALS NEED	TOTAL AID OFFERED
\$18,342	\$ 2,526	\$15,816	\$ 15,816
			UNMET NEED
			NONE

If any need is unmet, there are options for other types of loans. Talk to a Dream Project student or the financial aid office.

V. OTHER RESOURCES: List any funds you will receive for the period of this award (unless already shown in Section III, above). Include scholarships, TA or RA positions, fellowships, graduate fellowships, loans, gifts from parents (self-supporting students), and any other awards. Include benefits from federal and state programs such as veteran's vocational rehabilitation, etc. If you are not receiving additional funds, write "none".

Type of Resource	Summer Total	Academic Year Total

List any scholarships that you've been awarded since you turned in the FAFSA in February.

VI. CERTIFICATION: (Must be signed) I UNDERSTAND AND AGREE to the conditions of this award. I understand that I must maintain satisfactory academic progress to continue receiving aid. I certify that the above Social Security Number is correct. I agree to repay any defaulted loan, and have not borrowed in excess of the loan limits under Title IV and HHS programs at any institution.

I certify that I have read and understand the conditions of this award. I agree to repay any defaulted loan, and have not borrowed in excess of the loan limits under Title IV and HHS programs at any institution.

X
Student Signature

ORIGINAL

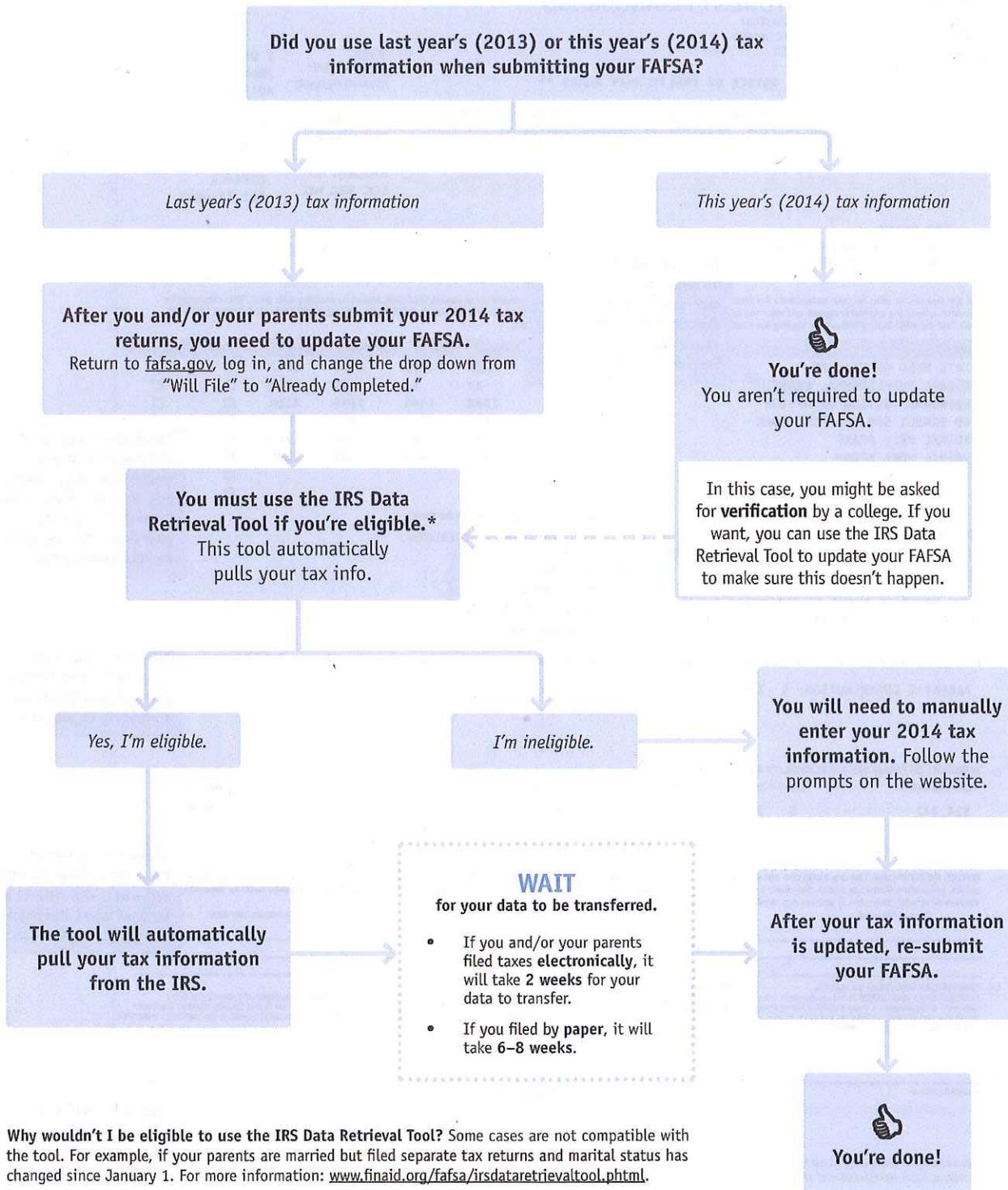
Date

Sign, date, and return before the reply date listed above, or you might not receive any financial aid!

This sample award letter was generated based on the actual award letters sent by the University of Washington Office of Student Financial Aid. The information in the letter is fictitious, but is representative of an actual student's award. Financial aid award letters from other schools will look different but will contain similar information.

Update your FAFSA after taxes are filed

■ When you first fill out your FAFSA, you probably used last year's information. After taxes are filed for the current year, what do you need to do?



* **Why wouldn't I be eligible to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool?** Some cases are not compatible with the tool. For example, if your parents are married but filed separate tax returns and marital status has changed since January 1. For more information: www.finaid.org/fafsa/irsdataretrievaltool.phtml.

Applying for scholarships

■ It's free money. If you put in time and effort, **it can pay off in a BIG way!**

1. Find a scholarship that fits you.

How? Use some of these resources:

- www.theWashBoard.org
- www.fastweb.com
- www.scholarships.com
- www.finaid.com
- www.scholarshipjunkies.com
- www.ProjectOnStudentDebt.org
- Talk to mentors & counselors
- Use Google!

2. Make a list of the different pieces needed to complete the scholarship application.

- Letters of recommendation required? Allow 4–6 weeks for a teacher, counselor, or adviser to write and submit your letter.
- Transcript required? Allow 1–2 weeks for your counseling office to process and send it.
- Financial Information? It might take time for you or your family to gather this information.

⚠ Beware of scams!

- ⚠ No legitimate organization will ask you to pay a fee to submit an application or create a scholarship profile. If a scholarship looks too good to be true, it probably is!

Common Scholarship Terms

Scholarship

A sum of money given to a student for the purpose of paying at least part of the cost of college. Scholarships can be awarded to students based on academic achievements, financial need or on many other factors. Scholarships and grants do not have to be repaid.¹

Renewable Scholarship

A scholarship that can be awarded for multiple years. Called “renewable” because there is usually a minimum requirement (such as GPA) that must be met in order for the scholarship to be provided in future years.

Merit Aid

Money offered to a student based on a specific talent, such as academics, athletics, etc.

Need-based Aid

Money offered to a student based on the financial status of the family.

3. Read profiles of past winners, commonly found on the scholarship website. Try to find common characteristics that match yours.

4. Write your essay. Try using your college admission essay as a starting point!

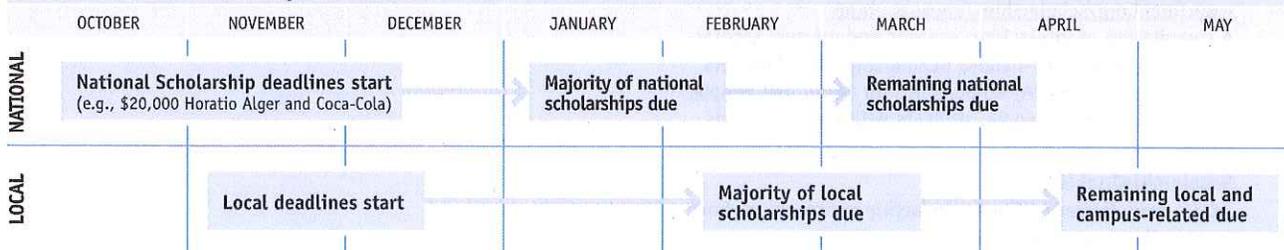
5. Fill out the application. If you don't feel comfortable giving some information like Social Security Number, talk to a Dream Team member to find out if it's required.

6. Make a copy for your records.

7. Submit before the deadline.

8. **If you get the scholarship, you MUST notify your college's financial aid office.** This will change your financial aid package, usually replacing loans with scholarships.

General Scholarships Timeline for Seniors



1. From <http://www.netnet.org/students/student%20glossary.htm>. Accessed April 2008. Remaining terms taken from the Punahou School College Handbook, Class of 2009. Used with permission.

Finding scholarships

- Different types of scholarships have very different application processes.

Local vs. Institutional vs. National Scholarships

- **What's a local scholarship?**
A **scholarship awarded to students from a certain region** (school, city, state, etc.) by a private organization. Applicant pools for local scholarships are much smaller than national applicant pools. As such, students who apply for local scholarships have a higher chance of receiving the scholarship.
- **Where do I find local scholarships?**
A good place to start looking for local scholarships is in **your high school's career center and/or your high school's website**. Don't stop there though, **look on other high schools' websites** for additional scholarship information.
- **What's a national scholarship?**
A **scholarship awarded to any student from across the country** by a private organization. Applicants may be required to meet certain eligibility requirements that are not limited to geographic location. National scholarships tend to have larger applicant pools and are much more competitive, but don't be afraid to apply for a national scholarship that fits you well.
- **What's an institutional scholarship?**
A scholarship from a university or college that is only awarded to students who attend that specific institution. Sometimes they are awarded automatically to students who fit a set of criteria; other times there is a competitive process and separate application.

Online Scholarship Resources:

Use these tools as a starting point to find the right scholarships for you:

- **theWashBoard.org**
A scholarship directory specifically designed for students in Washington state.
- **FastWeb.com**
Customized college scholarship searches, detailed profiles on many colleges
- **CollegeBoard Scholarship Search Tool**
bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search
Scholarship search to help locate scholarships, internships, grants, and loans that match your education level, talents, and background
- **Scholarships.com**
An easy-to-use scholarship search
- **Unusual Scholarships**
www.finaid.org/scholarships/unusual.phtml
A compilation of interesting, esoteric and unusual scholarships such as the Left-handed Scholarship, skateboarders with at least a 2.5 GPA, scholarships for twins, Tall people, little people, obese people, students with creative minds, surfers, etc.
- **ScholarshipJunkies.com**
Advice from former national scholarship recipients on how to compile competitive scholarship applications.

High School Scholarship Links

- **Ingraham HS:**
<http://ingrahamhigh.org/students/CareerCenter.php?pid=5>
- **Renton HS:**
<http://renton.rentonschools.us/careercenterscholarships>
- **Foster HS:**
http://www.tukwila.wednet.edu/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=305&Itemid=802
- **Highline School District (Tye Schools):**
www.highlineschoolsfoundation.org/scholarships
- **Other High Schools:** Check with your Career Center

Writing your scholarship essay

- Use the personal statements from your college applications as a starting point.

General Tips

- Brainstorm with bullet points first.
- You can **take bits or entire sections from your college application personal statements** and reuse them. Once you have a solid personal statement, it makes it easier to apply for scholarships.
- **Scholarship essays can be reused** for other scholarships. Sometimes you just need to tweak the details to make sure that you're answering the prompt directly.

Things to keep in mind

- Be very personal. Just like your personal statement for college, think about this as if you're talking to a real person.
- Show, don't just tell. Give real examples instead of talking about abstract concepts.
- Don't use big words if you don't normally use them. Your essay won't feel natural.

Sample Scholarship Essay Prompts

Many scholarship essay prompts are **very similar** to college application personal statement prompts. This often makes it easier to construct your scholarship essays because you can **use the same tips and ideas**. Here are some sample scholarship essay prompts:

- "Discuss a significant activity, leadership experience, or achievement that has changed your life and why."
- "Who are you? (Include family/personal information, community service, positions of leadership, involvement in school and community, work experience, and youth group activities.)"
- "Why do you need this scholarship?"
- "How will this scholarship be a bridge to your future?"
- "Briefly describe a situation in which you felt that you or others were treated unfairly or were not given an opportunity you felt you deserved. Describe how you responded and if your response changed the situation."
- "How will your area of study contribute to your immediate and long-term goals?"
- "What do you consider to be the single greatest challenge facing the youth generation today?"
- "How has your education contributed to who you are today?"
- "How do you plan to fund or finance your education?"

Select national and local scholarships

Spring of Junior Year

Nordstrom Scholarship

The Nordstrom Scholarship will be awarded to five students in the Washington/Alaska region. Each \$10,000 scholarship will be paid over four years in equal installments of \$2,500. Scholarships are for attendance at a four-year college or university. All scholarship awards will be paid directly to the educational institutions by Nordstrom.

- Due: Spring 2015
- Website: shop.nordstrom.com/c/nordstrom-cares-scholarship

Fall of Senior Year

Horatio Alger National Scholarship

The Horatio Alger Association offers up to \$20,000 in scholarships for students who have demonstrated integrity and perseverance in overcoming adversity, strength of character, financial need, a strong academic record, commitment to pursue a college education, and a desire to contribute to society.

- Due: Early Fall 2014
- Website: www.horatioalger.org/scholarships/index.cfm

Elks Most Valuable Student Competition

Elks National Foundation awards 500 four-year scholarships (\$1,000 to \$15,000 per year) to high school seniors who demonstrate scholarship, leadership and have financial need. Students that receive the award must be pursuing a four-year degree on a full-time schedule and attending a college or university in the U.S.

- Due: Fall 2014
- Website: www.elks.org/enf/scholars/mvs.Cfm

Ron Brown Scholar Program

The Ron Brown Scholar Program "recognizes African-American students who will make significant contributions to society." The program awards a minimum of ten scholarships of \$10,000 a year for four years to students that demonstrate leadership potential and community involvement.

- Due: Winter 2015
- Website: www.ronbrown.org Dell Scholars Program

Dell Scholars Program

The Dell Scholars program recognizes students who have overcome significant obstacles in pursuing their education. The program awards over 250 scholarships at \$20,000 each and also provides students with technology, a scholar networking community, resources and mentorship to provide them with the support necessary to succeed in college.

- Due: Fall 2014
- Website: www.dellscholars.org

Fall of Senior Year, *continued*

Washington State Governor's Scholarship

The Governors' Scholarship for Foster Youth is a scholarship program that helps young men and women who are currently in an open dependency court order in Washington State, or an open dependency tribal court order, continue their education and earn a college degree. Scholarship award amounts range from \$2000 to \$4000 depending on the college of attendance.

- Website: www.collegesuccessfoundation.org/wa/scholarships/governors

Winter of Senior Year

Gates Millennium Scholarship

Gates Millennium Scholars Program (GMS) seeks to "promote academic excellence and to provide an opportunity for outstanding minority students with significant financial need to reach their highest potential." GMS offers scholarships for minority students (African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian-Pacific-Islander American, and Hispanic American) who exhibit "academic achievement, leadership potential, and community service."

- Due: Winter 2015
- Website: www.gmsp.org

Ronald McDonald House Charities U.S. Scholarship

Ronald McDonald Care offers scholarships to students in financial need who have demonstrated academic achievement and community involvement. Students may only apply for one of the four scholarships listed.

- Due: January 2015
- Website: www.rmhc.org/rmhc-us-scholarships

Mount Baker MLK Scholarship

To further the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Mt. Baker Community Club awards approximately 15 scholarships in the amount of \$3,000 each to local high school seniors who reside in one of the following zip codes: 98104, 98108, 98118, 98122, 98134, 98144. Students must also be a member of a racial or ethnic group that is underrepresented in higher education and will be selected based on overcoming adversity, financial need, academic progress, community service and desire to continue their education.

- Due: Winter 2015
- Website: www.mountbakerclub.org/mlk-jr-scholarship-fund.html

Washington State Opportunity Scholarship

The Washington State Opportunity Scholarship (WSOS) supports low- and middle-income students pursuing eligible, high-demand majors in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and health care, and encourages recipients to work in Washington state once they complete their degrees.

- Due: Winter 2015
- Website: www.waopportunitiescholarship.org

** Note: Some scholarship deadlines listed above are approximate. Be sure to check on the actual due date early in the process! **

Select national and local scholarships *continued*

Winter/Spring of Senior Year

Washington State Scholarship Foundation Scholarship

The Washington State Scholarship Foundation awards a number of \$5,000 scholarships to graduating high school seniors in Washington who will be attending four-year institutions. High school seniors planning on attending two-year institutions have the opportunity to be awarded \$2,500 scholarships.

- Due: Winter 2015
- Website: www.washingtonscholarships.org

Washington PTA Scholarship

Washington State PTA awards \$1,000 to \$2,000 scholarships to Washington State high school seniors who will be entering their freshman year of college. Awards are based on "financial need, academic performance, and community service."

- Due: Winter 2015
- Website: www.wastatepta.org/programs/scholarship

UW Alumnae Board Scholarship

University of Washington Alumnae Board (UWAB) will provide renewable full-tuition scholarships to incoming freshmen and current undergraduate students at the University of Washington based on "financial need, scholastic achievements, leadership, community service, and a demonstrated strong work ethic."

- Due: Winter 2015
- Website: www.uw.edu/alumni/meet/groups/uwab/scholarships

Seattle Swedish Community Scholarships

The Seattle Swedish Community Scholarships provide \$1,000 to \$3,000 scholarships for high school seniors in King County. Scholarships will be awarded based on the candidate's high school record, ACT or SAT score, financial assessment, and leadership and community service.

- Due: Winter 2015
- Website: www.swedishclubnw.org/scholarships.htm

Nellie Martin Carman Scholarship

This scholarship is open to high school seniors nominated by schools in King County. One nomination per school will be eligible for up to \$2,000 renewable for an additional three years, with a 3.0 GPA or better. You must be a U.S. citizen and plan to attend a Washington college or university. This award is based on your financial need, academic record, college test scores, and school and community activities. Music and Art Majors are not eligible. Students must be nominated by their high school. If you feel like you fit the criteria, see the Career Center if you would like to be nominated.

- Due: Winter 2015
- Website: www.carmanscholarships.org

KOHL'S Kids Who Care

194 regional winners will receive \$1,000 scholarships based on community involvement. Volunteer efforts should have made a positive impact on others and occurred in the last 12 months. The activity cannot be performed solely to benefit a family member. Winners are chosen based on the project, benefits, and outcomes.

- Due: Winter 2015
- Website: www.kohlscorporation.com/communityrelations/scholarship/program-information.asp

Edmund F. Maxwell Foundation Scholarship

This is a scholarship for Western Washington students planning on attending an INDEPENDENT institution (not a STATE school). Freshman amounts will be around \$5,000. Renewable for four years up to \$20,000.

- Due: Spring 2015
- Website: www.maxwell.org

Edwin T. Pratt Scholarship

The Metropolitan Seattle Urban League is offering a four-year renewable scholarship for African-Americans to pursue higher education. This is based on financial need and is given to students who would otherwise be unable to continue their educational goals. Applicant must be a resident of King County, have a minimum 2.5 GPA. Contact the Seattle Urban League in mid-February for information about this and other local awards.

- Due: Spring 2015
- Contact: 206.461.3792

Wendy Jackson Hall Memorial Scholarship

A \$10,000 scholarship awarded over the first two years of college. Students must be from Seattle or Bainbridge Island School District, demonstrate a love of the arts and accepted into an art program of an accredited 4-year school as a full time student.

- Due: Winter 2015
- Website: www.jacksonhall.com/form/tmp/persistent/form61021/form.html

Alpha Omicron Boule Scholarship

These 7 awards of \$1,000/yr for 4 years by the Alpha Omicron Boule of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity are to contribute to the education of male African American students who have shown the potential to successfully complete a university or jr college program.

- Due: Winter 2015
- Apply online at thewashboard.org

Washington State Employees Credit Union Scholarship

Student must be a WESCU member.

- Due: Winter 2015
- Website: www.wsecu.org/x1854.xml

US Bank

US Bank Student Banking Division will award 40 \$1,000 scholarships for full time students to use at 2 or 4 year colleges next fall. Scholarship award recipients are selected through a random drawing process.

- Due: Winter 2015
- Website: www.usbank.com/student-lending/scholarship.html

iModules Scholarship Program

iModules believes helping deserving students to further their education is one of the entering four-year colleges with an opportunity for renewed scholarships. Since 2008, the iModules Scholarship Program has awarded high school and university students in order to help them in their academic pursuits.

- Due: Winter 2015
- Website: scholarships.imodules.com/s/891/update/start.asp

**** Note: Some scholarship deadlines listed above are approximate. Be sure to check on the actual due date early in the process! ****

Scholarships for Undocumented Students

Realize the Dream

College Success Foundation's Realize the Dream Scholarship is exclusively available to undocumented Washington State high school graduates who are attending a Washington two-year or four-year college. Students must have financial need and file the HB 1079 affidavit. The award amount is \$5,000.

- Due: June of Senior Year
- Website: www.collegesuccessfoundation.org/page.aspx?pid=1204

Scholarships that do not require US citizenship or a social security number.

Que Lleva Café Scholarship

The "Que Lleva Café" Scholarship aims to support the dreams, hopes and aspirations of college bound undocumented students so that they can earn their college education and allow for all of their hard work and sacrifice to persevere. Applicants are evaluated on their personal story, involvement in extra-curricular activities, and future academic potential. The award amount is \$500.

- Due: Winter 2015
- Website: www.ca-core.org/que_llueva_cafe

Holocaust Remembrance Project Scholarship

This scholarship is open to all residents of the United States and its territories. In order to apply, students are asked to write an essay analyzing why it is important to remember the Holocaust in the United States and suggesting what young people can do in order to prevent prejudice. The award amount is \$250-\$5,000.

- Due: Spring 2015
- Website: www.holocaust.hklaw.com

Leadership 1000 Scholarship

The Leadership 1000 Scholarship is a scholarship program funded by individuals, foundations, or businesses and provides college scholarships to deserving students who need assistance to attend an eligible four-year college or university in Washington State. A Leadership 1000 Scholarship can be customized around a general set of requirements requested by the donor. Scholarships awarded will range from \$2,500 to \$5,000. Some scholarships will be for one year only while others will be renewable for up to three additional years.

- Due: Spring 2015
- Website: <http://www.collegesuccessfoundation.org>

Pride Foundation Scholarship

This foundation awards numerous scholarships open to students who are residents of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington, with preference given to those students in the LGBTQ community but available to all students. The award amount varies between recipients.

- Due: Winter 2015
- Website: <http://www.pridefoundation.org/scholarships/>

Princeton Prize in Race Relations

The Princeton Prize in Race Relations is offered to high school students who can demonstrate that they have helped create a harmony and understanding among people of a different race—cash prizes up to \$1000 are awarded.

- Due: Winter 2015
- Website: www.princeton.edu/pprize

Golden Door Scholars

Applicants must be eligible for DACA. Award is full tuition, room and board for a 4-year degree.

- Due: November 2014
- Website: www.goldendoorscholars.org

Univision's "Es el momento" Scholarship

For latino/a students with minimum gpa of 3.00 on a scale of 4.00, and have a history of extracurricular activities.

- Due: Fall 2014
- Website: www.scholarshipaid.net/app/univision/

Frank Kazmierczak Memorial Migrant Scholarship

Must have recent history of migration for agricultural employment, have teaching as a career goal, demonstrate scholastic achievement, and have financial need.

- Due: Winter 2015
- Website: www.migrant.net/migrant/scholarships/

Chin: Shui Kuen and Allen Chin Scholarship

Be an incoming freshman or current, full-time undergraduate at a four-year college or university in 2013-14, have parent or self currently or formerly employed at an Asian-owned or Asian cuisine restaurant, demonstrate community advocacy and social justice work on behalf of Asian American, immigrant, gay and lesbian and/or other progressive causes, have a minimum 3.0 GPA and have financial need. No citizenship status requirement.

- Due: Winter 2015
- Website: asianpacificfund.org

Want to find more scholarships?

Students at UW Bothell have created an extensive list of scholarships for which undocumented students are eligible.

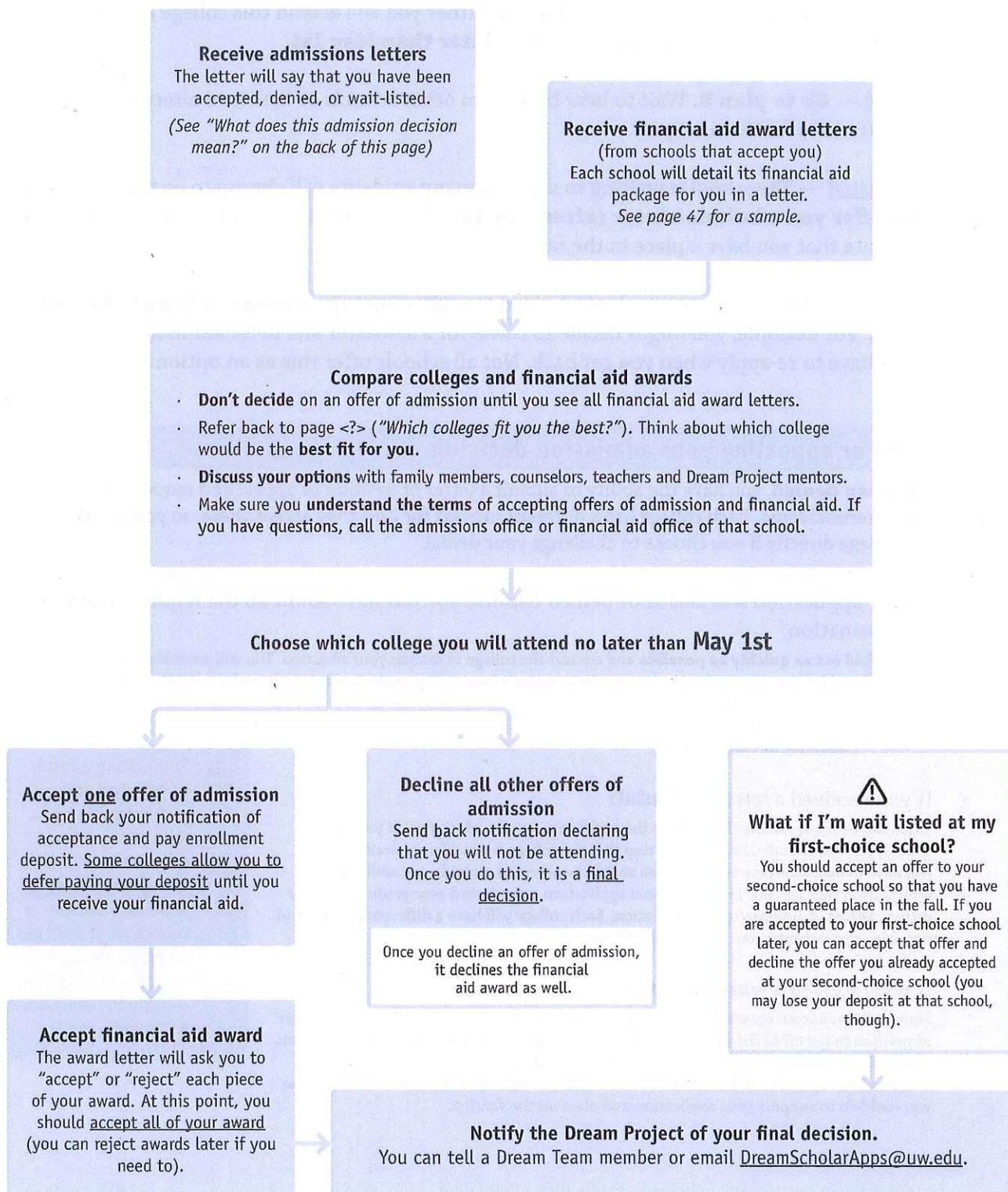
- www.uwb.edu/financialaid/hb1079/financial-resources-at-uwb

Also, visit e4fc.org/images/E4FC_Scholarships.pdf for an even more extensive scholarship list.

** Note: Some scholarship deadlines listed above are approximate. Be sure to check on the actual due date early in the process! **

Accepting and declining offers

■ You must accept an offer of admission and submit a deposit to secure your spot at the college of your choice.



Accepting and declining offers, *continued*

What does this admission decision mean?

- **Accepted** — **You're in!** You need to choose whether you will attend this college and send in your Enrollment Verification and Deposit **no later than May 1st**.
- **Denied** — **Go to plan B.** Wait to hear back from other schools or look into alternate opportunities for the next year.
- **Wait-listed** — The school is waiting to see how many students will choose to go there. A school **may offer you admission later (after May 1st)**, but you should accept another school's offer to ensure that you have a place in the fall.
- **Deferred** — The school, or you, have decided to **wait a certain amount of time before you enroll**. For example, you might decide to travel for a semester and defer admission so you won't have to re-apply when you get back. Not all schools offer this as an option.

Petitioning or appealing your admission decision

If you have been denied, you have the ability to submit a letter of petition or appeal and request that your application be reconsidered. Each college has a different process for how they accept these, so you should contact the college directly if you choose to challenge your denial.

- If your application was closed or denied because you did not submit all the required documents or information:
You should act as quickly as possible and contact the college to discuss your situation. You will most likely have to submit the additional information and submit a letter of petition requesting that the late information be considered. Examples of missing components include:
 - Late SAT/ACT test scores
 - Transcript was not received
- If you received a letter of **denial**:
 There can be many factors that go into the review process for admission. If you were denied, you can submit a letter requesting that the college reconsider its decision. You will have to make the case as to why you should be accepted, provide any additional information that was not in your original application, submit mid-year grade reports, or include letters of support/recommendation. Each college will have a different process and possible requirements; contact the college to learn what you can do.
- If you received a **wait list** letter:
 Some colleges encourage waitlist applicants to submit additional informational or a letter of petition to get off of the waitlist, while other colleges do not consider new information. Additionally, certain colleges rank their waitlist so you can know your chances, while other colleges do not rank the waitlist. Contact the admissions office to learn about what you could do to support your application and place on the waitlist.



Submitting a letter of petition does not guarantee that you will be considered or admitted. In fact, it may result in more bad news. But if you think that you should be reconsidered, contact the college directly to learn about its process.

Earning + Transferring AP and IB credits

■ Universities can be selective about the credits they allow to transfer based on test score and program.

Advanced Placement (AP) Credits

Program offered in the USA and Canada by the College Board that offers college-level curriculum and examinations to high school students. Class subjects range from art history to statistics to foreign languages. Upon completion of the course, the student takes an AP exam, scored on a scale of 1-5, 5 being the highest. A 3 is the average score a student must earn to gain college credit for the course, however the score needed varies from college and even depending on the subject.

Information regarding the credit transfer process:

- Not always accepted at schools abroad.
- You must have your scores sent to the school of your choice by the college board, this will be noted when you go to take the test.
- If you need to send your scores to more than one school, there is a fee.
- Most of the time, when scores are sent to the school, they will get back to you with what they can offer you in exchange for those scores. Some schools offer credit and higher placement, others will just offer higher placement. Look into each school's specific policy.

International Baccalaureate (IB) Credits

An international education program in which students may earn a full diploma or certificates of merit for certain courses during their last two years of high school.

Requirements to earn a full IB Diploma:

- At least three subjects completed at Higher Level (HL) and three at Standard Level (SL).
 - should four subjects be completed at HL, then only two need to be completed at SL.
- All six subjects have been awarded a numerical grade higher than 1, with a minimum total score of 24.
- 150 hours of community service completed, called Creativity-Action-Service (CAS).
- The extended essay and Theory of Knowledge (TOK) course have been completed and essays submitted.
 - Must earn a grade D or better on both for them to count
- If the overall score is 24-27, there is no grade 2 at HL and not more than one grade 2 at SL; if the overall score is greater than or equal to 28, not more than one grade 2 at HL and no more than two grades 2 at SL; altogether, there are no more than three grades 3 or below.
- at least 12 points (12 for overall score 24-27; 16 if four HL subjects are taken) have been gained on HL subjects, and 9/8 (6/5 if only two SL subjects are taken) on SL subjects
- Final award committee does not judge the student to be guilty of malpractice.
- A minimum amount of hours must be achieved per year by students in order to pass. If an excessive amount of hours are missed, they may have to resit the year.

Requirements to earn an IB Certificate:

- Requirements are the same for the full IB apart from the fact that the student need not complete TOK, CAS, or the extended essay.

Information regarding the credit transfer process:

- Most American colleges will only give college credit to students for taking higher level courses, and require a score of 6 or 7, though sometimes 5 is accepted
- Transferring credit to university is done through the student's high school's IB coordinator.

Enriching your college experience

- Here are a few tips to help you succeed in college, both in and out of class.

Academic

- Get to know your **advisors**.
These are staff members who can direct you to your college's resources. They can make sure that you succeed academically, socially, and personally. You need to make sure that you reach out to them—even on your first day—to make a positive transition and work toward graduation.
- Get to know your **professors**.
These are the individuals who have the knowledge and access to enriching experiences. They are at the school because they want to affect students' lives. Talk to them after class, visit them at their office hours, and send them an e-mail. Ask questions about class and their area of study. Your professor can help you decide what you want to study, provide access to jobs/internships/study abroad experiences that will help make the most of college.
- Utilize **campus resources**.
All colleges will work to make sure students have the support to succeed. Use professors' office hours, tutoring centers, writing centers, career centers, alumni associations, financial aid offices, etc. as a way to navigate your college. Feel empowered to ask for help at any point and in any situation.
- Explore a **wide variety of classes and majors**.
College is a great opportunity to determine where your true interests lie. Don't limit yourself to your intended major or what you think is important to study. Try different topics. You might enjoy something you didn't expect and it will help expand your perspectives.
- Plan for your **major**.
Identify the requirements within the majors you are interested in and plan your schedule accordingly. Talk with academic advisors and departmental advisors to get to know what that major includes and decide if it is right for you.
- Choose your **classes** wisely.
Use your resources when choosing classes. Ask upperclassmen, friends, and faculty for advice on what classes to take and which ones to avoid. The best classes are taught by the best teachers so look up your teachers beforehand on ratemyprofessors.com or your school's rating system (most schools have this so ask someone if you cannot find it).
- Form **study groups** for your classes.
Within your classes, get together with other students and friends to gain a better understanding of the material. Meet throughout the class and before mid-terms and finals to study.

Opportunities

- Get involved in **clubs or student organizations**.
It will make the campus feel smaller and you'll meet some of your best friends through these communities. They can help you engage in your passion and allow you to get away from the stress.
- Engage in on-campus **jobs/internships/fellowships**.
A great way to get real experience is to continue your exploration outside of the classroom. Use your college's career center and academic advisors to search for internships/fellowships/jobs in your area. This is a great way to build your résumé while seeing if that area of study is a good fit for you.

Continued on the next page →

Enriching your college experience *continued*

- Engage in **volunteering or service-learning**.
Impacting your community certainly does not end in high school. Colleges have courses that will enable you to get off campus and enrich your community.
- **Study abroad** at some point in your college career.
This will be one of the most influential experiences of your college career. It will allow you to move outside of your comfort zone and immerse yourself in a new culture. The great thing is you can get financial aid and scholarships to help pay for it and receive college credit.
- Continue to look for **funding**.
Scholarships are not just for seniors in high school. There is financial support for students throughout their entire college experience. Talk with your college's financial aid office, undergraduate scholarship office, and academic advisors to find scholarships that fit you. Be proactive in searching and applying. The scholarships will free you to focus more time on your studies.

Personal

- **Remember why you are going to college.**
There are many benefits from going to college and earning a degree. Do not forget how hard you have worked to get to college and how worthwhile it is to finish.
- **Take care of yourself** and pay attention to your body.
Eat healthy, exercise regularly, recharge, and take time for yourself. Use the resources on your campus, such as counselors and health services, to make sure you are listening to what you need and not taking on more than you can handle. Talk with other students, resident advisors, and upperclassmen to get advice about how to survive and thrive.
- **Keep in touch** with old friends and family.
It's easy to lose track of time and the people you love. They were, and are, your support system even if you are in the new world of college. Do not forget to call or send an e-mail every once in a while.
- Attend **school social events**.
Go to dorm floor meetings, attend a school sporting event, go to a free campus movie, or another school-organized event. Becoming engaged will help you do well academically and will help you learn more about yourself. Plus, you will meet students who are going through the exact same thing you are.
- Study hard but be sure to **explore other interests**.
College is about much more than what happens in the classroom. Explore everything that the college has to offer and it will allow you to grow as an individual.
- College is about **change and discovery**.
Students change their major often, find new passions, and learn how to evaluate critically their place within their community and the world. You will experience this too. Make sure you challenge yourself outside and inside the classroom. Do not be afraid to ask for help. All colleges are working so that you succeed. Your success determines their success.
- **Join the Dream Project or start your own.**
You have just gone through this experience, now you can give back. If your school does not have a Dream Project, create your own. The Dream Project at the University of Washington was started by students just like you. The UW Dream Project can help you start one at your new college. Just let us know at uwdreamproject@uw.edu.

College Housing Options

■ Once you have confirmed which college you will be attending, you will need to choose where to live next year

Residence Halls and Dorms

- Living in the dorms generally means you will be housed on the campus of your university. Paying for “Room and Board” each quarter or semester means that you will be provided with a furnished room, utilities, and a meal plan (money to be used in the dining halls). Check your university’s website to see if freshman are required to live in the dorms for the first year, how much Room and Board will cost, and if there are different dorm facilities to choose from.
- **Special Interest Housing:** Some dorms have specific communities that students with shared interests can join. These include floors for certain majors, the honors program, pre-business, pre-medical, college athletes, and international students.

Off-Campus Housing

- Students can also rent apartments or houses near campus. This option is more common for upperclassmen, and can be cheaper or more expensive than living in the dorms (depending on where you go to school).
- **Community College:** Most Community Colleges do not provide housing, so you can either commute from home or rent something off-campus. In either option, you should investigate bus routes or carpooling options to save gas money.

Greek Life

- Many colleges also offer housing in various fraternities and sororities. These are large social organizations that either house only boys (fraternities) or only girls (sororities). Greek Life provides organized social activity while attending university, most have their own housing costs and dining plans, and you have to be invited to join after “rushing” (visiting the house, meeting its members, or participating in a “rush week” organized by the Greek system). Check with your university to see if this is an option.

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