Intercollege Relations Commission

2014 Fall Update
Washington Student Achievement Council
Who We Are

The Washington Student Achievement Council was created by the Legislature in 2012.

Our Mission:

• We advance educational opportunities and attainment in Washington.

In pursuit of our mission, the Washington Student Achievement Council:

• Leads statewide strategic planning to improve educational coordination and transitions – Roadmap
• Supports Washingtonians through the administration of financial aid, GET, and support services.
• Advocates for the economic, social, and civic benefits of postsecondary education.

Our Vision:

• We inspire and foster excellence in educational attainment.
Our Work

Increase Educational Attainment

- Strategic Priorities
- Research & Evaluation
- Consumer Protection
- Affordability
- College Readiness
- Student Transitions

Policy Development, Planning
Monitoring, Accountability
Authorizing, Approving
Financial Aid, GET
P-20 Collaboration
Cross-Sector Initiatives

Collaboration
Cross-Sector
By 2023:

100% of adults ages 25-44 in Washington will have a high school diploma or equivalent.

- Current level of attainment: 89%

At least 70% of Washington adults ages 25-44 will have a postsecondary credential.

- Current level of attainment: 50%
Ready Set Grad

WSAC’s student, family, and educator-focused website.

READYSETGRAD.ORG

Recent Updates

Policy focused website:

WSAC.WA.GOV

Accessibility

• Installation of Google Translate.
• Americans with Disabilities Act compliance updates.

Dual-Credit Look-Up

• Feature to look up and compare AP, IB, and Cambridge scores needed for credit at specific universities. (Coming soon!)

Financial Aid

• Expansion of financial aid content, including College Bound resources, WASFA application, and 12th Year Campaign information.
It is true...

- Tuition has significantly increased.
- Many students are financially needy. Record numbers of FAFSAs filed in 2013-14—exceeding 500,000.
- Average loan amounts are increasing.

Yet in Washington...

- Over a billion dollars in aid was distributed to resident undergraduates last year.
- Washington is a top state in need-based aid.
- Tuition increases were frozen for two years.
Undergraduate students in Washington received **1.8 billion dollars** in need-based aid.

Washington Student Achievement Council. 2012-13 Unit Record Report. [WA resident undergraduate need-based recipients].
Washington
Ranks #1 in
Funding

Need-based aid per undergraduate FTE

$1,317

$509

Source: National Association for State Student Grant Aid Programs, 2012-13
Expanded eligibility for State Need Grant to non-citizens who meet residency requirements:

- Have graduated from a Washington high school or obtained a GED® (or will do so before beginning college).
- Have lived in Washington for three years prior to, and continuously since, earning the high school diploma or equivalent.
- Sign an affidavit (written promise) to file an application to become a permanent resident of the United States when eligible to apply.

Provided an additional $5 million to State Need Grant.

- Funding incorporated into overall appropriation and is not an earmark for this population.
Applying for WASFA

- Students who met residency requirements should complete a Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA) **instead** of a FAFSA.
- The WASFA can be found at ReadySetGrad.org/WASFA.
- Students can currently use the site for the 2014-15 application. Beginning in January the 2015-16 application will be available.
What is New

Strategic Action Plan

http://www.wsac.wa.gov/2014-meetings
October 8, Tacoma

• **Maintenance Level**
  • College Bound Scholarship - Maintain commitment to Students - increase investment
  • Continue to invest in public higher education – keep momentum

• **Policy Recommendations**
  • Commit to fully fund the State Need Grant Program
  • Expand the reach of Dual Credit Options
  • Support underrepresented students – leverage the state’s investment through coordination of support service programs
  • Reinvest in State Work Study – expand to 3,000 additional students
  • Develop affordability framework – policy driven investment to make higher education more affordable
Current Projects

- **Residency**
  - Revising Rules (WAC)
  - Data Collection for DREAMers – 1079 – Report

- **Transfer**
  - Report due January 15, 2015
  - New Associate Degree Nursing DTA/MRP 2014
  - Associate of Fine Arts Workgroup convening October 24
  - Transfer Liaison – no issues (many others!)

- **Prior Learning Assessment**
  - Report to legislature due December 30, 2014
  - Data request going out now
  - Send paragraph of what your campus is doing
  - Statewide Conference – November 21 – Clover Park
Contact Information

Transfers, Transfer Liaison, Residency, Prior Learning Assessment
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Find us online:
www.wsac.wa.gov
www.readysetgrad.org
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Office Hours: Where educational policy complements practice.
www.wsac.wa.gov/office-hours

Our new blog aims to bridge the gap between Washington's educational policy and practice discourse.