

Q&A from September 15th & 17th Workshops

- 1 Will the Washington College Grant, via the Workforce Education Investment Act, be automatically applied to students' state financial aid awards?**

Students attending college will apply using the WASFA or FAFSA and if they are WCG eligible, they will receive an award notification from the college including the WCG. If the student is enrolled in an apprenticeship program, they will apply directly to their WSAC approved Apprenticeship Program Sponsor who will then determine their eligibility and notify them.

- 2 I'm not sure if any of you have any say about Washington State Transcripts but with all the COVID craziness in the Spring the Math and ELA State testing requirement portion of the Transcript under Additional Requirement was removed. Our tech department in Highline Public Schools has told us that the State said this will not be coming back. This has proven to be extremely problematic for us already as our SIS, Synergy, does not update with OSPI and the Transcript was really the only way we had to accurately and holistically determine if students had met state testing standards. Not all Counselors have access to EDS. How can we get this information added back on to the Transcript?**

Thanks for this comment and question. The ELA and Math requirement went away because not all of our Graduation Pathways have an ELA/Math expectation. We'd planned to have the pathways show as Met or Not Met on the transcript and COVID has thrown us for a loop. Thank you for any grace and patience Highline can extend to OSPI as we work to build a better system. The 1599 legislated changes were new to us too and we also had to build our plane (SIS system) in mid-air. :-)

Suggestion, is it possible to use the required documentation of the Grad Pathways in your HSBP as an accountability process.

- 3 Are you available to host a financial aid info session?**

You can reach out to colleges and the 12th Year Campaign for a financial aid information session.

- 4 Does College Bound Scholarship help with housing costs?**

Room and Board are part of the cost of attendance elements used in determining a student's overall aid eligibility. CBS is one of the many programs that assist with meeting the student's cost of attendance.

- 5 9th graders may be eligible to apply? (CB), what are some of those limitations?**

For the 9th grade eligibility, the student would have had to be in Washington during middle school and not eligible to complete the College Bound application. But in 9th grade they do now meet the College Bound eligibility criteria. These students will be identified by OSPI, and College Bound will initiate the application for those students. For any more information, please contact me at yokikoh@wsac.wa.gov.

- 6 Any flexibility for the 2020 seniors who take a gap year, or possibly longer for CB not used in the timeline expected?**

No, students will still have to meet the requirement of enrolling within one year of completing their high school diploma.

- 7 Is there a virtual submission solution for Collegebound? Last year the actual printing out and mailing of the signed app was a hurdle for families.**
We can accept the completed forms electronically through our secure portal, where counselors/staff can attach the scanned documents. In the spring, we did move to send the MILs directly to the address we have in our system to students home address. We will be doing that again in October. You can contact me if you have any additional questions.
yokikoh@wsac.wa.gov.
- 8 I had a college bound student whose mother was deployed to Afghanistan in her senior year and she was forced to go live with her aunt in Oregon. She lost her scholarship?**
If the student did not graduate from a Washington State high school, and their diploma is not from Washington, they unfortunately do not meet program requirements. However, they will be eligible to be reviewed for the Washington College Grant.
- 9 When did the science CADR change from 2 to 3 for the class of 2021?**
The update was made in 2015 during a review and revision process. The primary goal of the 2015 revisions was to foster alignment between K-12 assessment requirements, high school graduation requirements, and four-year public college admission requirements, maintaining all admissions pathways in a single policy. A third credit of science was added to align with a change in high school graduation requirements. The additional credit does not need to be lab-based.
- 10 Our district created a new online school to deal with Covid. We do not have a profile or CEEB code. Will this affect our student's ability to be accepted into 4 year institutions?**
No, it won't. It is really helpful if the school or student let's the Admission office(s) know so 4 year institutions can be aware of it and adjust.
- 11 I have my ready set grad key from a previous year. How does it get updated? It looks like all the info is still from prior years.**
Just plug your key and you will have the new resources. All the new resources are available at <https://wsac.wa.gov/12th-year-campaign>.
- 12 Where do I find a summary of the CADRs on the web? My search only brings up old info with 2 credits of science...**
It says 2 credits, but has the asterisk pointing to the change to 3 credits of science. It's tricky because we were trying to balance those still advising class of 2020 and did not want to cause confusion for that class. Now that we are officially serving class of 2021, I think we should change the language. Thank you for the flag! I will get on that right away and send you new resources. You can email me at ameliam@wsac.wa.gov or call me at 206-556-6914 with any questions you have.
- 13 With the likely absence of SBA testing and SAT/ACT testing, what will replace these options as a Graduation Pathway?**
Unknown until the legislature convenes if additional options and/or flexibility is granted for this senior class. Please use your advocacy skills to convey your students' needs in your district and region!

14 What is meant by "cross-program" in the context of pathways to graduation? Using more than one field of study in the CTE pathway?

There are 6 program areas in CTE - Agriculture Sciences, Business & Marketing, Family & Consumer Sciences, Health Sciences, Skilled & Technical Sciences, and STEM. If the CTE Course Sequence Grad Pathway consists of 2.0 or more credits in a single program area, local districts can approve. If, for example, 1.0 credit is in Marketing and 1.0 credit is in Agriculture, then OSPI approval is required. The growing list of CTE Course Sequences that OSPI has approved is accessible for any district that can essentially match that sequence. The district only has to 'notify' OSPI of using another district's sequence; they don't have to go through the approval process.

15 Using the wording, "Graduation Pathway" is often confusing for parents and students as we in the Counseling area have for years used the term, "Pathways" to relate to a students career pathway or job pathway. Is it possible to start calling it Graduation Options for State Standards?"

In the Graduation Pathways Toolkit, there is a page that shares 'definitions' for all the ways in which the word "Pathway" is used --> Personalized Pathway Requirement, Graduation Pathway, Career/CTE Pathway, and Guided Pathway. Not sure if there will be a change to the terminology in statute.

16 Since the SBAC wasn't offered in May, will it be offered this fall or winter?

As of right now, OSPI is pointing toward a 'normal' spring SBA testing window. Depending on our public health situation, we may need to get creative about how we offer that exam this spring, but we're moving forward with it as if it WILL happen.

17 Does OSPI have sample Academic Acceleration policies?

It's actually the Wa. St. School Directors Assoc. (WSSDA) that has the model policy. Your district/school board can get access to it.

18 Is the option to upload the CTE sequence pathway in EDS for counselors or test coordinators? How do schools document/ submit that students have met the CTE sequence graduation pathway?

The CTE Course Sequence Grad Pathways that cross over CTE program areas are the only ones submitted in EDS (by the CTE Director or Dist. Assessment Coord.) for approval. Single CTE program Course Sequence Pathways are approved by your district.

The system pulls data from CEDARS grade history to show "Met" for the both the district and state approved CTE Course Sequence Grad Pathways, if the requirements have been met.

Graduation Pathways do have to be documented in every students' HSBP. The transcript was supposed to have a Met or Not Met, but COVID through that process for a loop last spring.

19 Any guidance on what happens to the "I" Incomplete grades from last school year if students do not make up the work to earn a passing grade? Do the "I's" become "F's" on the transcript

here's what OSPI put in our Grading guidance last spring.

Students assigned an "incomplete" for a course will be given opportunities to re-engage in the learning standards based on local school district decisions in consultation with the student/parents/guardians, including but not limited to: Summer school, Courses in the following term or year, Independent study, Competency-based courses, Online courses, or Backfilling the incomplete grade with the letter grade obtained in the next course taken in that subject area.

The SBE is also working on updated rules around Mastery Based Learning, which may help with the 'backfilling' idea in suggestion #6.

Ultimately, the goal is to ensure that students have every opportunity to 'make up' credit missed.

20 Can we get the Family connections tool and resource link?

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https://docs.google.com/drawings/d/1_Fh_3SenpoVg10jr2HO8I4icy5XJyDSONw3gPEg81OY/edit

21 How are schools determined to receive GEAR UP funding?

<https://gearup.wa.gov/resources>

22 Colleges, how might a student access an application waiver since they weren't able to register for the SAT test with the College Board waiver?

WSU can review individual waiver requests. Instructions are in the application. It's very likely that other colleges do this, too! Also, many of the independent colleges, such as PLU and Whitworth, do not charge an application fee at all, so there are free application options out there. Other public institutions are also accepting the NACAC waiver to replace other waivers previously used to cover the application fee.

23 Can we get a new poster of all the 34 Community and Tech Colleges with their programs again this year?

All 34 community and technical colleges have copies of that brochure/poster. We update that brochure every other year, so keep an eye out for a new version in summer 2021.

24 Do you always encourage a 4th year of Math?

Washington's public four-year college and universities shared during the webinar that they do encourage a 4th year of math based on WSAC's CADR policy

25 Can you please provide some information on how to get subsidies for CHS?

There are two ways to access funds to help with CHS course fees. One is OSPI subsidy program, which requires districts to submit a iGrant application by July 1. There is also a "prior year adjustment" that gets sent to districts in their September state allocation of funds that is designated for "academic acceleration". You should contact Jason Boatwright at jason.boatwright@k12.wa.us for details about how to find out the amount your district will receive.

26 Private school here but we have HSBP on our transcript, wondering about this new Graduation Pathway - when it will appear on public school transcripts and if we should be considering it as well

OSPI had intended to add Graduation Pathways to the transcript for the Class of 2020, but pulled that new requirement because of COVID. Not yet sure about the Class of 2021. Will likely depend on how long we end up in remote or hybrid learning settings.

27 All WA state schools in the Council are waiving ACT/SAT for Fall 2021?

Washington's public four-year college and universities recognize the challenges that students are facing due to the COVID-19 pandemic and, in response, are temporarily suspending the standardized test requirement for students applying for fall 2021 freshman admission. Not submitting an SAT or ACT will not disadvantage an applicant in the review process.

In addition, the Washington Student Achievement Council revised the Minimum Admission Standards for public four-year college and universities. In response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, the Admission Standards policy was revised on April 27, 2020 to allow for institutional flexibility for academic years 2020-21 and 2021-22.

EWU, Evergreen and UW Seattle have taken steps to move to test optional permanently.

Neither the SAT or ACT are required for admission for AY 2021-22 at Independent Colleges of Washington member campuses (Gonzaga, Heritage, Pacific Lutheran, Saint Martin's, Seattle Pacific, Seattle, Walla Walla, and Whitworth universities; University of Puget Sound; and Whitman College). There may be exceptions for students who have home schooled or attended a high school that does not provide grades.

28 Can you share more information around what Financial Aid requirements are in the HSBP?

If you use either the Graduation Pathways Toolkit or look at our new HSBP template - both of which are posted at <https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/graduation> - you'll see all the details (in the toolkit) and how we "documented" it all in the HSBP via the new page in the template.

29 Question for OSPI: Looking through our equity lense, it seems that our current seniors who have not had a chance to take a make up SBAC and/or an SAT/ACT and are also not on track to complete a CTE pathway and are not going in the military, what are the options for these students, especially since the expedited appeal is no longer an option? Can we expect to hear something about waiving this requirement for the class of 2021?

As of now, there are no waivers or additional Graduation Pathway options. The State Board of Education is the agency tasked with giving feedback to the legislature about grad pathways. You can send them your feedback/concerns at sbe@k12.wa.us and they're compiling that information to share with the legislature during the 2021 session. While it is possible that additional flexibility will be granted, that cannot be guaranteed at this point so make your voice heard with the SBE and your local elected officials.

30 How does our district submit proof/ evidence that the student has met the CTE sequence? Do we just document it on our end and check a box somewhere for them?

The CTE Course Sequence Grad Pathways that cross over CTE program areas are the only ones submitted in EDS (by the CTE Director or Dist. Assessment Coord.) for approval. Single CTE program Course Sequence Pathways are approved by your district.

The system pulls data from CEDARS grade history to show "Met" for the both the district and state approved CTE Course Sequence Grad Pathways, if the requirements have been met.

Graduation Pathways do have to be documented in every students' HSBP. The transcript was supposed to have a Met or Not Met, but COVID through that process for a loop last spring.

31 Are there subsidies for FRL kiddos, besides I grants, for CHS students? If so, can you provide contact information on how to access funds?

Reach out to Jason Boatwright, OSPI Program Supervisor for Dual Credit, at jason.boatwright@k12.wa.us for information on resources for CHS course fees.

32 Will NACAC Waivers still be accepted during this virtual setting? I imagine it will be very difficult to provide students with those and have them been signed during this time.

Most colleges will accept them if they have in the past. Many are being very flexible during this crisis.

33 Although it appears all public and independent baccalaureates have made admission applications for 2021 test optional, some students may think they really should take it anyway. What should those of who who work in high schools say to our students?

Share the information institutions have provided. Information re: Washington's public four-year college and university can be found here: <https://councilofpresidents.org/novel-coronavirus-covid-19-information-resources/washington-public-four-year-college-universities-covid-19-faq/> and students/families should reach out to intended institutions with further questions. Neither the SAT or ACT are required for admission for AY 2021-22 at Independent Colleges of Washington member campuses (Gonzaga, Heritage, Pacific Lutheran, Saint Martin's, Seattle Pacific, Seattle, Walla Walla, and Whitworth universities; University of Puget Sound; and Whitman College). There may be exceptions for students who have home schooled or attended a high school that does not provide grades. We encourage students, their families and others with questions to contact our offices of admission:

<https://icwashington.org/page/campusvisits>.

34 What about any scholarships that have previously used SAT/ACT as a criteria. Formula changing for those?

Washington's public four-year college and universities are not requiring the SAT/ACT for scholarships for fall 2021. For scholarship information for Independent Colleges of Washington member campuses (Gonzaga, Heritage, Pacific Lutheran, Saint Martin's, Seattle Pacific, Seattle, Walla Walla, and Whitworth universities; University of Puget Sound; and Whitman College), reach out to financial aid offices; see: https://icwashington.org/page/financial_aid_offices. For additional scholarships, see: <https://icwashington.org/page/Scholarships>

35 If there are seniors that do not feel like their needs have been met in both the academic rigor and post-secondary preparations, can the student and parents opt to repeat the academic year even if they have enough credits to graduate?

If a student has met all their graduation requirements, they will need to be graduated. With that being said, families can make decisions, with school support, to hold back specific requirements in order to remain in high school to prepare for a meaningful first step. It'd be important to get your admin on board with this given that 4-year graduation rates are at times a big deal for a district, although OSPI also publically reports out 5th, 6th and 7th year graduation rates, with the intention of keeping schools engaging with students beyond that 4th year and ensuring they do graduate when ready!

36 The 9th grade College Bound applications this year—is there a place to find these details?

You can also contact our main CBS office collegebound@wsac.wa.gov or 1 (888)535-0747, Option 1. You can also find more information on our website here: <https://readyssetgrad.wa.gov/college/CBS-Resources>

37 With many colleges going test optional or test blind, what are your recommendations for students that were counting on test scores to help mitigate lower GPA for admissions?

I recommend the student using the writing portion of the application, notably the portion that allows them to offer information outside the personal statement. Also, please recommend that students in this situation reach out to the admissions offices at the college or university that they are most interested in to share their interest and seek advice as many other institutions don't have a writing portion. Many institution review through a holistic review process that allows them to take everything shared with the institution into consideration.

38 I realize most students are doing online due to Covid, But how do colleges in general view online schooling as opposed to a student that attends a traditional high school program?

Washington's public and independent, private, not-for profit four-year college and universities are committed to not disadvantaging students due to impacts of the pandemic. Preference is not given dependent on the modality of a course.

39 What are some of the “alternate” means of admitting students that were formerly capped at 15%?

1.3 FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS EMERGENCY ADMISSIONS POLICY In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, institutions may temporarily increase the proportion of first year students admitted under **1.2 ALTERNATE FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS ADMISSION POLICY** for the 2020-21 and 2021-22 academic years. During this emergency time period test-optional is broadened to include test-blind and tests-not-required. For the emergency time period, institutions do not need to submit temporary test optional, test blind or test not required policies to WSAC in writing prior to implementation for academic years 2020-21 and 2021-2022. When the Governor determines the emergency period has ended, institutions will once again adhere to non-emergency policies for students admitted for a term more than 12 months after the emergency period ends.

40 Is WSAC doing any virtual workshops for schools? My school would be interested in having a parent/student workshop for our families this fall via zoom or similar format.

Yes - the 12th Year Campaign is offering virtual financial aid events. You can find more information about our events our website <https://wsac.wa.gov/12th-year-campaign>. You can also contact Christina at christinaw@wsac.wa.gov or Yokiko at yokikoh@wsac.wa.gov if you have any more questions.

41 For the SAT/ACT, because many schools are test-optional or -blind, how should we counsel students on whether to register and try to take a test?

The student first should ensure that the college they are interested in is test optional. Test optional means different things to different institutions. We define test option for Washington's public four-year college and universities as follows. Official SAT or ACT test scores must be sent directly to the college or university to which a student is applying, unless the institution has implemented a test-optional policy. Test-optional policies must be implemented consistently and fairly. Test-optional policies may include the use of other measures of college readiness such as successful completion of dual-credit coursework or exams, or scores on high school assessments required for graduation or accountability. Institutions must provide a copy of their admission exam policies to the Washington Student Achievement Council prior to implementation. The student should reach out to their college of choice because there may be other uses of the SAT/ACT beyond admissions.

42 How do we advise students to navigate Fafsa if their financial info has changed since 2019?

Students/families financial changes all the time. This is not something new due to the pandemic. For Washington's public four-year college and universities we strongly encourage students/families to reach out to financial aid directors to discuss how to adjust their information. Contacts and answers to this question and others for our sector can be found here: <https://councilofpresidents.org/novel-coronavirus-covid-19-information-resources/washington-public-four-year-college-universities-covid-19-faq/>. Families should file the FAFSA or WASFA with the information it asks for. Then, once they have narrowed down their college choices, they should request a Special Circumstance or Professional Judgement Form for the Financial Aid office to share any changes related to the current or future years. This allows a university to adjust an EFC internally.

- 43 How will Merit Scholarships be awarded at colleges if students can't provide SAT/ACT test scores? What do we tell families?**
Majority of institutions will be determining merit scholarships using student cumulative GPAs.
- 44 Are students that submitted a WASFA included in the 46 % that did not submit a FAFSA?**
No
- 45 Can students submit their SBAC scores instead of SAT/ACT? All are equivalent college-readiness exams with the same validity for first year college GPA and persistence.**
Washington's public four-year colleges do not use SBAC in admissions. See further details here. https://councilofpresidents.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/REV06_2020COP_FAQ_FS_Smarter_balance_f.pdf. The Independent College of Washington do not use the SBAC for admission.
- 46 The FAFSA4caster is gone, where do we find the new calculator??**
www.wsac.wa.gov/12th-year-campaign
- 47 Regarding the low FAFSA completion - There is an assumption by some parents that completing the FAFSA will have a negative impact on their child's application. This has been perpetuated by some private consultants. Is this true? If not, how can we clarify this misinformation?**
False, FAFSA and WASFA submissions have nothing to do with admission decisions, it can be easily verified by institution Financial Aid offices and Admissions offices if needed. Many students will receive an admissions decision before or during submitting their FAFSA or WASFA. The FAFSA or WASFA can be completed at any time during a student's senior year. However, many schools have a priority date for submission for financial aid. Families and students should be aware of deadlines.
- 48 Are there resources available (aka, trained people) who will come out to Financial Aid Workshops in rural areas?**
WSAC is available for virtual workshops and many colleges and universities will send their staffs to rural areas to do Admission and Financial Aid workshops. This year is a great year to build that relationship by seeing if someone will do a virtual workshop or two for your families.
- 49 Can we get the link to request a key in the chat for direct click?**
To request your flash drive key to success please go to <https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/5793385/2020-Key-Request>
- 50 Follow up question about ACT/SAT...if a student believes they will score well on SAT or ACT will this help their chances for admittance for a test optional college?**
No, it may be taken into consideration if shared with the institution through the holistic review process, however, it will not change a decision in either direction.
- 51 Is there a specific website I can access that have a list apprenticeships that I can share with my students?**

<https://lni.wa.gov/licensing-permits/apprenticeship/become-an-apprentice> which provides information and the links that list all state approved LNI apprenticeship programs. The apprenticeship programs that are listed here are then eligible to apply to become Sponsors to participate in the Washington College Grant program.

52 When students have a SSN but parents don't. Could you remind us what needs to be entered for the social for the parents if it is 999 or 000?

000-00-0000

53 Is an HSBP summit still in the works for this year? For the Financial Aid information HSBP requirement, what counts as "evidence" that the student received Financial Aid information?

No HSBP Summit in the works right now. The OSPI template has a new Financial Aid page that includes a personal attestation as "proof" that the student has received information about financial aid. You can find the new template posted at <https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/graduation> if you want to use it (it's writable and can be uploaded to any online HSBP platform) or create something similar that works better for you.

54 How do you guys look at or evaluate a transcript for admittance that has Statistics or Financial Algebra as a 3rd year of math?

We don't have any hard requirements for courses - just that students fulfill the high school requirements and challenge themselves.

55 With the land acknowledgement links, do these links also guide the process of getting permission from the local tribes to do a land acknowledgement?

The "maps" link does include an email for each tribe in the OSPI presentation. It's important to reach out to the tribes to collaboratively create a land acknowledgement, especially since current tribal lands don't always reflect historical tribal lands. So, school districts may actually sit on more than one tribe's historical lands.

56 My concern is around the SBA tests that our seniors and juniors do not have. How will they meet these graduation requirements?

Passing a SBA exam is no longer REQUIRED for graduation - it's one of the 8 Graduation Pathway options. See OSPI Graduation Pathways Toolkit or the SBE website for more information and please reach out if you need help.

57 What is the difference between "test blind" and "test optional"? Or is there a difference?

Under a test-optional policy, colleges still welcome test scores from students who choose to submit them and consider them a valuable data point and part of the review process if testing is available. ... In contrast, if a school is test blind, it means they will not consider standardized testing at all and there's no need to submit test scores.

58 Do students have to have military as a consideration to use the ASVAB as an alternate test score?

The purpose of the Graduation Pathways is to provide multiple ways for students to demonstrate their readiness for a first step after high school. Given that the military is the only post-HS option that actually requires an ASVAB exam, it's truly only an appropriate Grad Pathway for students who want to prepare for a military career, or at a minimum, a career that connects to the military in some way. The ASVAB should NOT become a 'fall-back' grad pathway for students who cannot meet other options.

59 Will people be advocating for the EAA waiver during the legislative session for our students this year?

So far, the St Board of Education Board has submitted agency request legislation for emergency waiver authority that could be used to waive the pathway requirement if needed. I have not seen the legislative priorities of other state-level organizations yet.

60 Would you speak to whether or not Washington State is investing in improvement of high school school counselor ratios, especially given the ever-increasing list of duties and tracking added to the role of counselors every year.

Yes, OSPI, WSCA and many other state-level organizations have been advocating for more school counselors as well as legislation that would require all districts to make a plan for implementing a best practices model for school counseling that is aligned with the ASCA National Model. Currently, the prototypical school funding model does ALLOCATE funding for high school counselors at a 1:236 ratio. However, since it's an ALLOCATION, districts do not have to use the funding to meet that level of school counseling staffing. There is a slide with the prototypical school funding model information at the end of the OSPI update for the WCHSCR workshop.

61 Where is the link to the updated toolkit for class of 2021?

Look for the link in the What's New box at <https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/graduation>

62 SAT graduation pathway: Are students still required to use the test with the essay to count for a graduation pathway for English?

The options for the SAT have not changed and are posted on both the SBE website and in our Graduation Pathways toolkit.

63 Why is the financial aid advising day so late into the year when the application opens in October?

The expectation for the new FAAD is that it happen between Sept. 1 - Dec. 1 each year.

64 I may have missed this in the past, but can you further explain the Financial Aid Day by 12/1 please?

You can find all the details and resources at www.wsac.wa.gov/12th-year-campaign

65 What impact do "p's" normally have on admissions? We have heard a P is seen as a C grade is this correct?

Washington's public four-year college/universities do not not convert a "Pass" or calculate it in the cumulative GPA. Neither do any of the Independent College of Washington.

66 For school's that are test optional, will students not submitting a score be seen as less competitive applicants?

Not for Washington's public four-year college or universities or for the Independent Colleges of Washington.

67 Are schools (UW) still doing direct admit for computer science program?

Yes

68 Would colleges rather see AP/IB/Honors courses etc. on a transcript with a slightly lower gpa or general education classes with a higher gpa?

This is such a "it depends" answer. Colleges like to see a student who pushes themselves academically, but not so much that it is making their GPA dip below our average GPAs or middle 50%.

69 If a student submitted SAT scores to a school but does not want them to be considered, what is the process?

Most college applications will allow a student to tell us whether or not they would like their test scores considered. If they change their mind they would need to email the admission office directly to see if they can.

70 For any 4-year college representatives: is there any a unique circumstance where you would accept an applicant who hasn't met the 2-year world language requirement? I have a student who moved here from India his senior year and meets every CADR requirement / WA State grad requirement ASIDE from the 2-year World Language requirement.

The public colleges do have some flexibility. However, if the student entered the country after 8th grade, we can consider the requirement as "met".

71 For Common App schools and those with personal statement essays that provide COVID-related prompts or responses, is there a general list of "dos and don'ts" on what admissions are looking for?

This section is optional for students to fill out and is there if a student would like to describe how COVID 19, or other natural disasters, affected them academically, financially or socially. They can also talk about things they were planning on doing that were cancelled or things they started doing during that time. None of us have reviewed this section before, but this allows students to also utilize the essay portion to talk about something else, if they would like to.

72 Do you ever see an "S" on a transcript? How typical is this?

It appears this is not something that is very common, but we would refer to the high school's description of what an 'S' is during our review.

73 There are topics that students are often encouraged to not write about...divorce, trips, sports. Is COVID a topic we should steer students from writing about?

Students should write about a topic that they feel helps a college get to know them best. So yes, we may end up reading a lot of essays about some of the topics listed, but the fact that a student chooses that topic is not detrimental to their application. It may be good to advise students to choose these topics knowing that colleges read about these often and to make sure they really make their essay personal and authentic to them.

74 During the admission process will you be reviewing districts grading policies? It seems districts who gave only A's or Incompletes are giving their students a big advantage over schools who used the full A-D grading scale if you are looking at GPA?

Washington's public four-year college and universities and Independent Colleges of Washington are aware of the variance in grading policies across the state. | Yes, we are attempting to track district grading policies and to use those holistically during review.

75 For all colleges and universities: should students be preparing personal videos as a submission tool; I have asked this of some local schools who said no, I am wondering about other schools in other parts of the state?

Depends on the school. At the UW for example, would not accept a video submission. | As another example, for Whitworth, students can absolutely submit something additional, like a video, in their application. A video could not replace the essay, however. A video is welcome but unnecessary.

76 Will colleges give any different consideration to grades earned in Running Start classes compared to "COVID A's" at high schools for Spring 2020?

No

77 Financial aid-Is it true that if students enter running start in high school then their 5 year mark starts then for financial aid?

For Washington College Grant (WCG) and College Bound Scholarship, students who are still in high school are not aid eligible. For WCG, the five year maximum usage time frame begins when the student begins receiving WCG and only the terms in which they receive the funds apply to the maximum usage time frame (15 quarters/10 semesters). For WCG, this is not a hard start/stop timeframe – meaning if a student has remaining terms of eligibility and qualifies – they could receive the funds over many years exceeding 5 consecutive calendar years as it is a maximum usage time frame of 15 quarters/10 semesters. Conversely, College Bound Scholarship has a hard limit start/stop time frame where the student must enroll within one year of high school graduation and may receive 12 quarters/8 semesters (4 years of eligibility) that expires within 5 years of high school graduation. Credits earned while in Running Start may count towards a student's maximum timeframe for federal aid due to the requirement that federal aid has a 150% maximum timeframe related to credits. Students in RS will want to work with their advisor to ensure they are taking credits that meet their graduation requirements

78 Are institutions putting any indication on transcripts for quarter grades possibly impacted by COVID-19? Similarly, do you know if any of the transcript considerations (notably p/f grades) being made for admissions purposes due to COVID-19 will also be applied later in the student's academic journey if they have to apply to a major or school of study for their degree path?

No, we'll all collectively know it'll be spring 2020, fall 2020 as well. Shouldn't affect the student transcript or review decisions.

79 Is there a common site where we can find virtual tour links to all the WA State higher education schools. We would like to post on our Career Center website.

I don't think there is a site with all that information. The virtual tours will be accessible on college sites. You might need to explore sites to see who is offering.

80 Follow up to the AP question, especially with holistic review, does it change if the student has a 4.0 vs 3.5?

Some colleges and universities use a weighted GPA, like PLU and Whitworth, when considering a student for admission. So they recalculate student GPAs on a 4.5 scale using various courses such as AP, IB and Honors classes.

81 Do you consider Running Start classes to be as challenging as IB/Cambridge/AP? Lots of parent/student questions.

Washington's public four-year college and universities do not have a preference for one dual credit program over another. We support students enrolling in the most rigorous coursework to meet their educational goals. For more information go to:

https://councilofpresidents.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/cce_cppe-icao-approved.pdf

82 If a student has AVID for all 4 years, the 2nd year of Fine Arts is difficult to earn. Can AVID be used as their PPR

Yes. You might also consider a local course equivalency for AVID 12 as a "Senior English" since there is so much focus on supporting college and scholarship apps. in that class. :-)

83 As an alternative school who uses Competency based transcripts, there are many misconceptions regarding colleges accepting these types of transcripts. We are typically successful in getting them connected to the 2 year schools but in my experience we have not seen students directly admitted into 4 year institutions. From the 4 year school perspective how are you evaluating these in comparison to the traditional transcripts?

Evergreen can work with alternative school, competency based transcripts. | WSU Vancouver can review competency based transcripts. We will need more details to determine accreditation but can certainly work directly with you to learn more. The answers Evergreen and WSU Vancouver are pretty indicative of every university in Washington State, public and private. We look at each applicant and transcript individually and at times, may need more information.

84 1. Is your organization/university creating and or facilitating Virtual Career Exploration programming? For students to learn about various pathways and post secondary credentials. Also, an opportunity to connect with alumni and local professionals. 2. I know Career Connect WA facilitated virtual programming in May, will that continue?

SPU has an online resource called pathway U that is open to students! It's newly available to non current students but I would be interested in partnering with a high school to help with career exploration! ineliz@spu.edu.

85 If a student takes running start but doesn't complete an AA degree, can they finish it at the University - especially if they are close? I've heard they can for some schools but is it for all or just case by case?

We do have a reverse transfer agreement at SPU. It depends how many credits they need to complete and we recommend they work with one of our academic counselors to plan their time. Usually they do the reverse transfer. They take courses that transfer into the CC from the four year school to complete the AA. All of Washington's public four-year college and universities participate in reverse transfer. More information can be found here:
<https://www.sbctc.edu/colleges-staff/programs-services/transfer/reverse-articulation/>