



Intercollege Relations Commission

Update from Independent Colleges of Washington

October 8, 2026

Sheila Steiner

Sr. Director for Policy & Community Engagement

Sheila@icwashington.org



Gonzaga University ▪ Heritage University ▪ Pacific Lutheran University ▪ Saint Martin's University ▪ Seattle Pacific University
Seattle University ▪ University of Puget Sound ▪ Whitman College ▪ Whitworth University

75%

NOW
HIRING!

of projected job openings in Washington through 2032 will require postsecondary credentials; 45% will need a bachelor's or advanced degree

Our academic programs are what Washington needs - from computer science and engineering, to healthcare, education, and business

82% of Washingtonians are within 50 miles of an ICW campus





20%

of WA four-year+ degrees
are conferred at ICW colleges

ICW member campuses have a
completion rate nearly 20% higher
than the national average

Washington companies look for the skills a liberal arts education delivers: the ability to work in a team, problem-solving skills, written and verbal communication skills, and a strong work ethic.

TOP FIELDS OF STUDY



Business, Management,
Marketing, and Related
Support Services



Social Sciences



Health Professions and
Related Programs



Computer Science and Information
Sciences and Support Services



Education



Legal Professions
and Studies



Biological and
Biomedical Sciences



Engineering



Psychology



Communication, Journalism,
and Related Programs

SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN TRANSFER

[About Transfer at ICW](#)[What Our Students Say](#)[Transfer Counselor Directory](#)[Transfer Agreements](#)

Transfer to ICW Member Campuses

Focus on students who transfer

Washington is one of the few states in the nation with long-standing, coordinated transfer efforts that bring together higher education partners to support students who want to transfer from two-year community colleges to four-year colleges and universities.

Most community and technical college students (68%) intend to transfer and attain a bachelor's degree. ICW campuses welcome students who transfer, students such as Tealshawn (see video), who transferred to her "dream school" from a Washington community college. Check out the resources on this page, and also know that through ICW's Transfer Pathways Fund, we are raising scholarship dollars to assist serving students who transfer from any of the 34 public community colleges in Washington to one of the ICW member campuses.



What Our Students Say

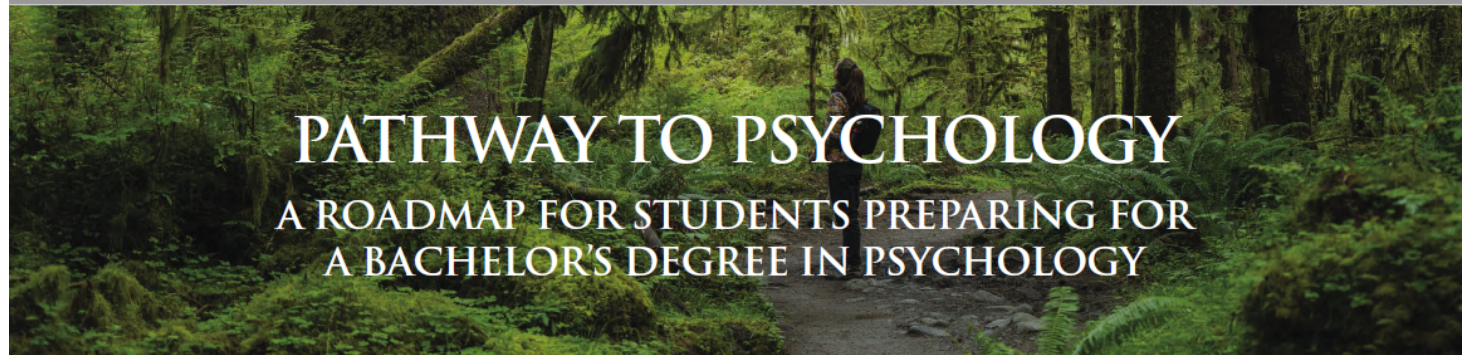
"I think what motivates me in life is helping others. It always has ever since I was little. I want to inspire other minority girls like me that didn't think they had a chance at a dream school, achieve their dreams and success ... I do want to go to medical school and become a doctor, possibly specializing with kids with special needs ... thank you for your investment in my success, to learn and grow, and hopefully become a doctor in my future career."

Brooke Perez

Transferred to Gonzaga University

Participation in Statewide Agreements

Member Campus	AA/AS DTA	AS-T Track 1	AS-T Track 2	Biology	Busi- ness	Comp. Science	Engineer- ing	LPN-BSN	RN-BSN	Pre- Nursing	Reverse Transfer
Gonzaga University	Y		Y		Y	Y	Y				
Heritage University	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y			
Pacific Lutheran University	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y				Y	Y
Saint Martin's University	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Seattle Pacific University	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			Y	Y
Seattle University	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			Y	Y
University of Puget Sound	Y										
Whitman College	Y										
Whitworth University	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y					



ADVANTAGES OF THE PATHWAY TO PSYCHOLOGY

- Direct entry to a participating psychology program with Junior standing if you meet GPA and coursework requirements
 - Most general education requirements are met
-



ADVANTAGES OF ICW PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAMS

- Small class sizes
- Individualized attention and support from professors and advisors who are experts in the field
- Opportunities for internships, research, and other out-of-class experiences that will prepare you for directly entering the workforce or pursuing a graduate degree



Transfer Pathways Scholarships

In 2026, ICW awarded ~\$400,000 in scholarships to transfer students enrolled in its member campuses; for details, contact [ICW financial aid offices](#).

Recipients:

- ☐ Demonstrate financial need (Pell- or Washington College Grant-eligible)
- ☐ Transfer from any of Washington's 34 CTCs
- ☐ Enroll part-time or full-time

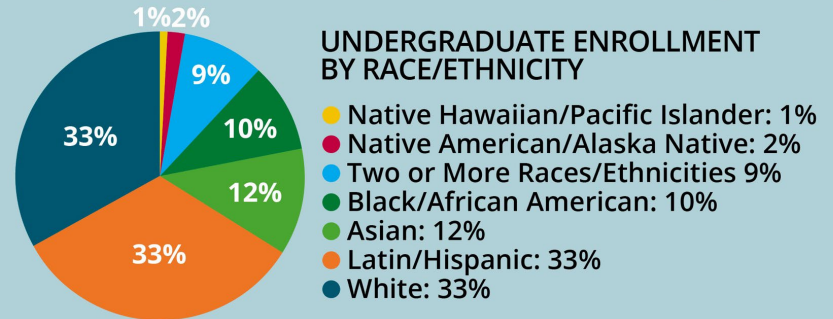
Funding is renewable, subject to availability, for up to three years

State Aid Cuts: Who's Affected?

At ICW campuses

- **73%** of Washington College Grant recipients are students of color
- **64%** are women
- **65%** are first-generation college students

Two-thirds of ICW's WA Grant recipients are students of color



1/3 of Washington College Grant and 21% of College Bound Scholarship students attending an ICW member campus are students who transferred to our campuses



WASHINGTON'S STUDENT AID CUTS: TAKE ACTION NOW

A large orange circle containing the text "SAVE STUDENT AID.ORG" in white. Above the text is a blue graduation cap icon with a white dollar sign hanging from its tassel.

**SAVE
STUDENT
AID.ORG**



**BIG CHANGES ARE COMING—BUT YOUR VOICE COULD MAKE A
DIFFERENCE!**



ICW Annual Report



Questions?

If you have any questions, please contact:

Sheila Steiner, Ph.D.

Senior Director, Policy & Community Engagement
Independent Colleges of Washington

Email: Sheila@icwashington.org

206-623-4494

WASHINGTON STATE
Council of
Presidents

ICRC Fall Meeting

October 2026



About the Council of Presidents

We proudly represent and coordinate initiatives and advocacy, fostering collaboration among Washington's public four-year college and universities with state, regional, and national partners.

We offer transfer partners a central location to:

- Learn about Washington's public, four-year institutions.
- Engage with the student-centered mission and education of our institutions and get to know the impact of our sector on the communities and economics of Washingtonians.





Fall 2027 Admissions Open

- Applications for 2027 admissions are open for **most** Washington public universities. **Please encourage students to apply now!**
- We are excited to welcome Washington students to any of Washington's public universities!

Reminder: Online Resource for Transfer Students



WASHINGTON
PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

- In fall 2025, COP launched wapublicuniversities.org, a centralized website for students and families.
- This spring, the site will be updated with resources for transfer students, including:
 - Transfer deadlines
 - Transfer admission standards
 - Links to WA public university transfer resources

Improving CADR Transparency and Alignment

- In September, COP updated the State High School Course Code to CADR Crosswalk.
- The Crosswalk maps:
 - Increase user-friendliness of the tool
 - Added new state course codes and CiHS course offerings

Digital Sharing of High School Transcript Data

- Met in May to continue advancing this work
- Since May:
 - Confirmed confidence that the file meets post-secondary data needs
 - Pilot files have been shared with colleges and universities for testing
 - Draft legislation was developed for introduction in the upcoming legislative session

New Degree Offerings

New degree offerings by location since spring ICRC meeting:

Eastern Washington University

- BA Education, Elementary and Multilingual Education

Washington State University

- MS Sustainable Fuels (Global)
- MS Viticulture and Enology (Tri-Cities)
- MS Food Manufacturing Technology (Global)
- MS Artificial Intelligence (Pullman)

University of Washington Seattle

- MS Finance
- MS Robotics
- Doctor of Occupational Therapy

University of Washington Tacoma

- EdD added online modality
- MS Environmental Science

Western Washington University

- BA Linguistics/Social Studies
- BAE Science Education, Secondary
- BAE Special Education plus Multilingual Education Dual Endorsement
- Masters of Social Work

Contact and Resources



Julie Garver

Director of Policy and Academic Affairs

jgarver@councilofpresidents.org

Website: councilofpresidents.org

LinkedIn: [Council of Presidents](https://www.linkedin.com/company/councilofpresidents)



WASHINGTON
PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

Website: wapublicuniversities.org



Washington Student Achievement Council Updates

Fall 2026





Transfer Updates: Transfer Student Experience Study & Webinar

- **New findings: Navigating Transfer in Washington: Student Experience, Barriers and Supports (September 2026)** [Executive Summary](#) | [Full Report](#)
 - **Additional resources:** Summaries of student recommendations, [Policy Brief](#) | [Institutional Brief](#)
 - Join us for a Webinar to discuss findings on October 20 1-2p.m.
 - Zoom Registration

“A stronger transfer system would make transfer knowledge, advising, financial planning and re-entry support proactive and shared across institutions.”



Transfer Updates

- Every-other year, WSAC submits a report to the legislature focused on the “efficiency of transfer degrees.” The report is slated for publication in January 2027.
- **Transfer Explorer**, a credit mobility project, now has three institutions fully live, meaning that prospective students or advisors can select CWU, YVC and Clark College as “destinations” to see how their credits transfer in terms of equivalencies and degree requirements.
 - Explore at www.transferexplorer.org
 - CBC, WSU-E and Shoreline are live with credit equivalencies and are working toward degree requirements.
 - Heritage University is joining the project this fall.



Agency Updates

WASFA Redesign

- New WASFA platform and application for the 27-28 Academic year is live!
<https://wasfa.onconcourse.com>
- Reminder: students completing the WASAF for the current academic year (26-27) will continue using <https://wsacstudentxprod.regenteducation.net/signin>
- User-friendly website launched for the WA Grant (also known as Washington College Grant) <https://wsac.wa.gov/wcg>



Learning Opportunities: Communities of Practice

LEARN: Season 3

- “**Local Education Adult Resource Network**” is a quarterly, discussion-focused community of practice intended to engage with peer practitioners supporting adult learners across multiple sectors (higher education, workforce, industry etc.).
- <https://wsac.wa.gov/learn>
- Email adultpathways@wsac.wa.gov to be added to the listserv for future meeting information

Immigrant Student Success Community of Practice

- Register via Zoom to join
- Sessions are open to practitioners in higher education (colleges, universities) as well as partners who provide direct services to immigrant, undocumented, or mixed-status families for college and university students. Meetings occur on the second Friday of each month and are one hour in length beginning in October 2026 and concluding in June 2027. Topics, discussions and learning opportunities are informed by attendees. It is a collaborative space to share ideas, ask questions, and support student success efforts.



Learning Opportunities: New Publications

Beyond Education Access: Inequities from FAFSA Filing to Postsecondary Attainment (2026)

- [Snapshot](#) | [Report](#)

Economic Conditions and College Enrollment in Washington State

- [Snapshot](#) | [Report](#)



Contact WSAC

- Abby will be on leave beginning November 2026, with an anticipated return date around March 2027.
- Rathi Sudhakara (rathis@wsac.wa.gov), Associate Director, Strategy & Partnerships will represent WSAC at the Winter ICRC meeting.