



Preparing to Pay for College



Post-High School Planning

- What paths are you considering after high school?
- How can you make best use of your summer to prepare for the road ahead?

Post-High School Planning



Apprenticeship



Trade School



2-Year Community
College



4-Year
College/University

Did you know financial aid can help pay for these various pathways?
Now is the perfect time to start preparing!

Objectives: Ways you can get a head start!



Research Pathways

- Make your list
- Look at cost



Financing your
Education

- FAFSA/WASFA
- Scholarships



Create a calendar of VIP dates



Research Pathways



Researching Pathways

What are important factors when researching options after high school?

Make your List!

Why is it important to give yourself plenty of options?

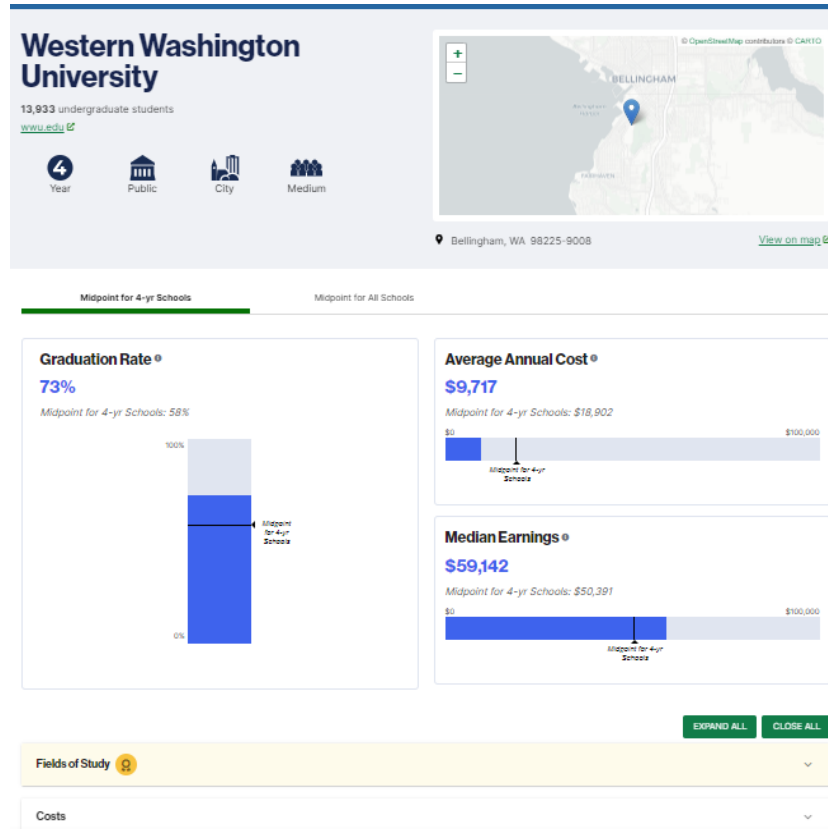
- Not all financial aid offers are created the same – set yourself up to find the **most affordable** offer!
- Use other financial aid offers as **bargaining tools** to ask for more aid



Don't forget to research **financial aid priority deadlines!**



Resource: College ScoreCard



Use College ScoreCard when doing your research on schools

www.collegescorecard.ed.gov/

- Compare schools
 - Explore average cost by family income
 - Graduation and Retention
 - Financial aid and debt
 - Typical earnings
 - Campus Diversity
 - Test-scores and acceptance



Financing Your Education

Complete your Financial Aid Application



- Starting in December 2024, you can start applying for financial aid for the 2025-2026 school year
- Apply either to the **FAFSA** or **WASFA**
- By applying to these applications, you are signaling to schools you wish to attend you would like to receive **financial aid**

EXITS FOR FINANCIAL AID

02

Federal
Financial
Aid



05

State
Financial
Aid



07

Financial aid
from your college
or career school



10

Financial aid
from nonprofit or
private organizations



TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID



Grants and scholarships are usually based on financial need and don't have to be repaid.



Loans are an investment in your future...if you borrow only what you need. Remember, they must be paid back with interest.



A work-study job allows you to earn money while you are in school

Apply for Financial Aid: Which application to complete?

FAFSA	OR	WASFA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ U.S. Citizens ▪ U.S. Nationals (American Samoa or Swains Islands) ▪ U.S. Permanent Residents ▪ I-94 Holders : Refugee, Asylum granted, Cuban-Haitian Entrant, Conditional entrant, Parolee ▪ Visa Holders under VAWA ▪ T or T-1 Visa Holders <p style="text-align: center;">****</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Applies for federal and state aid</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Undocumented students ▪ Students with DACA (expired or not) ▪ Other non-citizens** (check w/ individual college/university) ▪ Defaulted/balance on federal loans/grants ▪ Students who don't feel comfortable completing the FAFSA ▪ Other reasons <p style="text-align: center;">****</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Applies for state aid</p>

Must meet SB 5194* requirements for in-state tuition & in-state financial aid

*Source: <https://wsac.wa.gov/wasfa> **Other ways to be resident: <https://wsac.wa.gov/student-residency>

Research scholarship opportunities



- Create an account at WashBoard (www.washboard.org) and review scholarship opportunities
- Start drafting scholarship essays
- Make sure you check with schools regarding their scholarship process:
 - *Are you considered for scholarships when you apply for admissions? What is the deadline?*
 - *Is there a separate scholarship application? What is the deadline?*

Did you know:



To save \$5000 with WA state minimum wages, you must work at least 384+ hours!

Research scholarship opportunities

These are great sites to get you started:

- www.thewashboard.org
- www.collegegreenlight.org
- www.waopportunityscholarship.org
- <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>
- www.fastweb.com
- www.scholarships.com
- www.collegeresourcenetwork.com
- www.chegg.com/scholarships
- www.thedream.us
- www.uncf.org
- www.hispanicfund.org
- <https://scholarshipjunkies.org/>
- www.Gearup.wa.gov
- www.unigo.com

Get a summer job and start saving!



You may have a gap that is not covered by financial aid – start preparing now!

Risks of non-payment

- Dropped from classes
- Hold on transcript
- Unable to register for next term
- Balance still due
- Unpaid balances can go to collections

Calendar of VIP Dates

Creating a calendar of VIP dates

June-July

- **FAFSA Filers:** Create your own FSA ID for yourself and make sure your parent(s) + step parent create theirs if they have a social security number.
- **WASFA Filers:** Create your own WASFA Account and make sure your parent(s) create theirs.
- Start drafting your **personal** statements.

August-October

- **FAFSA filers w/ parents and stepparents w/o social security numbers: create their own FSA ID .**
- Attend at least one virtual **college fair** and speak to college representatives.
- Identify teachers, coaches, supervisors, and others who can write strong **letters of recommendation**.
- Create a list and begin your college **admissions applications**. Check deadlines!
- Seek a teacher or another adult to **help proofread** admission and scholarship essays.
- Create an **account at WashBoard** (www.washboard.org) and review scholarship opportunities.

Creating a calendar of VIP dates

November

- Wrap up outstanding **college applications** and meet priority deadlines.
- Continue your scholarship search, both through the college(s) and outside organizations.
- Request your **letters of recommendation**. Remember to ask your recommender in person and follow-up to ensure they mail it on time; also, provide plenty of time to meet the deadline.

December

- File the **2025-26 FAFSA or WASFA** starting **December 2024**. Use 2023 tax returns.
- Continue applications at colleges that did not have a priority admissions deadline pass.
- CSF Scholarship applications open **10/1/24!**
 - Visit www.collegesuccessfoundation.org/our-approach/scholarships/ to learn more and apply!

Creating a calendar of VIP dates

FAFSA and
WASFA open

- December 2024

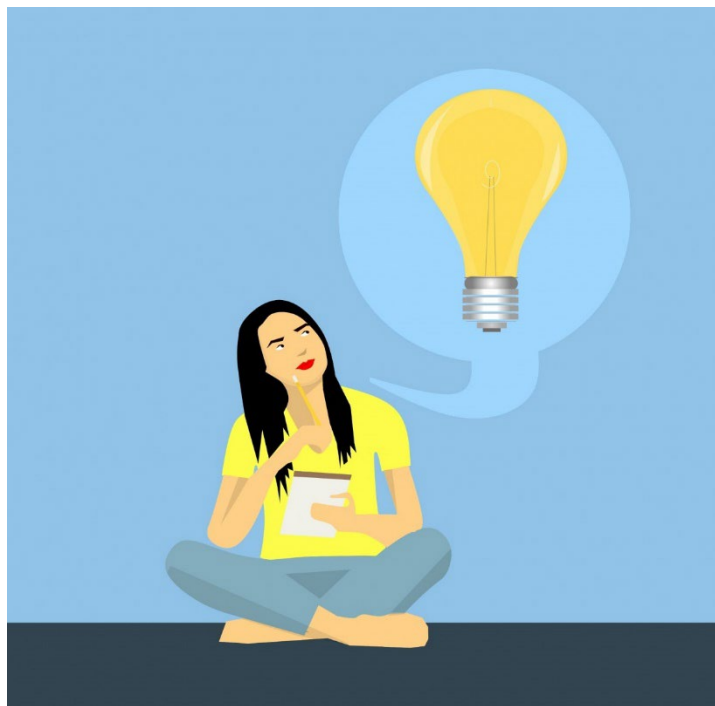
priority
deadline

- As soon as possible

Tip:

- Make sure to check **each school's** financial aid office individual deadline.
- If you are planning to attend an out-of-state institution, also check that state's deadline.

Questions? Comments? **Help?**



Scholarshipservices@collegesuccessfoundation.org