



Key Facts about Higher Education in Washington

2011

WASHINGTON
**HIGHER
EDUCATION**
COORDINATING BOARD

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917 Lakeridge Way SW
P.O. Box 43430
Olympia, WA 98504-3430
360.753.7800
www.hecb.wa.gov

Ethelda Burke, Chair
University Place

Charley Bingham
Tacoma

Roberta Greene
Spokane

Bill Grinstein
Seattle

Earl Hale
Lacey

Jesus Hernandez
Wenatchee

Paul Ishii
Seattle

Addison Jacobs
Vancouver

Sam Shaddox
UW Student

Sam Smith
Seattle

Don Bennett
Executive Director

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Table of Contents

Introduction	iv
Quick Facts about Higher Education in Washington	vii
Chapter I: Foundations	1
Public Four-Year Colleges and Universities	3
Community and Technical Colleges	4-5
Exempt and Authorized Institutions	6
Private Career Schools	7
Actual Average Annual FTEs	8
Chapter II: How Washington Pays for Higher Education	9
Continued revenue shortfall further reduces budget for public higher education	11
Current operating budget below level needed to maintain services in last biennium.....	12
The state’s contribution: A look at the near general fund	13
How near general fund money for higher education is distributed	14
Higher education budget cuts go deeper than other state services	15
Per-student FTE support has dropped significantly at public baccalaureates.....	16
Differing roles influence amounts institutions receive from non-state sources.....	17
Providing educational system infrastructure	18
What students pay: It’s more than just tuition	19
Cost of educating students varies at institutions.....	20
Tuition covers a growing share of higher education costs.....	21
Student financial aid helps bridge the gap between college costs and family income	22
Washington offers several types of financial aid programs	23
Institutions provide significant additional financial assistance to students	24
Borrowing remains a necessity for many students as college costs go up	25
GET program helps families save for future college expenses	26
Chapter III: The Higher Education Delivery System	27
Variety in public institutions offers a wide range of academic opportunities	29
CTC s prepare students for careers and college transfer.....	30
Bachelor’s degree production is growing fastest at branch campuses and centers.....	31
Distance and eLearning are playing a larger role in higher education	32
Through Running Start, many students earn college credit while still in high school.....	33
Other college-prep programs offered to high school students.....	34
Majority of public college employees are engaged in teaching, research, public service	35
Average faculty salaries at most public four-year institutions lag behind peers	36
Part-time faculty play important role at public two-year and private institutions.....	37
Chapter IV: Who Goes to College in Washington	39
College-going behavior after high school	41
Students at baccalaureate institutions more likely to be in their early 20s	42
More than half of college students at two- and four-year institutions are female	43
More students leave the state for their college educations than come here	44
State’s growing diversity reflected on Washington campuses.....	45
Juggling study and work is a reality for many Washington students	46
College participation rates vary among racial and ethnic groups	47
Proximity to college increases odds of enrollment.....	48
Students travel a variety of pathways to reach baccalaureate institutions	49
Many baccalaureate students begin college at two-year institutions.....	50

Key Facts about Higher Education in Washington

Chapter V: How Washington Compares with Other States	51
Washington’s public four-year colleges are highly productive in degree completion	53
...but based on population, Washington degree production ranks in bottom third of states	
Institutions are highly efficient in the production of graduate degrees	55
...but Washington needs to boost advanced degree production to keep pace with other states	
Washington produces higher-value degrees for each dollar spent	57
Share of students attending four-year institutions higher in Washington’s peer states	58
Washington’s public institutions produce a higher percentage of doctoral & associate degrees ..	59
Washington tuition and fee costs rank near the middle compared to other states	60
How Washington tuition and fees compare with peer and Western-state institutions	61
Chapter VI: Public Benefits of Higher Education in Washington	63
Higher education opens the door to more jobs in today’s economy	65
Increased educational attainment boosts family earning power	66
Academic research generates new businesses for Washington’s economy	67
Higher education spending provides direct economic support to communities	68
Higher education investments yield taxpayer dividends	69
More highly educated workers face reduced unemployment problems	70
Children benefit from parents who earn degrees and certificates	71
Education leads to more comprehensive employer benefits	72
Employer health insurance coverage increases with educational attainment	73
Poverty levels decline as education levels rise	74
Increasing education reduces reliance on federal and state social services	75
Educated people report feeling healthier	76
Education reduces propensity toward criminal behavior	77
Education influences voting behavior and volunteerism	78
Chapter VII: Challenges Now and in the Future	79
Washington near top among states in which jobs will require postsecondary education	81
Washington is importing college-educated workers to meet demand	82
Many younger Washington residents have lower education levels than their parents	83
New high school assessment tool shows need for improvement in science and math	84
Nearly a quarter of bachelor’s graduates successfully complete remedial coursework	85
Some racial and ethnic groups have higher college participation rates than others	86
Racial/ethnic groups vary in levels of degree attainment relative to share of population	87
Washington has a pool of students who started college, but never finished	88
For families, the total cost of college depends on the institution and its tuition rate	89
Demand for financial aid has outstripped supply	90
Chapter VIII: Progress Toward Washington’s Higher Education Goals	91
Progress made to align high school graduation, college entry requirements	93
Degree production has grown over the past decade	94
State baccalaureate institutions producing degrees at faster pace	95
Graduation rate for transfer students has improved	96
A large majority of Washington freshmen who attend 4-year public institutions return	97
Universities experience moderate growth in production of graduate degrees	98
Public institutions produce biggest share of degrees in high demand fields	99
Diversity increasing among new faculty members	100

Key Facts about Higher Education in Washington

Chapter IX: Next Steps	101
Educate more Washington citizens to higher levels	103
Adopt a stable funding model for higher education	104
Prepare more high school graduates to succeed in college	105
Ensure affordable access for more low- and middle-income students	106
Increase opportunities for college access.....	107
 Glossary of Acronyms and Terms	 111



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Introduction

Introduction

Washington’s public and private colleges and universities make invaluable contributions to our state and its people. Our higher education institutions are centers of knowledge and innovation, powerful economic and research engines, creative wellsprings, and a force for positive societal change.

Since its establishment in the 1860s, Washington’s higher education system has evolved rapidly to meet a myriad of state needs in fields as diverse as agriculture, bioscience, chemistry, environmental sciences, engineering, medicine, law, business, computer science, and architecture.



Higher education is a primary driver of the Washington economy. Existing and new degree programs enable the state to meet specific regional workforce needs, to foster new entrepreneurial activity, and to educate a diverse population for jobs that increasingly require higher levels of education.

Going to college and earning a degree or certificate are transformative experiences, both in terms of personal growth and because college graduates become better, more involved citizens who strengthen the social fabric of our state. As education levels rise, so do wages, tax receipts, volunteer activity, civic involvement and many other positive social indicators.

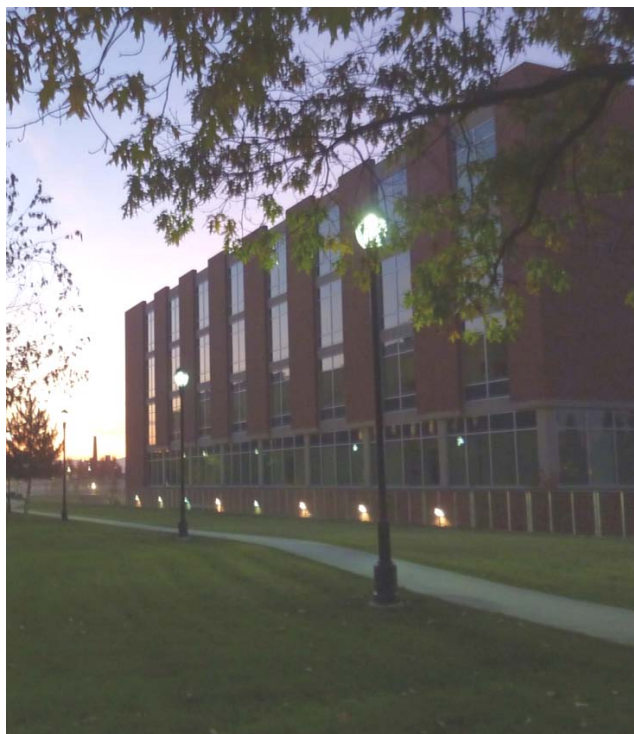
Today, higher education, like other vital state functions, faces an uncertain future due to the lingering effects of the national recession. In the current biennium, public colleges and universities implemented significant budget cuts and raised tuition.

Budget reductions led to elimination of academic programs, larger class sizes, and reduced student-support services. Financial aid programs have not kept pace with unprecedented demand—up 54 percent in the last three years—from a growing number of needy students who would like to go to college.

Introduction

Our state's higher education system represents substantial public investment that is shared by the state and by students who directly benefit. Finding a proper balance between public investments and the tuition paid by students and their families is a major challenge facing the state of Washington.

Achieving the degree goals in Washington's *2008 Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education* has never been more important. Raising the educational attainment of our citizens is a necessity in the 21st Century. But without adequate resources dedicated to higher education, the state may be forced to cut back on these goals – or extend the timeline for achieving them.



Key Facts about Higher Education in Washington provides vital data to chart higher education's progress and challenges. First published in 2002 by the Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB), this annual report highlights *Key Facts* about Washington's postsecondary institutions, including faculty, students, budgets, and financial aid. In a time of significant fiscal challenges, the final chapter suggests efforts to continue progress on the state's long term higher education goals.

Introduction

The Higher Education Coordinating Board



The Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) is a state agency governed by a 10-member citizen board to provide vision and leadership for public higher education in Washington.

Created by the Legislature in 1985, the HECB was formally established in January 1986 as the successor to the Council for Postsecondary Education. Board members are appointed to four-year terms by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.

A student member, also appointed by the Governor, serves a one year term. The Board annually selects from its membership a chair and a vice-chair who each serve for one-year. The chair and vice-chair may serve more than one year if selected to do so by the membership. The agency's executive director serves at the pleasure of the Board.

The Higher Education Coordinating Board serves as an advocate for students and the overall system of higher education with the Governor, the Legislature, and the public. The Board also collaborates with the public and private two- and four-year institutions, other state governing boards, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction to create a seamless system of public education geared toward student success.

HECB's Key Responsibilities:

- 1) Develops a statewide strategic master plan for higher education.
- 2) Administers state and federal financial aid and other education services programs.
- 3) Reviews, evaluates, prioritizes, and recommends the operating and capital budget requests of the two- and four-year public institutions.
- 4) Establishes an accountability monitoring and reporting system to achieve long-term performance goals in higher education.
- 5) Administers the Guaranteed Education Tuition (GET) college savings program.
- 6) Adopts policies that ensure efficient transfer of credits and courses throughout public higher education.
- 7) Approves all new academic degree programs offered by the public four-year college and universities.
- 8) Establishes minimum admissions standards for the state's public baccalaureate institutions.
- 9) Conducts statewide needs assessment for new degrees and programs, off-campus centers and locations, and consolidation or elimination of programs.
- 10) Provides degree authorization for out-of-state colleges and universities and some in-state private colleges and universities.

Introduction

Quick Facts about Higher Education in Washington

- Higher education operating budget – 2009-11: **\$9.4 billion** (16 percent of state total)
- Near general fund-state contribution for higher education – 2009-11: **\$3.2 billion** (10 percent of state total)
- Tuition and fee cost at flagship university (UW), state ranking – 2009-10: **25th**
- College students receiving state, federal, or institutional need-based aid in 2009-10 at institutions participating in the State Need Grant program: **183,000**
- Percentage of high school graduates enrolled in college within one year of graduation – 2009: **64 percent**
- Full- and part-time employees, Washington public colleges and universities – fall 2009: **55,019**
- Jobs generated by academic research – 2008-09: **15,400**
- Economic activity (sales) resulting from academic research – 2008-09: **\$2.2 billion**
- Tax revenue generated for each \$1 in state funding for UW – FY 2008-09: **\$1.48**

Fall 2009 Student Headcounts	
Public community and technical colleges	269,334
Public baccalaureate undergraduate	102,432
Public baccalaureate graduate/professional	23,565
Private baccalaureates	50,493

Degrees and certificates conferred in 2008-09	
Public community and technical colleges	21,218
Public baccalaureates, bachelor's	22,026
Public baccalaureates, master's	4,772
Public baccalaureates, doctoral/professional	1,599
Private baccalaureates, bachelor's	8,030
Private baccalaureates, master's	4,328
Private baccalaureates, doctoral/professional	719

Questions or comments about this report may be addressed to Jan Ignash, HECB Deputy Director for Policy, Planning, and Research. Phone: 360-704-4168 - Email: JanI@hecb.wa.gov.