

2011



Washington Scholars Program

A Washington Opportunity Pathway

Policies and Guidelines

Recognizing . . .

the academic achievement,
leadership ability, and community
service of 147 high school seniors,
three from each legislative district,
and 49 alternate recipients.



WASHINGTON
**HIGHER
EDUCATION**
COORDINATING BOARD



Washington Scholars Program

Higher Education Coordinating Board
917 Lakeridge Way SW
P.O. Box 43430
Olympia, WA 98504-3430
Phone: 360-753-7843
Fax: 360-704-6243
www.hecb.wa.gov/paying

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The Higher Education Coordinating Board administers the Washington Scholars Program, a Washington Opportunity Pathway, in cooperation with the Association of Washington School Principals. Foundations, corporations, organizations and individuals interested in providing scholarships for Washington Scholars are invited to contact the Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Washington Scholars Program
A Washington Opportunity Pathway
Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB)
917 Lakeridge Way, P.O. Box 43430
Olympia, Washington 98504-3430
360.753.7843 or 360.753.7850

Association of Washington School
Principals (AWSP)
1021 Eighth Avenue SE
Olympia, Washington 98501-1500
360.357.7951 or 1.800.562.6100

Washington Scholars Program, a Washington Opportunity Pathway

- Policies and Guidelines -

What is the purpose of the program?

High schools in Washington graduate a significant number of students each year who distinguish themselves through outstanding academic achievement. The Washington Scholars program establishes a consistent and uniform method to:

-  Recognize and honor the accomplishments of those students.
-  Encourage and facilitate privately funded scholarship awards.
-  Stimulate the recruitment of outstanding students to Washington public and independent colleges and universities.
-  Allow educational leaders, the Legislature, and the governor to reaffirm the importance of educational excellence to the future of the state.

Who is eligible to be nominated?

The program is open to all Washington residents graduating from high schools in the state. Recognizing the Legislature’s intent to emphasize scholastic achievement, the initial nomination criteria are based on academic excellence, including cumulative grade point average (based on six semesters or nine trimesters, and a 4.0 grade scale) and the highest combined math (qualitative) and critical reading test scores from a single test sitting of a national standardized exam such as the SAT or ACT. (The writing section test scores are not applicable.) Additional criteria to be considered when making nominations are leadership, honors and awards, community service, and school activities.

HECB staff will calculate the academic score based on the grade transcript and test scores submitted with the application, using the following formula:

$$((\text{G.P.A.} \times 800) + (\text{SAT CR} + \text{SAT M})) \text{ divided by } 64$$

The maximum academic score will not exceed 75 points.

The Washington Scholars program does not set minimum grade point average (G.P.A.) or test scores for nomination, but limits the nomination process to the top 1 percent of a school’s senior class, based on the program selection criteria. Setting minimum G.P.A. or test scores might have the negative effect of inhibiting full participation of all high schools, rather than encouraging it.

Points allocated to each element:

Academic (test scores and G.P.A.)	75 pts. max.
Leadership	10 pts. max.
Community service	5 pts. max.
Honors and awards	5 pts. max.
Overall excellence	<u>5 pts. max.</u>

Maximum score **100 pts.**

The academic scores of nominees from across the state will be high, and the final selection process requires a careful review of the other information provided on the application.

How many students may be nominated?

Each principal of an accredited public or private Washington high school is encouraged to nominate 1 percent of the graduating senior class based on the Oct. 1 enrollment count of the previous year. The following table can be used to determine the number of students a school may nominate:

Senior class enrollment (Oct. 1)	Total Nominations (1 percent)
149 and below	1
150 to 249	2
250 to 349	3
350 to 449	4
(Calculations continue on the same basis)	

If fewer than four nominations are received for a legislative district, the HECB will seek additional nominations of students who meet eligibility requirements for that specific legislative district.

How are student(s) nominated for the award?

The high school principal uses the criteria outlined in the previous sections to identify appropriate candidate(s) representing the top 1 percent of the school's graduating senior class.



Candidate(s) must complete the Washington Scholars application and clearly state their achievements, recognizing that these will differentiate among students of similar scholastic achievement and activities. Students may attach a separate page to continue entries in the subject categories listed on the application.

The legislative district of the candidate's residence address must be included on page one of the application. If the candidate is unsure of the legislative district in which he or she resides, do not guess. Call the elections division of the county Auditor's Office, or use the legislative district look-up utility on the Legislature's Web site at <http://www.leg.wa.gov/pages/home.aspx>.

The Washington Scholars application is available in an electronic PDF version, using Adobe Acrobat Reader software, version 9.0 or newer. To maintain the integrity of the nomination process, there is no direct link to the application from the HECB agency web site. The student may access the form by typing the complete web address, as described in the candidate letter provided to the nominee by the high school principal, into the internet address bar. A hard copy of the application must be printed for mailing to the HECB. A free copy of the Adobe Acrobat Reader can be downloaded from the Adobe Web site at: www.adobe.com/products/acrobat.



The candidate must sign the statement of understanding (release) that the information will be shared with the selection committee, Washington public and independent colleges and universities, the governor, Legislature, and legitimate private scholarship and foundation offices. The form also requires the signature of the candidate's parent or legal guardian.



The high school principal must review and sign the completed application form. Before mailing, attach: the continuation page (if any); high school grade transcript (9th – 11th grade); the senior year first quarter grade report (or equivalent mid-semester progress report for the October/November review period); and the SAT/ACT test scores (copy of the official test result sticker on the transcript or photocopy of official test result page from ACT or College Board/SAT).

 Mail the application packet to the Higher Education Coordinating Board postmarked by **January 18, 2011**. *Use Express Mail, Federal Express, United Parcel Service, or certified with a return receipt to ensure a mechanism for tracking delivery to the HECB. Late or incomplete nomination packets will not be considered.*

Mail the completed nomination package to:

Washington Scholars Program
A Washington Opportunity Pathway
Higher Education Coordinating Board
917 Lakeridge Way / P.O. Box 43430
Olympia, WA 98504-3430

If you have further questions, contact the HECB Washington Scholars program manager at:

Phone: 360.753.7843 or 360.753.7850
Fax: 360.704.6243 or 360.753.7808
E-mail: wascholars@hecb.wa.gov

Nomination materials faxed to the HECB must be followed up with the original hard copy documents.

How are Washington Scholars selected?

A selection committee is convened to review and score all nominations received. The committee is comprised of approximately 24 representatives from public and private high schools and colleges, state agencies, and education associations. Only the application form, continuation page (if any), the 9th – 11th grade transcript, the senior year first quarter (or semester mid-term) grade report, and SAT/ACT test scores are used in the review process. Any other materials submitted are discarded prior to review (examples include resumes, recommendation letters, award certificates, newspaper articles, and so on).

More than 670 nominations are expected, representing students residing in all 49 legislative districts of the state. The Washington Scholars and alternates are selected from that pool of candidates. Applications are separated according to legislative district, and candidates within each legislative district are evaluated as a distinct group. That is, candidates residing in a legislative district compete only against other candidates residing in the same legislative district. Candidates with the highest accumulative final scores in each legislative district are recognized as Washington Scholars. Historically, three Washington Scholars and one Washington Scholars-alternate are named in each state legislative district.

All participants are notified of their final status.

What do Washington Scholars receive?

Washington Scholars finalists:

 May be offered a scholarship for undergraduate coursework at public and independent colleges and universities in Washington state to the extent that funding is appropriated for that purpose by the Legislature.

NOTE: For the high school graduating class of 2010, three finalists from each legislative district were named to Washington Scholars recognition, however, the legislature authorized only one monetary scholarship in each legislative district for the 2010-11 academic year as a cost saving measure resulting from reduced state revenues. The legislature convenes in January 2011 to establish

the state biennial budget for 2011-2013. It is unknown at this time whether the number of monetary scholarships will be restored to three per district or whether continued revenue shortfalls may require similar scholarship reductions for the high school graduating classes of 2011 and 2012.

Washington Scholars-alternates:

- 📖 May receive a scholarship if the finalist(s) in the same legislative district does not meet enrollment requirements or becomes ineligible for the scholarship within one year of award.

Each Washington Scholars finalist and alternate receives:

- 📖 An award certificate signed by the Governor, Secretary of State, and the chair of the Higher Education Coordinating Board.
- 📖 A congratulatory letter from the governor.

What are the terms of award if a student is offered the scholarship (grant)?

The scholarship (grant) is contingent upon timely acceptance of the award offer and is limited to funds appropriated by the Legislature for the program. In addition:

- 📖 The Scholar must be a Washington resident to be eligible to receive the scholarship (grant) benefit.
- 📖 The Scholar must be enrolled and attend an eligible public or independent college or university in Washington state by the fall term immediately after high school graduation.
- 📖 The Scholar must be continuously enrolled during the first year of the award (three academic quarters or two semesters).

However: The Scholar may petition the HECB for a waiver of the enrollment requirements because of exceptional mitigating circumstances.

- 📖 If the Scholar fails to meet the enrollment requirements and is not approved for a waiver of the requirements, the Scholar forfeits eligibility for further scholarship (grant) benefits.

If a Scholar forfeits the scholarship within one calendar year of award, the alternate from the same legislative district will be offered that Scholar's remaining scholarship eligibility.

The alternate must then meet enrollment requirements in a timely manner, as determined by the HECB.

- 📖 The Scholar must use the scholarship (grant) for undergraduate study only.

NOTE: A distinction is made between undergraduate study and an undergraduate student. A student may sometimes qualify for a scholarship (grant) even if he or she has already completed a baccalaureate degree.

- 📖 The Scholar must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average (G.P.A.) of 3.30, or the equivalent, while attending a qualified in-state college or university.

However: The Scholar may petition the HECB for probationary status if the G.P.A. does not qualify at the end of the first academic year (following the initial three academic quarters or two semesters). Probation allows time for the student to work to improve his or her G.P.A. while continuing to receive the scholarship (generally, the sophomore year).

If the Scholar's G.P.A. still does not qualify at the end of the probationary period, the scholarship is suspended until the Scholar again meets or exceeds the G.P.A. standard.

-  The Scholar may not pursue a degree in theology while receiving the scholarship (grant) benefit.
-  The Scholar may receive up to an aggregated total of 12 quarters or eight semesters of grant benefit.
-  The Scholar may transfer between participating colleges in the state and continue to receive the grant.
-  The scholarship for Scholars attending an independent (private) college is contingent on the school matching the state scholarship (grant) on a dollar-for-dollar basis with institutional gift aid funds.
-  The Scholar may receive a pro-rated scholarship (grant) for study at less than full-time enrollment.

However: An independent college may require full-time enrollment as a prerequisite to the institution providing matching funds to the state scholarship (grant).

-  The Scholar is responsible for ensuring activation of the scholarship (grant) by notifying the on-campus scholarship coordinator (usually in the college financial aid or scholarship office) of his/her Washington Scholars award status.
-  The Scholar must make arrangements with the college for payment of tuition.

The scholarship (grant) may be applied toward any valid educational expense, such as tuition, books, supplies, room, board, transportation, or miscellaneous personal expenses.

However, the Scholar must keep in mind that: Most public colleges deposit the scholarship directly into the student's account (i.e., tuition); and independent colleges must disburse the state grant directly to the Scholar.

What is the dollar value of the award?

-  The scholarship (grant) program is limited to funds appropriated by the state Legislature. The individual grant values are established annually as a prorated amount of the dollars available to the program after all participating colleges have verified the list of Scholars attending their campuses.
-  Scholarships (grants) are reduced proportionately if the full value would exceed available funding, or if the Legislature or governor reduces state funding for the program.
-  The value may not exceed the recognized annual cost of full-time, resident undergraduate tuition and services and activities fees at the state research universities, or actual tuition charge, whichever is less.
-  Scholarship values do not take into account the cost of "overload" credits, the surcharge for more than regular full-time enrollment of 15 to 18 credits. (At community and technical colleges, the full-time award is capped at the 15 credit average.)
-  Scholarships (grants) are paid incrementally each academic term (quarter or semester).
-  Examples of the maximum annual grant for full-time study during the 2010-11 academic year are:
 -  Up to \$7,269 for a public four-year research institution or an independent college
 -  Up to \$5,246 at a public four-year comprehensive institution

☞ Up to \$2,652 at a public two-year community college

The values payable for the 2011-12 academic year may be more or less than these amounts.

What are the scholarship (grant) payment priorities?

Due to the limited dollars available to fund Washington Scholars scholarships (grants) each year:

- 📖 First priority is to Scholars enrolled or expected to enroll for the academic year, as identified to the HECB by the college by the 20th day of the fall term.
- 📖 Second priority is to Scholars identified by the college after the 20th day of fall term.
- 📖 Third priority is to Scholars for summer term coursework.
- 📖 No scholarships (grants) are paid to Scholars pursuing theology degrees.

Where may Washington Scholars use the scholarship (grant)?

Washington Scholars may use the scholarship at any of the in-state colleges and universities listed below:

Public four-year research institutions:

University of Washington
Washington State University

Public four-year comprehensive institutions:

Central Washington University
Eastern Washington University
The Evergreen State College
Western Washington University

Independent four-year institutions:

Antioch University
Cornish College of the Arts
Gonzaga University
Heritage University
Northwest University
Pacific Lutheran University
St. Martins University
Seattle Pacific University
Seattle University
University of Puget Sound
Walla Walla University
Whitman College
Whitworth University

Public two-year technical colleges:

Bates Technical College
Bellingham Technical College
Clover Park Technical College
Lake Washington Technical College
Renton Technical College
Seattle Vocational Institute

Public two-year community colleges:

Bellevue College
Big Bend Community College
Cascadia Community College
Centralia College
Clark College
Columbia Basin College
Edmonds Community College
Everett Community College
Grays Harbor College
Green River Community College
Highline Community College
Lower Columbia College
North Seattle Community College
Olympic College
Peninsula College
Pierce College
Seattle Central Community College
Shoreline Community College
Skagit Valley College
South Puget Sound Community College
South Seattle Community College
Spokane Community College
Spokane Falls Community College
Tacoma Community College
Walla Walla Community College
Wenatchee Valley College
Whatcom Community College
Yakima Valley Community College

Private two-year vocational college:

Perry Technical Institute

How is the Washington Scholars program publicized?

In the late fall every year, the Higher Education Coordinating Board distributes nomination forms, and program policies and guidelines, to principals of public and private high schools in the state that have a 12th grade graduating class. A statewide press release announces the new award recipients and alternates in the spring. The HECB also posts a directory of Washington Scholars and Alternates to its agency Web site to inform in-state public and independent colleges and universities, legislators, and participating high schools. The HECB assumes no responsibility for local recognition. School administrators are encouraged to coordinate local recognition efforts for their Washington Scholars.

Does the personal information provided remain confidential?

The purpose of the program is to bring local and state recognition to the achievements of these students and encourage privately funded scholarships in support of Washington Scholars. To ensure that students are not exploited, the program expressly prohibits the sharing of information for commercial or non-scholarship purposes.

How has the Washington Scholars program changed over the years?

The 1981 Legislature created the Washington Scholars as a recognition-only program. The first Scholars were named in 1982. Legislation in 1984 retroactively authorized Scholars to receive a two-year tuition and fee waiver at the state's six public four-year colleges and universities. Scholars were given three years after high school graduation to activate or forfeit the award, and were required to maintain a 3.5 G.P.A. in college.

Program amendments in 1987 expanded the tuition waiver to cover 12 quarters or eight semesters of undergraduate study at the public colleges, and changed the grade point requirement to a 3.30 cumulative G.P.A. A provision for probationary status was added to allow second-year Scholars to continue receiving the award while working to raise their G.P.A.

Legislation in 1988 established a state grant for Washington Scholars attending independent colleges and universities in the state. These grants were capped at the recognized, annual, full-time, resident undergraduate tuition and fees charged at the public research universities, and were contingent upon the school matching the state grant with institutional gift aid funds.

Legislation passed in 1994 revised the basis of selecting Scholars according to the legislative district location of the high school to using the residence address of the nominated student.

Legislation in 1995 phased out the tuition waiver benefit for Scholars at public colleges. Although Scholars named before June 30, 1994 retained eligibility for mandatory tuition waivers at the state's public colleges, all new Scholars named after that date received the state grant.

The 1999 Legislature added a Washington Scholars-alternate to each legislative district and established new enrollment requirements for Scholars named in or after the year 2000. Beginning that year, new Scholars must activate the award by the fall term immediately after high school graduation and remain continuously enrolled for one academic year. Scholars who decline the grant or do not fulfill enrollment requirements within one year of being named to receive the award, or who have not been granted a waiver of the enrollment requirements by the HECB, forfeit the grant benefit to the alternate in the same legislative district.

Legislation enacted through the 2005-07 state operating budget authorized a one-time reduction in the number of awards from three Scholars and one alternate in each legislative district to two Scholars and one alternate per legislative district for the 2006 graduating class. The number of awards authorized in each legislative district reverted to three Scholars and one Scholar-alternate with the 2007 graduating class.

Due to the economic downturn and as a cost saving measure in the 2009-11 state biennial budget, the 2009 Legislature restricted Washington Scholars grants to 90% of the maximum recognized resident undergraduate full time tuition and services and activities fees charges at the public colleges and universities for the 2009-10 and 2010-11 academic years. In the face of continued revenue shortfall and as part of the supplemental budget process, the 2010 Legislature authorized a one-time reduction in the number of scholarship offers to only one scholarship and three recognition awards per legislative district for Washington Scholars from the graduating class of 2010.