

STUDENT NAME

ROADMAP TO COLLEGE!



A PRE-GUIDE ABOUT GOING TO

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

PRODUCED BY

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

GEAR UP PROGRAM



CONGRATULATIONS, YOU HAVE DECIDED TO GO TO COLLEGE!

THIS ROADMAP TO COLLEGE WILL HELP YOU AND YOUR PARENTS PREPARE FOR YOUR JOURNEY TO COLLEGE.

START NOW
– MUCH NEEDS TO
BE DONE IN HIGH
SCHOOL TO PREPARE
FOR COLLEGE



DEAR EDUCATOR,

This Roadmap to College booklet has been produced by the University of Washington GEAR UP Program. GEAR UP students can use this roadmap to prepare for applying to a two-year college, a four-year university or a technical school after high school graduation. This booklet provides a general guide for students planning to attend college. Only the major steps are included in this roadmap. Additional planning must be done by each student and their parents; however this Roadmap to College will get them started in the right direction. For all the necessary steps to prepare for college, students should consult their high school counselor and the admissions office of the college they plan to attend.

RGI Corporation developed this booklet for the University of Washington GEAR UP Program. Evaluators at RGI Corporation surveyed GEAR UP students at participating high schools to ask which college, university or technical school they would be interested in attending. Based on the survey results, RGI Corporation developed Roadmap to College booklets for the top 10 chosen schools. These include the University of Washington, Washington State University, Yakima Valley Community College, Gonzaga University, Seattle University, Harvard University, Central Washington University, Skagit Valley College, Art Institute of Seattle and Western Washington University.

These booklets are printed in English and Spanish. Additional booklets can be requested from GEAR UP Coordinators and they can also be found on the UW GEAR UP website: www.twovalleys-onevision.org.

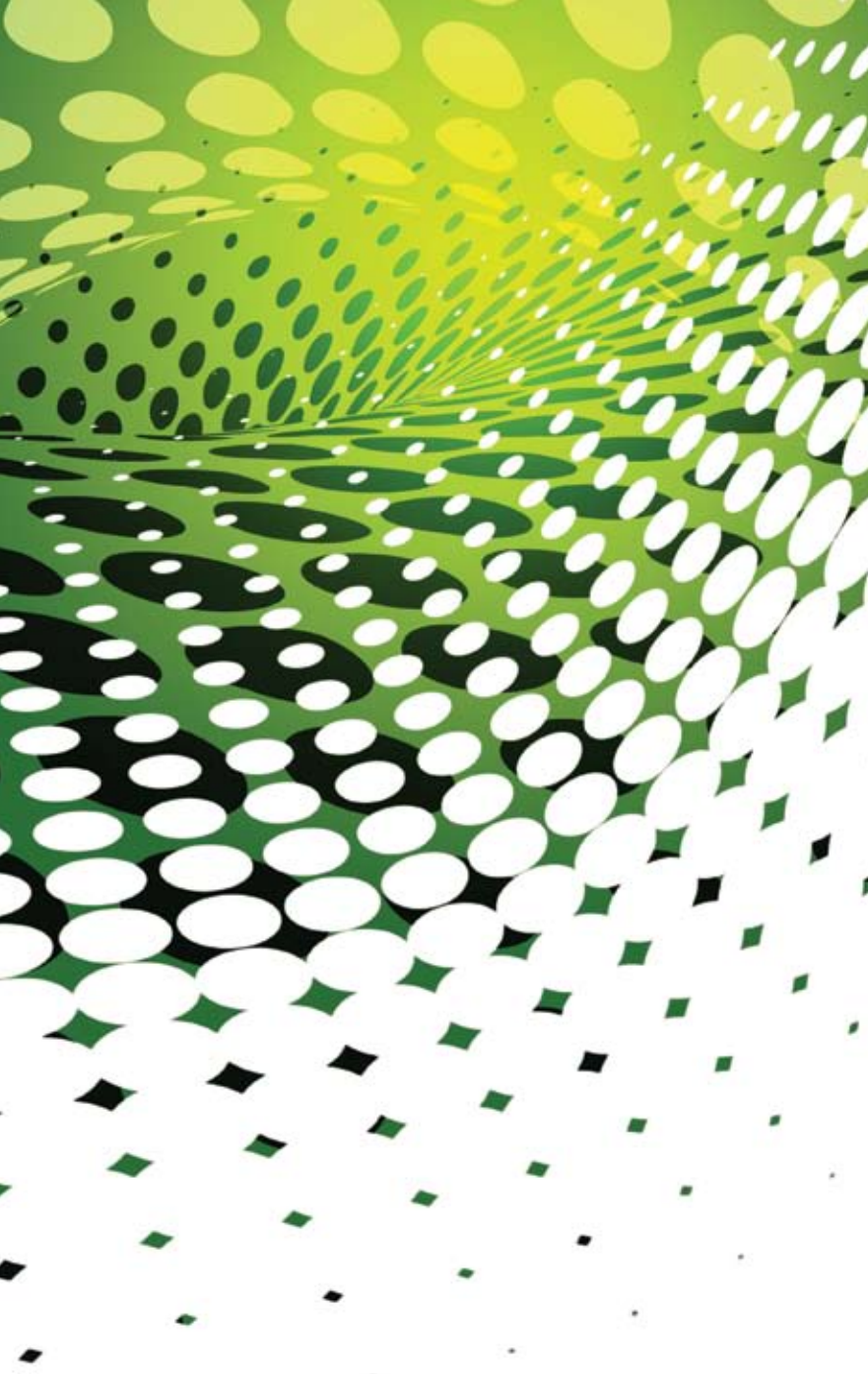


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INFORMATION IS CONSTANTLY CHANGING

High school graduation and college application/admissions requirements may change every year based on new laws and policies. Information in this booklet is current as of August 2009. However, for the most current and accurate information, please consult your high school counselor and the college of your choice. RGI Corporation has also consulted with admissions recruiters from each college and reviewed their school websites to obtain the most current and accurate information.

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DEAR STUDENT,

We have provided this Roadmap to College for you to use when preparing to go to a college, university or technical school. The steps you need to take to get to college can be complicated and information isn't always found in one place. All the necessary information has been compiled in this booklet to provide you with a Roadmap to College.

You and your parents can use this booklet to plan your journey to college. Planning to go to college can start in middle school, but *must* start in high school. To be able to attend the college of your choice, you must know how to apply and how to show them you are the best match for their college.

GEAR UP Program

Things you should know about.....

THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON (UW)

UW COMMUNITY

The University of Washington has a diverse and innovative faculty and staff encouraging a vibrant, intellectual atmosphere for their students. The UW links academic excellence to cutting edge research through scholarly exploration and intellectual rigor. The UW holds themselves to the highest standards of ethics, as a beacon for their community and the world. This is one of the main reasons why the UW is ranked among the world's top 25 universities.

SAMPLE FIELDS OF STUDY (Over 140 Offered)

College of Architecture and Urban Planning

College of Arts and Sciences

Michael G. Foster School of Business

School of Dentistry

College of Education

College of Engineering

College of the Environment

The Information School

School of Law

School of Medicine

School of Nursing

College of Ocean and Fishery Sciences

School of Pharmacy

Evans School of Public Affairs

School of Public Health

School of Social Work

The University of Washington has over 140 different programs in which students can study and major. REMEMBER, select a major that inspires you and that you enjoy! For a complete list of UW majors, visit their website at www.washington.edu/home/departments/departments.html.



DISTINCTION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

- Eleven UW faculty members have won Nobel Prizes.
- Since the first national survey of nursing schools was conducted in 1984, the UW School of Nursing has been ranked #1.
- In 2008, the Academic Ranking of World Universities placed the UW 16th in the world's top universities.
- The UW Libraries received the 2004 Excellence in Academic Libraries Award, which recognizes the top university research library in the country.
- The UW School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences is the largest and most diverse fisheries program in the United States.
- The UW is the nation's #1 supplier of new technical employees to both Microsoft and Intel.
- A recent Success magazine survey of the "Top 25 Business Schools for Entrepreneurship" placed the UW Business School's entrepreneurship program 12th, ahead of Stanford, MIT and Harvard.
- Eleven UW faculty members have received MacArthur Fellowships, the so-called "Genius Awards".
- The UW attracts more federal research money than any university in the nation, save Johns Hopkins.

THINGS TO CONSIDER...

Location: Seattle, WA (population: 598,541)

Class Size: medium-large

Campus Size: 643 acres

Cost of Tuition: \$7,125 / year (may increase annually)

Room and Board (if staying in Dorm): \$4,617 – \$11,097 / year (may increase annually)

Academic Resources: Libraries, Tutoring, Academic Skills Center, Computer Labs, etc.

Professional Sports: Football, Basketball, Soccer, Hockey, Baseball and Roller Derby

Local Entertainment: Pike Place Market, Seattle Aquarium, Seattle Pacific Science Center, Experience Music Project, Woodland Park Zoo, Green Lake, Lake Washington, many restaurants, shopping centers, theaters, museums, etc.

WHO GOES TO THE UW?

41,405 students are enrolled

52% are Women

48% are Men

4.9% are Hispanic/Latino

69.1% are Caucasian

1.1% are American Indian

21.9% are Asian American/Pacific Islander

3.0% are African American

POINTS TO REMEMBER

- ✓ The UW is a diverse community.
- ✓ One of the world's top 25 universities
- ✓ Located in Seattle
- ✓ Tuition Cost: \$7,125 / year (may increase annually)
- ✓ The UW offers over 140 different programs of study.
- ✓ The UW and its faculty have received many prestigious awards.

For more information about the University of Washington, visit their website at www.washington.edu.



MIDDLE SCHOOL: TAKING THE CHALLENGE

As a middle school student, you should do the following...

Middle school is a time of your life when you're curious about the world around you and you try to self-identify. You have moved from childhood to adolescence and you're ready to explore. During middle school, you should challenge yourself and take courses that will transfer to high school. For example, you could take Spanish and Algebra. This will prepare you for college and give you a head start on high school credits. REMEMBER, it's never too early to begin your quest for knowledge. Your school will have you complete a career inventory (a survey that will help identify careers that match your interests and skills). Take advantage of the career inventory results list and research the careers that get your attention.





Job Shadow

Another recommendation is to do a job shadow. A job shadow is an activity designed to give students the opportunity to have an up-close look at the normal work day of a professional. For example, a student would observe a nurse taking a patient's vital signs, and would look at the chart notes. This provides students with an idea of how skills learned in school relate to the workforce and also helps them determine if they may be interested in this field.

Preparing for High School

Taking that big step to high school can be quite stressful for students. High school students struggle with peer groups, personal identity and academics. Don't forget to maintain your study habits in high school in order to be academically successful. Also, it is crucial that you learn about high school graduation requirements and begin thinking about college or other schools. Your high school grade point average (GPA) is cumulative, which means they combine all your grades. With this in mind, your freshmen grades are just as important as the other years' when you are applying for college. Avoid failing a class because it will affect you later on.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

- ✓ During middle school, take challenging courses (e.g. Spanish and Algebra)
- ✓ Do a job shadow (get hands-on experience with different careers)
- ✓ Prepare yourself for high school (maintain study skills and learn about high school graduation requirements and expectations.)

HIGH SCHOOL: LIFE AND REALITY

Graduating from high school can be a bit overwhelming, but it's a great accomplishment. During your high school career, you will make choices that affect your goals, in positive or negative ways. It is important to stay focused and on track. This is the most important time to speak with your high school counselor, if you're not already doing so. Counselors will receive important information from college representatives that may help you achieve your career goals. Also, keeping in contact with your counselor will ensure that you are on track for graduating.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS:

High school graduation requirements vary from school to school, but they must all meet state standards in order for a student to receive a high school diploma. Check with your high school counselor to learn what your school's requirements are. The following high school requirements are for those students who are graduating in the 2009-2010 school year.

1. Complete High School Credits

Every high school has a minimum number of credits you need to complete in order to graduate. Ask your counselor how many credits you need to earn to graduate. If you pass all of your classes (9-12th grade), you should have more than enough credits to graduate on time.

2. Complete a High School and Beyond Plan (5-Year Plan)

This plan is used for students to think about and write down plans for high school, for attending a 2 or 4 year college/technical school and for choosing a career. The plan is developed throughout your four years in high school, where you write about your personal story and goals before and after high school. Most school districts have students complete a plan every year by having them write down the classes they plan to take the following year, which helps to prepare them for college.

3. Complete a Cumulative Project

While each school district determines the guidelines for developing a Cumulative Project, the state has their guidelines as well. These projects encourage students to think analytically, logically and creatively and to integrate experiences and knowledge to solve problems effectively. The Cumulative Project allows students to select a topic of interest where they use their creativity and abilities. The state of Washington requires students to complete a Cumulative Project to demonstrate their ability to apply what they've learned and how well they are prepared for work or higher education. The Cumulative Project needs to be completed during the student's senior year.

Example of a Cumulative Project:

As a 9th grader, Claire was in a car accident causing her serious injury. After her recovery, she saw the opening of a neighborhood free medical clinic as an opportunity to learn more about health care and to serve others. Claire trained volunteers, learned about the health and demographics of her local community, and gained experience in public speaking, organizing materials, and conducting administrative duties. Claire used the Spanish skills she learned in high school to speak with clients, and she says "This experience improved my communication skills through teaching." She enjoyed working with the public, including people from many different backgrounds.

4. Pass State Assessment

Another high school graduation requirement is for students to pass a 10th grade state test. In the past, students needed to pass the 10th grade Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL). However, this will soon be changing. Starting in 2010, students will need to pass a High School Proficiency Exam in 10th grade in order to receive a high school diploma. The assessment measures students' skills and knowledge in reading, writing, math and science. School districts use this assessment to improve student learning and to meet students' academic needs. Talk with your school counselor to make sure you have completed this requirement.



BE A STEP AHEAD

AP (Advanced Placement)/IB (International Baccalaureate): These are college level courses that are given in high school. Depending on your school district, you may have a couple of classes or more to choose from. These classes count towards your graduation requirements, and if you pass the AP exam with a high enough score, then you may also receive college credit. This will benefit you by reducing the amount of credits you need to complete in order to graduate from college. If you want your school of choice to receive your exam scores, remember to add them as recipients on your college application. You do not have to take the exam if you choose not to get college credit. There is a fee you need to pay if you decide to take the exam, but there are waivers for those who qualify. For more information on Advanced Placement courses, ask your counselor.

Running Start: Is a program that allows students to take courses at various public colleges and universities. If students pass their courses, they will not only receive college credit, but also high school credit. Students do not have to pay for tuition, but they do need to pay for their course books and provide their own transportation. There is a placement test you need to take in order to be considered for the Running Start Program. If you attend Running Start full-time for 2 years, you will be able to graduate with a high school diploma and also with an Associate's Degree (2 years of college) from a community college. What this means is that you will only need to attend a college/university for 2 years in order to receive a Bachelor's Degree (4 years of college). If you are considering the Running Start Program, talk to your counselor to ensure you are meeting high school requirements.

Technical School: Students may enroll in technical school during high school. This program gives students an opportunity to experience a field of study that interests them. Technical schools will give students college credit if they receive a B or better in their courses. Some technical schools may provide transportation, but others may not. Ask your counselor to determine what options you have available to you.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

- ✓ Know your high school requirements
- ✓ Complete your 5-year plan
- ✓ Complete your Cumulative Project
- ✓ Pass state assessment
- ✓ Take challenging courses (AP/IB, Running Start and/or Technical School)

High School Graduation Requirements VS. University of Washington's Admission Requirements

Your high school graduation requirements may differ from the University of Washington admission requirements, so it's important to make sure you are meeting both requirements. Compare your high school's requirements to the UW's and determine what courses you need to take beyond your school's graduation requirements. In the table below, you will see the high school graduation requirements for the state of Washington. There is a section where you can add your school district's requirements. You will also see UW's admission requirements. It's important to meet UW admission requirements in order to be considered for enrollment.

	WA State Graduation Requirements (Credits)	Your High School Graduation Requirements	University of Washington Admission Requirements (Credits)	What you need beyond high school requirements to apply to the UW
English	3		4	
Social Studies / History	2.5		3	
Math	2		3★	
Science	2		2★★	
Art	1		.5	
Vocational	1		N/A	
Health/P.E.	2		N/A	
Electives	5.5		.5	
Foreign Language	N/A		2★★★	

★ Must include at least Algebra, Geometry and Algebra II / Advanced Algebra.

★★ Applicant must have at least one year of lab science (biology, chemistry or physics). Second year may include any course that satisfies your high school's graduation requirement in science (Note: Two years of agricultural science are equivalent to one year of science).

★★★ You need to have 2 years of the same Foreign Language (e.g. Spanish, German). The Foreign Language requirement will be waived if applicant has completed their education where English was not the language of instruction (e.g. student attended Mexico schools until the 9th grade).

HAVE A COPY OF YOUR 5-YEAR PLAN

Ask your counselor for a copy.

THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT

If you haven't been involved in school activities before, you should become involved in high school. This is essential to your success, not only in applying for admissions to your college of choice, but also for scholarship applications. You could begin by joining clubs, sports or your ASB. Colleges want to know how active you have been in high school. They not only want to know how successful you are academically, but how you are around your peers, school and community. Try to be involved, but not so much that it impacts your grades.

Community service is another activity you can do to be involved. Community service is when someone goes into the community and volunteers where there is a need. For example, you can volunteer at your local food bank. Find out what your community has to offer or what you have to offer them. Look for something you are passionate about, so you can enjoy your time there and use your skills to improve your community. It's alright if you do not like your first choice; take it as a learning experience and search for another activity that will help you grow. You can also ask other students what they have done. This will help you find another community service.

Remember, not only are colleges going to ask what your community and school involvement has been, but scholarship applications want to know this as well. Below are a few examples of areas where you can get involved.

Summer Programs

Some colleges/universities have summer programs that target a career field that may be of interest to students. This helps students determine if the field they're interested in is truly the area they want to pursue. During the summer programs, students get the opportunity to conduct hands-on activities, take college courses, and do job shadows. Most of the summer programs require students to stay at the college/university, so students get the opportunity to experience the dorm life. You can ask the college/university's representative or your high school counselor for more information about these programs.

Internships

An internship is similar to job shadowing, but in an internship you actually place yourself in the role of the professional. You get the experience of how your work life would be if you had that career. For example, a student would not only observe the nurse taking patient vitals, but would actually take the vital signs themselves, and also fill out patient charts. One of the best advantages of internships is when you need letters of recommendation or references, you can ask this organization because they will know your interests, abilities and work skills.

Campus Visits

It's important to do campus visits because you want to see what student life will be like at different colleges. Look at the environment (location, entertainment, resources) and get a feel of the campus. Also look at the libraries, academic resources, cafeterias and housing. You want to try to meet with an advisor to review the requirements for your major of interest. Also, talk to students to learn the pros and cons of the college. It would be advisable to conduct at least two campus visits per college to really get a feel of the school and surrounding community.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

- ✓ Be involved in school (sports and clubs)
- ✓ Be involved in your community (areas that you are interested in or inspired by)
- ✓ Try summer programs (gives you an opportunity to know your career choice and have a college-life experience)
- ✓ Complete an internship (have an opportunity to do hands-on work)
- ✓ Do campus visits (learn about campus life, location and resources)

SCHOLARSHIPS

Definition

A scholarship is money given to you by private individuals, businesses or organizations that does not need to be paid back to them. However, many scholarships have special requirements students must meet to be eligible to apply. These scholarships can pay for tuition, housing, food, transportation, books, supplies and other educational expenses. Some scholarship applications have academic or other standards that students must meet to continue receiving the funds. Students are not required to pay the money back after their completion of education.

Requirements for Scholarships

Application Form(s): When completing scholarship applications, it is important that you write clearly or type your answers. Many scholarship donors have online applications which benefit the students and them. Make sure you complete everything properly with no errors. Double check everything and have someone review it for you to make sure you responded to everything correctly.

Essays: Many scholarships require students to write an essay. In order to have a strong essay, students must include: originality, goals and honesty, and an explanation as to why you deserve the funds. Remember, it takes time to create a strong essay, so don't rush it. It is also helpful if you have someone give you feedback and check for grammar and mistakes.

Letters of Recommendation/References: When scholarships ask for letters of recommendation or references, make sure you ask someone who truly knows you. Unfortunately, many students feel that it's important the letter come from their high school principal or counselor. However, if they don't really know your skills and goals, how are they going to write a strong letter of recommendation? Ask someone who has known you for at least a year or more. You want them to be able to write a unique letter, not just cut and paste from another letter. Most importantly, give them time to write the letter, not just a couple of hours. Remember, this is an important piece of your application, so do not rush it.



EXAMPLE OF A LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

GATES HIGH SCHOOL

To Whom It May Concern:

I had the distinct pleasure of having Joe Smith as a student in my math classes. Joe has been more than the ideal student. In order to achieve the highest grades and my deepest respect, he has demonstrated outstanding leadership and has maintained a clear sense of purpose.

The academics at Gates High are most challenging, and Joe fulfilled all the requirements with the added challenge of honors and advanced courses. Joe is an outstanding extemporaneous speaker and advocate. He has won many awards in football and math tournaments.

Because of his natural leadership abilities, Joe was selected as our ASB president. Due to his mature approach to his responsibilities, I often thought of Joe as more of a colleague than a student. His classmates, my fellow teachers and I will always hold him in the highest esteem. Therefore, I sincerely recommend Joe Smith as the ideal candidate for the Most Impact Scholarship. If you need me to furnish you with additional information, please call me at (555) 555-5555. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,
MaryAnn Smith
Math Teacher

WASHINGTON STATE STUDENT LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

Application and Guidelines:

Purpose: To award senior high school students who have shown strength in overcoming great obstacles throughout their lives with a \$7,000.00 scholarship.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- Be enrolled as a high school senior, on track for graduation, and planning to attend a college or university after high school graduation;
- Be committed to pursuing a bachelor's degree at a four-year university (those who transfer from a two-year institution to a four-year institution are also eligible);
- Demonstrate extreme financial need;
- Be involved in extracurricular activities in their school and community;
- Have a minimum GPA of 3.0; and
- Be a resident of Washington State

APPLICATION MATERIALS:

- **Letter of Support** – Please have one letter of support, written by someone who knows you very well, addressing your academic performance and commitment, community and school involvement and your ability to overcome hardships.
- **Eligibility Form** – Have your parents and your school principal or vice principal sign the eligibility form, stating that all eligibility requirements have been met.
- **Completed Scholarship Application**
- **Official High School Transcript**
- **Copy of Parents' Federal Tax Return**

Submit completed application packet to:

Washington State Student Leadership Scholarship
23775 4th Pl. Bldg. B
San Francisco, WA 98038

DEADLINE is February 15th.

Other documents: When scholarships ask for other documents (e.g. official transcript) make sure they're included with your application. Sometimes students have the school personnel mail them, but they may be busy and forget or send it after your application has been submitted. It's better if you take the responsibility of making sure your application is complete and mail it yourself. Remember, you are the one applying for the scholarship.

ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF A **SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

MOST IMPROVED SCHOLARSHIP

Application and Guidelines:

Purpose: To award a senior high school student from a family needing post-secondary scholarship assistance, who has demonstrated a caring and giving attitude toward another individual or community, with a \$500.00 scholarship.

Application Process:

TWO (2) REFERENCE LETTERS - Please have one letter be written by a school representative (such as a counselor, teacher, coach, etc.) addressing your educational commitment, grades, or other skills and abilities.

PERSONAL INFORMATION - Write an essay (250 - 300 words) that includes information about what service to others means to you and how you have benefited by assisting someone else. What did you learn from the experience?

Submit completed application packet to:

Most Improved Scholarship
1234 5th St.
San Francisco, WA 91011

DEADLINE is March 30th.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

- ✓ Know the scholarship deadlines
- ✓ Have 2 strong letters of recommendation
- ✓ Have a strong essay
- ✓ Have someone review your application before you submit it

WEBSITES FOR SCHOLARSHIPS:

www.salliemae.com

www.fastweb.com

www.collegeboard.com

www.washington.edu/students/osfa/ugaid/scholarship.html

www.scholarships.com

www.hecb.wa.gov

www.collegenet.com

www.finaid.com

www.uncf.org

9TH GRADE PLANNER/CHECKLIST

This is a checklist to use to ensure you are taking steps to prepare for college.

Student Name: _____

Checklist:

- ☐ Meet with counselor (1st semester)
- ☐ Learn what resources your high school has
- ☐ Set study hours
- ☐ Take challenging classes (at least one)
- ☐ Get involved in school
- ☐ Do community service
- ☐ Take career inventory survey
- ☐ Research careers and colleges
- ☐ Apply for scholarships
- ☐ Meet with counselor (2nd semester)
- ☐ Prepare for state assessment



1st Quarter Class	Grade	2nd Quarter Class	Grade	3rd Quarter Class	Grade	4th Quarter Class	Grade
Counselor Initials		Counselor Initials		Counselor Initials		Counselor Initials	

Activities and Awards: _____

Important Dates:

Event: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

Event: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____



STATE ASSESSMENT

High School Proficiency Exams (HSPE for 10th grade):

In the Spring of 2010, students will no longer be required to take the WASL assessment. The WASL will be replaced with the High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) which will measure students have learned the required skills (reading, writing, math, and science). The HSPE will be a computerized test with a shorter timeframe, fewer questions, and the results will be available sooner.

This is a new test being used in Washington State. If you would like to know more about this test, you can go to the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) website at www.k12.wa.us/assessment/StateTesting/HSPE.aspx for more information.

10TH GRADE PLANNER/CHECKLIST

This is a checklist to use to ensure you are taking steps to prepare for college.

Student Name: _____

Checklist:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meet with counselor (1st semester) | <input type="checkbox"/> Ask your counselor about Running Start and AP courses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Review your high school plans | <input type="checkbox"/> Research colleges and careers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Take more challenging classes | <input type="checkbox"/> Apply for scholarships |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Have regular study hours | <input type="checkbox"/> Meet with counselor (2nd semester) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare for state assessment | <input type="checkbox"/> Do community service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Take the PSAT | <input type="checkbox"/> Be involved in school (e.g. clubs, sports, etc.) |

1st Quarter Class	Grade	2nd Quarter Class	Grade	3rd Quarter Class	Grade	4th Quarter Class	Grade
Counselor Initials		Counselor Initials		Counselor Initials		Counselor Initials	

Activities and Awards: _____

Important Date:

Event: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____



PSAT, SAT AND ACT

Most colleges, universities and technical schools require that you take the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and/or American College Test (ACT) and provide them with your scores for their review during the admissions process. They use your scores as one of several factors in making decisions about accepting you into their college/university. The SAT and ACT measure students' critical thinking, mathematics and writing skills. You can prepare for the SAT by taking the PSAT during your sophomore year. The following sections further describe these tests and test taking dates.

PSAT

You should take the PSAT to determine your strengths and weaknesses before taking the SAT. This will allow you the opportunity to prepare before you actually take the SAT or ACT. Another benefit is that if you sign up for the student search service, you will receive information from universities. Colleges and universities look at your test scores to determine where your strengths and weaknesses are in reading, writing and math. You can take the PSAT during your sophomore year. Contact your high school counselor for registration and testing dates.

SAT

If you are planning on attending a college or university, you may be required to submit your SAT scores. The exam usually takes about 4 hours to complete and it's mostly multiple-choice questions that measure your critical thinking, math, reading and writing skills. If you would like your schools of choice to receive your scores, you need to add them as recipients at the time of the test. If you forget to do this or if you do not add them, you will have to call the test center and have them mail your scores at a later date, which can affect your admissions. A word of advice: add all the universities you are considering applying to – it will save you time later on.

ACT

Again, if you are planning on attending a college/university, you may be required to submit your ACT scores. The exam usually takes about 3 ½ hours to complete and it's mostly multiple-choice questions that measure your skills in math, English, reading and science. It also has an optional writing section for those who would like to complete it. Colleges and universities look at your scores to determine your strengths and weaknesses in critical thinking, reading, writing and math.

REGISTRATION AND DATES (SAMPLE FOR 2009-2010):

SAT - U.S. Registration Deadlines		You should register online at www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/about.html
Test Dates (2009-2010)	Test	Regular Registration Deadline
October 10, 2009	SAT & Subject Tests	September 9, 2009
November 7, 2009	SAT & Subject Tests	October 1, 2009
December 5, 2009	SAT & Subject Tests	October 30, 2009
January 23, 2010	SAT & Subject Tests	December 15, 2009
March 13, 2010	SAT only	February 4, 2010
May 1, 2010	SAT & Subject Tests	March 25, 2010
June 5, 2010	SAT & Subject Tests	April 29, 2010

ACT - U.S. Registration Deadlines		For more information visit the ACT website at www.act.org
Test Dates (2009-2010)	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Required)
September 12, 2009*	August 7, 2009	August 8 – 21, 2009
October 24, 2009	September 18, 2009	September 19 – October 2, 2009
December 12, 2009	November 6, 2009	November 7 – 20, 2009
February 6, 2010**	January 5, 2010	January 6 – 15, 2010
April 10, 2010	March 5, 2010	March 6 – 19, 2010
June 12, 2010	May 7, 2010	May 8 – 21, 2010

POINTS TO REMEMBER

- ✓ Know the registration and test dates
- ✓ Take the PSAT during your sophomore year
- ✓ Take the SAT and/or ACT during your junior and early senior year

11TH GRADE PLANNER/CHECKLIST

This is a checklist to use to ensure you are taking steps to prepare for college.

Student Name: _____

Checklist:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meet with counselor to make sure you're on track (1st semester) | <input type="checkbox"/> Meet with counselor to create your senior year schedule (2nd semester) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Review your high school plans | <input type="checkbox"/> Research FAFSA (complete the FAFSA4CASTER) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Take more challenging classes | <input type="checkbox"/> Do community service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Have regular study hours | <input type="checkbox"/> Be involved in school |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retake state assessment (if required) | <input type="checkbox"/> Create a calendar for testing dates and college/scholarship deadlines |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Take the SAT and ACT (know the dates) | <input type="checkbox"/> Consider possible college majors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Work on raising your Grade Point Average (GPA) | <input type="checkbox"/> Research college housing options and academic resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Research colleges and careers (campus visit, admission requirements and deadlines, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Meet with college representatives |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Draft your personal statement | <input type="checkbox"/> Start planning your Cumulative Project |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Apply for scholarships | |

1st Quarter Class	Grade	2nd Quarter Class	Grade	3rd Quarter Class	Grade	4th Quarter Class	Grade
Counselor Initials		Counselor Initials		Counselor Initials		Counselor Initials	

Activities and Awards:

Important Dates:

Event: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

Event: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

SAT Test Date: _____ Time: _____

ACT Test Date: _____ Time: _____

FAFSA4CASTER

All students should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid in the 12th grade. The **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** is the form used by the U.S. Department of Education to determine your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) by conducting a “need analysis” based on financial information, such as income, assets and other household information, which you (and your parents if you are a dependent student) will be asked to provide. The form is submitted to and processed by a federal processor contracted by the U.S. Department of Education, and the results are electronically transmitted to the financial aid offices of the schools that you list on your application.

FAFSA is the application used by nearly all colleges and universities to determine eligibility for federal, state, and college-sponsored financial aid, including grants, educational loans, and work-study programs.

As an option to plan ahead, you can complete the FAFSA4CASTER in the 11th grade. This will help you to estimate how much federal assistance you may be eligible for and what your contribution will be towards your tuition, housing or other expenses.

Go to the FAFSA4CASTER at: www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov

The webpage above connects you to the FAFSA4CASTER. If you are a junior and would like to get an early start on your financial aid application, this is where you should begin. The FAFSA4CASTER will give you an estimate of your family's contribution towards your college expenses. This is good to know so you can apply for scholarships to cover the portion of your educational expenses that your family cannot cover. Also, when you become a senior and apply for financial aid, your information will transfer over to your FAFSA application, reducing the amount of time you spend filling it out. If you would like to see an example of a completed FAFSA application, one has been included on pages 29-30.



12TH GRADE PLANNER/CHECKLIST

This is a checklist to use to ensure you are taking steps to prepare for college.

Student Name: _____

Checklist:

- ☐ Meet with counselor at least once a month (1st semester)
- ☐ Complete your high school plans
- ☐ Take more challenging classes
- ☐ Have regular study hours
- ☐ Keep college and scholarship deadlines in your school agenda
- ☐ Retake SAT and ACT before college deadlines
- ☐ Complete your Cumulative Project
- ☐ Request letters of recommendation (at least 3)
- ☐ Finalize your Personal Statement and have someone review it
- ☐ Apply to universities, community colleges, and/or technical schools
- ☐ If taking AP/IB classes, ask your counselor about exam dates
- ☐ Meet with college representatives once or twice a month
- ☐ Apply for scholarships (try to complete 5 scholarship applications per month)
- ☐ Apply for FAFSA after January 1st (request a pin number)
- ☐ Make sure your parents complete their tax returns early
- ☐ Meet with counselor at least once a month (2nd semester)
- ☐ Continue with community service
- ☐ Apply for housing at your school of choice
- ☐ Be involved in school
- ☐ Confirm attendance to your school of choice by May 1st
- ☐ Register for college Freshmen orientation
- ☐ Take required placement tests (if required)



1st Quarter Class	Grade	2nd Quarter Class	Grade	3rd Quarter Class	Grade	4th Quarter Class	Grade
Counselor Initials		Counselor Initials		Counselor Initials		Counselor Initials	

Activities and Awards: _____

Important Dates:

Event: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

Event: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

SAT Test Date: _____ Time: _____

ACT Test Date: _____ Time: _____

Scholarships Received	Amount
TOTAL	

MEET WITH COUNSELOR:

During your senior year, it's important to meet with your counselor as often as possible. You want to know about FAFSA workshops, how to get your monthly scholarship bulletin and when the college representatives will be at your school. You will also want to make sure you are on track to graduate and that you have met all the school and state requirements. Make sure you maintain ongoing communication with your counselor about your credits, grades and about your journey to college.



UW APPLICATION PROCESS

Preparation for the University of Washington

While the UW looks at many factors when reviewing applications for admission, academic preparation and performance are still primary. Indicators of preparation and performance include:

- An overall strong level of academic achievement as demonstrated by GPA, rigor of curriculum, standardized test scores and academic distinctions
- Taking advantage of college-preparatory courses during high school, such as Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Running Start, College in the High School, or core subjects beyond the minimum required for college entrance
- Taking full academic advantage of your senior year
- Demonstrating a positive grade trend
- Demonstrating habits associated with independent intellectual growth such as self-guided reading, engagement with other cultures or research activities
- Demonstrating exceptional artistic talent and achievement

In addition to academic preparation and performance, personal achievements and characteristics can also indicate promise to benefit from and contribute to the University of Washington. These include:

- Demonstrating a commitment to community service and leadership
- Exercising significant responsibility in a family, community, employment or through activities
- Attaining a college-preparatory education in the face of significant personal adversity, economic disadvantage or disability
- Demonstrating cultural awareness or unique perspectives or experiences
- Demonstrating notable tenacity, insight, originality and creativity

Applying to the University of Washington

Below are the deadlines for applying to the UW. Depending on what quarter you plan on applying, make sure you submit a complete application. A completed application includes an admission application, Personal Statement, \$50 nonrefundable application fee (there are fee waivers for those who qualify), official test scores from ACT and SAT test centers and an official high school transcript.



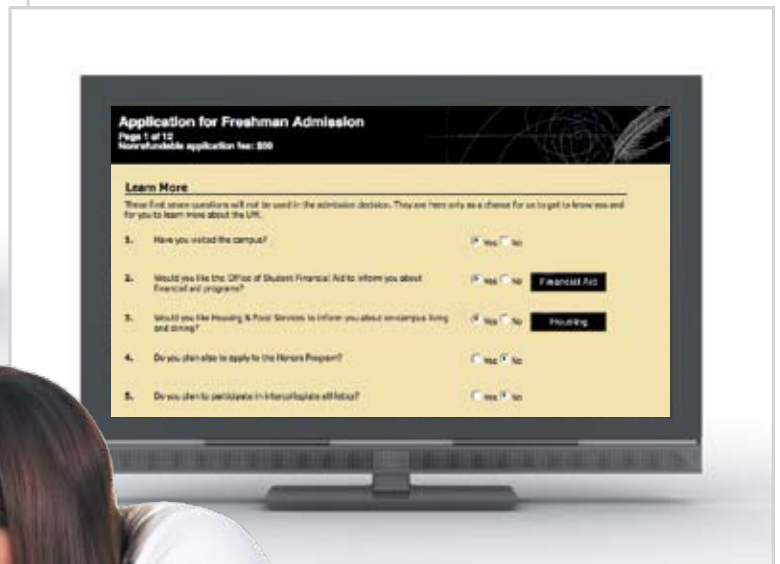
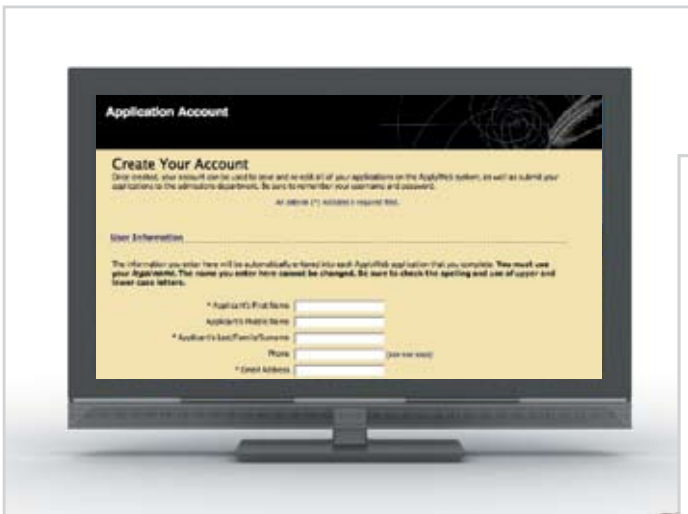
APPLICATION FILING DATES

Begin Applying	Priority Date	Application Deadline	Notification Period	Start School
November 2009	December 1, 2009	January 15, 2010	December 1, 2009 - April 15, 2010	September 29, 2010

The University of Washington is working towards having only online applications. You can go to <http://admit.washington.edu/admission> to access an online application. It's a long application, but you are able to save your information and come back to complete it at a later time. Also, you can access it from any internet connection. That is one of the benefits of the online application. You can also use your general information (address, career choice, etc.) to transfer to another college application. This will save you time in applying for other colleges.

CREATE YOUR FRESHMAN ACCOUNT AND

START FILLING OUT THE APPLICATION



WRITING SECTION

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

The Personal Statement is one important piece of your application. This is where you are given the opportunity to write about aspects of your life that are not evident in your academic performance. Some of the examples that the UW gives are: writing about a defining moment, a challenge you faced, a personal hardship or a barrier you overcame.

The directions they provide are the following:

Directions: Choose either 1 or 2. Recommended length: 2 pages (500-600 words).

1. Discuss how your family's experience or cultural history enriched you or presented you with opportunities or challenges in pursuing your educational goals.
2. Tell us a story from your life, describing an experience that either demonstrates your character or helped to shape it.

Example of a Personal Statement:

Coming from a family with low education, my dad a high school dropout and my mom a high school graduate, has helped me understand that education plays an important role in my life. When I arrived in the United States at age 10, I found a place where I could be myself, but I also knew that coping with the change was not going to be easy. For the first time, I was afraid of what was expected of me from my school, parents and peers. Having a distinct language barrier was quite challenging, but I never gave up. Even with kids teasing me for my accent, I held a vision of a better life. I remember one time when I did a class presentation, the students and my teachers were laughing at me because of the way I spoke. I was humiliated, but I set a goal that I would learn English and try to erase my accent. As I began reaching this goal, I realized that I was not doing this for me, but to please others. Was this how I was going to live my life, only trying to please others? My accent is a part of me and I can't change that, but I can change who I choose to be around. Of course, as I continued my education in America, I began erasing my accent without trying. Soon others began realizing that the way I spoke had nothing to do with who I was. I want to educate myself because I know that college will give me the path to the life I want to live. Everything started with a dream in my youth, but with a little bit of encouragement, discipline and determination, I now have the power to reach my dreams and goals. Going to college, especially at the University of Washington, will not only help me to accomplish my goals and dreams, but also to find new ideas and perspectives about life. Being at the UW, I will not just learn from my classes and my teachers, but also from getting to know people, with the diversity of cultures, religions and ethnicities that the UW offers. I will also be able to accomplish my 5-year-old dream of becoming a dentist. I know this is the plan for my career.

SHORT RESPONSE:

The short response allows the University of Washington to become familiar with skills and experiences you have that may contribute to the University of Washington.

The directions they provide you are the following;

Directions: Choose either 1 or 2. Recommended length: 1 page (250 words).

1. The University of Washington seeks to create a community of students richly diverse in cultural backgrounds, experiences and viewpoints. How would you contribute to this community?
2. Describe an experience of cultural difference, positive or negative, you have had or observed. What did you learn from it?



Example of a Short Response:

Attending a high school where approximately 70% of the student body is Hispanic, I feel that the experience has shaped who I am and has also helped me define myself. Aside from my school's demographics, I understand what it is like to be different, being Hispanic. Many of the students at my school are resistant when it comes to getting involved and becoming a part of something, therefore I am often viewed differently. I am a person who is involved in a wide variety of activities, such as taking many different AP classes, playing sports and being class president since freshmen year. With leadership I am able to talk with and reach out to students who are not often in school. With the skills I've acquired from various leadership programs, workshops and experiences, I understand the importance of being involved in my school and the community, and the value of satisfying the overall needs of others. My outgoing personality helps me reach out to students in order to plan a successful event, beyond just popularity. I hope to continue using my skills and outreach in the future, especially in a large community filled with endless opportunities such as the University of Washington.

ACTIVITIES LOG:

In the Activities Log, the University of Washington is looking for the 5 most significant activities you have participated in during high school. The following categories that the UW provides are:

- Leadership in or outside of your school (e.g. sports, clubs, community service)
- Activities you have participated in that helped to improve your school or community
- Exceptional achievements
- Personal endeavors (e.g. independent research, private dance lessons, etc.)

Remember to describe the meaning of each activity, what responsibilities you had, and what this says about you.

Example of the Activities Log:

- | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. | Activity/Award | Grade Level |
| | <input type="text" value="ASB"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> 9 <input type="checkbox"/> 10 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 11 <input type="checkbox"/> 12 |

Accomplishments: offices held, honors received, etc.

I have been an ASB officer throughout my high school life. I have acquired many leadership and organizational skills. During my time as an officer, I have increased student involvement and empowered students to speak out.

- | | | |
|----|--|---|
| 2. | Activity/Award | Grade Level |
| | <input type="text" value="Food Bank"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> 9 <input type="checkbox"/> 10 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 11 <input type="checkbox"/> 12 |

Accomplishments: offices held, honors received, etc.

Most Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, I volunteer at the food bank to help needy families. I have also started activity workshops for the children. I believe that we need to give back to our community, and being involved has allowed me to become familiar with my community and to use my skills to help others.

FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA)

What is Financial Aid?

All students should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid in the 12th grade. The **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** is the form used by the U.S. Department of Education to determine your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) by conducting a "need analysis" based on financial information, such as income, assets and other household information, which you (and your parents if you are a dependent student) will be asked to provide. The form is submitted to, and processed by, a federal processor contracted by the U.S. Department of Education, and the results are electronically transmitted to the financial aid offices of the schools that you list on your application. FAFSA is the application used by nearly all colleges and universities to determine eligibility for federal, state, and college-sponsored financial aid, including grants, educational loans, and work-study programs.

When to Apply:

Students can apply for Financial Aid in their senior year of high school. The application opens on January 1st. Students should find out the Financial Aid deadline for their schools of choice. February 26th is the deadline for most universities. Make sure you apply prior to their deadline to be able to receive the full amount. You can fill out a FAFSA worksheet at www.fafsa.ed.gov/before012.htm to be prepared when applying online. You do not have to wait until your parents file their tax returns; you can apply with an estimate. After your parents file their taxes, make sure you correct your FAFSA application and submit it. The website for the FAFSA application is www.fafsa.ed.gov.

What you need to apply:

- Your social security number
- Your driver's license (if you have one)
- Your Federal Income Tax Returns (year depends when you are applying)
- Your parents' Federal Income Tax Returns (if you are a dependent)
- Your untaxed income records (child support, worker's compensation, etc.)
- Your current bank statement
- Your parents' or your business/investment information
- Your permanent resident card (if you are not a U.S. citizen)

A sample of a completed FAFSA application has been included on the following pages.



HUSKY PROMISE

The University of Washington has the Husky Promise that helps pay for UW tuition and related expenses. If a student qualifies for the Pell Grant (determined by FAFSA) then the UW promises to pay full tuition and standard fees for students. The UW will maintain this promise regardless if tuition increases. All you need to do is apply for the FAFSA and the University of Washington financial aid department will determine your eligibility.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

- ✓ Apply after January 1st
- ✓ Check college/university Financial Aid deadline
- ✓ Fill out the FAFSA worksheet before applying online

As of 2009, Washington State Governor Gregoire and President Obama are trying to reduce the length of the FAFSA application.

SAMPLE COMPLETED FAFSA APPLICATION

STUDENT INFORMATION	
Your name (first, middle initial, last)	JOSE L. GONZALES
Your permanent mailing address (street, city, state, zip code)	13423 165 TH ST. SEATTLE, WA 98105
Your Social Security Number	XXX-XX-9999
Your date of birth	01/20/1992
Your permanent home phone number	(206) 555-5555
Your driver's license number & state issued (optional)	N/A
Your e-mail address (optional)	N/A
Are you a US citizen? If no, include your Alien Registration Number	U.S. CITIZEN (OR U.S. NATIONAL)
Your marital status & date	SINGLE, DIVORCED OR WIDOWED
Your state of legal residence	WA
Were you a legal resident of this state before January 1, 2004?	YES
Are you male or female?	MALE
Your grade level in college when enrolled	NEVER ATTENDED
Enrollment status in college (full-time, part-time, etc.)	FULL-TIME
Interested in Work-study or Student Loans?	YES
Planning to become an elementary or secondary school teacher?	NO
Are your parents deceased? Are you a ward of court? Are you in foster care?	NO
Are you an emancipated minor?	NO
Are you in legal guardianship?	NO
Are you an Unaccompanied Homeless Youth?	NO
Are you at risk of homelessness?	NO
Are you on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces?	NO
Are you a veteran?	NO
Do you have children that receive more than half of their support from you?	NO
Do you have dependents other than children/spouse?	NO

ACG ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION	
What year did you complete high school or its equivalent? In what state?	2011 WA
Have you completed any rigorous high school programs of study?	NO
Your eligible AP/IB exam score	N/A
Your eligible high school coursework	N/A

DRUG CONVICTION WORKSHEET	
Have you ever received federal student aid?	NO
Have you been convicted of possession/sale of drugs?	NO
Have all convictions been removed?	N/A
Did the offense occur while receiving federal student aid?	N/A
Have you completed drug rehab?	N/A
How many possession convictions? How many sale convictions?	N/A
Date of possession conviction / Date of sale conviction	N/A

Continued on next page



SAMPLE COMPLETED FAFSA APPLICATION

PARENTS' INFORMATION	
Parents' marital status & date	MARRIED 6/20/1999
Father's/Stepfather's social security number	XXX-XXX-5555
Father's/Stepfather's first name initial & last name	C. GONZALES
Father's/Stepfather's date of birth	07/22/1965
Mother's/Stepmother's social security number	XXX-XXX-6666
Mother's/Stepmother's first name initial & last name	L. GONZALES
Mother's/Stepmother's date of birth	12/26/1970
Parents' e-mail address	N/A
Parents' state of legal residence	WA
Were your parents legal residents of this state before January 1, 2004?	YES
Parents' educational levels (Father & Mother)	HIGH SCHOOL / GED

FINANCIAL INFORMATION	STUDENT	PARENT(S)
Number of family members	9	9
Number of family members in college	1	1
Received supplemental security income?	NO	NO
Received food stamps?	NO	YES
Received free/reduced price lunch?	NO	YES
Received TANF?	NO	NO
Received WIC?	NO	NO
Filed income tax return?	WILL NOT FILE	ALREADY COMPLETED
Type of tax form used	N/A	IRS 140A
Eligible to file a 1040A or 1040EZ?	N/A	YES
Are you or either of your parents dislocated workers?	NO	NO
Adjusted gross income	N/A	\$24000
U.S. income tax paid	N/A	\$24000
Exemptions claimed	N/A	7
Income earned from work	N/A	\$24000
Total of cash, savings, and checking accounts	N/A	\$3000
Net worth of current investments	N/A	N/A
Net worth of businesses/investmentfarms	N/A	N/A
Education credits	N/A	N/A
Child support paid	N/A	N/A
Taxable earnings from need-based employment programs	N/A	N/A
Grant and scholarship aid reported in AGI	N/A	N/A
Taxable combat pay reported in AGI	N/A	N/A
Payments to tax-deferred pensions & savings	N/A	N/A
Deductible payments to IRA/Keogh/other	N/A	N/A
Child support received	N/A	N/A
Tax exempt interest income	N/A	N/A
Untaxed portions of IRA distributions	N/A	N/A
Untaxed portions of pensions	N/A	N/A
Housing, food, & living allowances	N/A	N/A
Veterans non-education benefits	N/A	N/A
Other untaxed income or benefits	N/A	N/A
Money received or paid on your behalf	N/A	N/A

ACCEPTED NOW WHAT?

Confirmation

Once a student has been accepted, they need to confirm their attendance to the university (May 1st is the confirmation deadline). This is an important decision for you, and it is crucial that you make the right decision of where you are planning to attend. There is a Confirmation/Orientation fee, however if you cannot afford the fee, the university may have a deferment where they delay the fee payment until your first tuition payment comes due. Ask a university representative to see if you qualify for a deferment.

Placement Test

Universities/colleges may require a placement test to assess students' skill levels. The exam places you in English and Math courses appropriate to your skill level. Students who take college level courses in high school and pass the course exam with a qualifying score will not be required to take the placement test. Talk to the university representative to determine if you need to take the placement exam.

Student Account

A student account will be created once you have confirmed your attendance to their university. The student account is where your funds (scholarships and financial aid) will be deposited. Your tuition and housing (if staying in dorms) will be withdrawn from your student account, and the remaining balance is yours to keep. It is recommended that you save as much money as possible for those unexpected expenses.

Housing

Deciding where to stay while at college is important because there is a cost involved. Some universities require you to stay in dorms for your first year because they want students to meet other students and to become familiar with the campus. Another option is to stay in fraternity or sorority housing. Of course, you first need to be accepted into the fraternity or sorority before you can move in. Apartments are an option as well. With an apartment, you can have friends or relatives stay with you and share the cost. Remember; before deciding where you are going to stay, make sure you are able to afford it. For more information about UW housing go to <http://admit.washington.edu/Life/Housing>.

Student Organizations

Universities/colleges have many student organizations to choose from. You can select from clubs, sororities, fraternities or academic interests. A word of advice; research the student organizations and see what sparks your interest before you join. There is usually an event at the beginning of fall quarter where student organizations have a booth on campus to inform freshmen about their organization. Try to select a few, but don't overload yourself. Sometimes when students get too involved, they fall behind in their homework. If you want more information about UW's student organizations, visit their website at <http://depts.washington.edu/sao/rso.php>.

UW ACADEMIC RESOURCES

Writing Center: Is for students who need help writing their papers. Some programs have their own writing center, but there are a few available to the university community.

Counseling Center: Offers personal and career advising and study skills workshops.

Career Center: Provides career planning and job search. They also offer workshops and career fairs.

Student Fiscal Services: Advisers talk about money management, tax issues and answer questions about tuition and fees.

Instructional Center: Provides academic tutoring, study packets and workshops.

Educational Culture Center: Has a student lounge, computer lab and workshops.

Libraries: Have computer labs, tutoring services, books, articles, journals, etc.

Preparing Your Family – One of the hardest parts of going to college is preparing your family about you moving away. It is difficult for some families to make a separation, so the best way to approach your family is let them know why you are going to college and how family connections will continue. Also, having your family do a campus visit will help relieve the stress of you being alone. If it helps, have a college representative talk to your parents so they can answer any questions your parents may have. You are going to make a huge impact on your family because you will be going to college. You'll open doors for your siblings because of the success you will make in life.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

- ✓ Confirm attendance by May 1st
- ✓ Compare housing options and cost
- ✓ Research student organizations before you select one
- ✓ Utilize academic resources
- ✓ Have your parents talk to a college representative

IMPORTANT UW CONTACTS

Admission Information	(206) 543-9686
Application Request.....	(206) 543-5150
Campus Tour	(206) 543-5429
Disabled Student Services	(206) 543-8924
Financial Aid.....	(206) 543-6101
Housing & Food Services.....	(206) 543-4059
Intercollegiate Athletics	(206) 543-2210
Office of Minority Affairs and Diversity.....	(206) 543-5715
Student Ambassadors	(206) 221-2831
Student Visitation Program	(206) 543-5429
Student Activities Office	(206) 543-2380
Women's Center.....	(206) 685-1090
Student Fiscal Office	(206) 543-4694
Hall Health Center.....	(206) 616-2495

Website: www.washington.edu/students/contacts.html



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