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Applying for College

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Look up ***glossary words*** in Chapter 7.

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Researching Colleges and Careers

Doing a *college* search takes time! Use time set aside at school or at home developing your *High School and Beyond Plan* to search.

When researching colleges, keep in mind that “college” includes: *apprenticeships*, 2-year *community and technical colleges*, *vocational*, and specialty schools, 4-year colleges or *universities*, and military academies.

How do I research college options?

1 Visit: wsac.wa.gov/colleges-and-institutions-washington for a list of colleges in Washington state.

2 View *campus* websites.

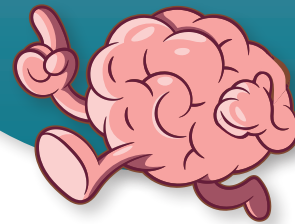
3 Attend *college and career fairs*.

4 Search for Department of Defense Military Service Academies to learn about the 5 options you can choose from.

5 Tour the campus - virtual tours are a great option!

Good To Know

Community colleges offer 2-year *degrees* with a path to *transfer* to a 4-year school or continue on to complete a *bachelor's degree!*



Tip

Set up a new email account to use only for college *applications* and *scholarships*. Thank me later!

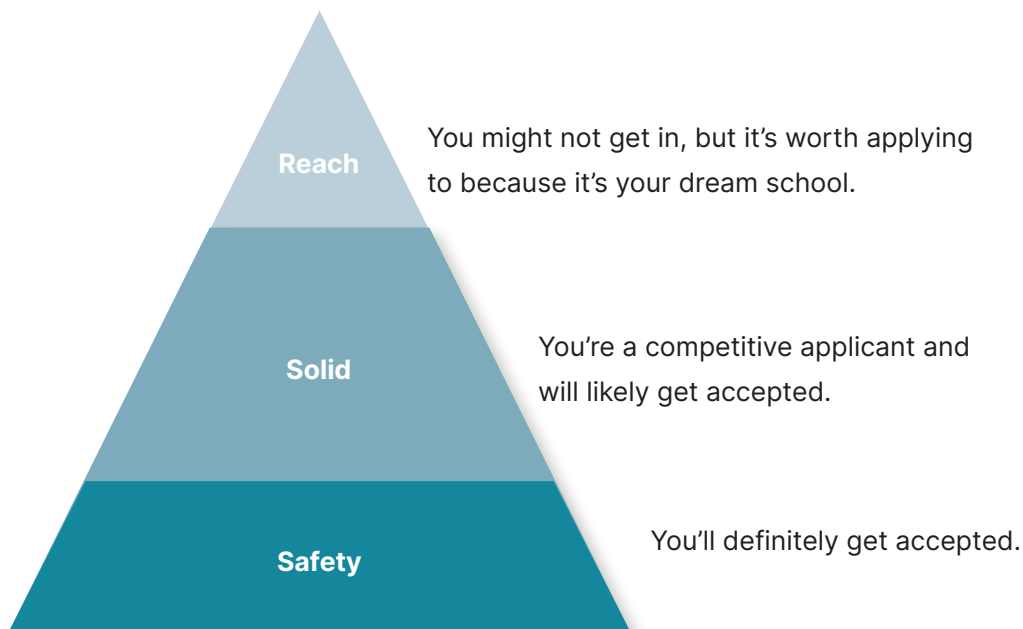
Talk to:

- Your high school counselor
- Career center specialist
- College *admissions counselors* or representatives who visit your school
- Family members, teachers, mentors, and community members who have been to college

What should I consider when choosing a good fit?

Type of college	Vocational/specialty, 2-year community or technical, 4-year, military academy, private or public
Location	Distance from home, weather, urban or rural, etc.
Available Credentials	Associate, bachelor's, graduate, professional certifications
Available Programs	Career areas or majors
Special Focus	The arts, single-sex, religiously affiliated, etc.
Diversity	The types of cultures, languages, and demographics represented on campus or in the community
Size	Number of students, campus size , class size, surrounding population
Cost of Attendance	Public vs. private, and in- or out-of-state tuition, fees , books, transportation, food, and housing
Selectivity	Measured by the percentage of students who get accepted based on admission requirements
Graduation Rate	Number of students who graduate from that college or program

Consider the admissions requirements and determine if the school is a **reach**, **solid**, or **safety** choice for you. It is recommended that you apply to at least one school in each category:





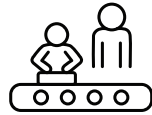
Parts of an Application

All **colleges** have an **application** and a deadline to complete it. Typically, you can submit the application online or by mail, and sometimes in person.

What do I need to apply?

Apprenticeships

Some **apprenticeships** may have a unique application process, especially if it's for training in a high-demand career area. Visit ini.wa.gov/licensing-permits/apprenticeship/become-an-apprentice#youth to learn more about becoming an apprentice.



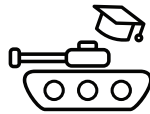
Community and Technical colleges

Washington's **community and technical colleges** are **open enrollment** and will use your high school transcript for course placement. **Official college transcripts** are needed to confirm that earned college **credits** can **transfer** in.



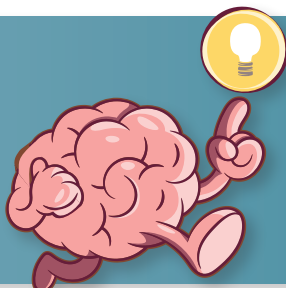
Military academies

Military academies use an extensive application process that includes submitting medical exam and fitness test results, an official high school transcript, **ACT** or **SAT** scores if you have them, a **personal statement**, and a **letter of recommendation**, an interview with the local member of Congress, State Senator or other federal government official.



4-year colleges

Most 4-year colleges will request your **official transcripts** from high school and any college(s) from which you have earned college **credit**. Some will also want letters of recommendation, personal statements, and/or short answer responses to essay prompts, an activity log or resumé, and ACT or SAT scores, if you have them.



Remember

Colleges want you to be successful in finding a **campus** and program that are a good fit for you. Make sure your answers are a clear and true representation of who you are and how you have prepared yourself!

What else?

You may need to pay a **fee** in order to submit a college application.

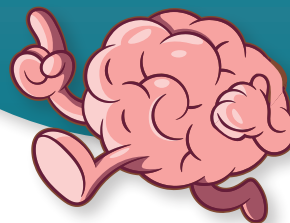
However, you may be eligible to receive a **fee waiver** if:

- You receive free or reduced price lunch
- You participate in programs like TRiO, Upward Bound, or GEAR UP
- You are a youth in foster care
- You took the ACT or SAT with a fee waiver
- Most schools will allow you to apply for an application fee waiver if you visited the **campus** in person.
- You know an alumni. Some schools like Gonzaga University allow you to waive the standard fee for admission through their **Undergraduate** Admissions Application Fee Waiver. This gift can be shared with anyone applying for admissions.
- Contact your high school counselor, college admissions office, National Association for College Admission Counseling, or The College Board to inquire about fee waivers.

Good To Know

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Most colleges no longer require your test scores from the **SAT or ACT**, but if you're satisfied with your scores, submitting them with your application could be beneficial. If you're not satisfied with the scores, don't feel pressured into using them unless required! Consider this an extra resource.





How to Apply

Regardless of what type of **college** you're applying to, it's important to stay on top of things. Check out these tips.



Tips for applying to ANY college



Apply to **at least three** colleges before the deadline.



Apply for **financial aid** by completing the **FAFSA** or **WASFA** as early as October 1.



Create an account for each online application using a **professional email** address.



Talk to your school counselor if you can't afford application **fees**. See if you're **eligible** for a **fee waiver**.



Review, revise, and proofread your entire **application**.



Check your email regularly for important messages.



Save all parts of your college applications in case you can reuse them for **scholarships**.



Contact the college **admissions office** if you don't receive a **confirmation message** after submitting your application.



Check the status of your college and **financial aid** applications online, through email, or by phone. Some colleges have an **online college portal** for easy access.



Keep track of deadlines using a spreadsheet or to-do list and submit applications early.

Additional recommendations for 4-year college applications



Review admissions requirements and applications for each college.



Submit **ACT** or **SAT** scores, if required.



Ask for **letters of recommendation** one month before the deadline.



Write, revise, and proofread your **personal statement** and other **short answer responses**.



Request **official transcripts** after October 1, and one month before the deadline.



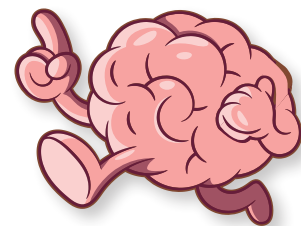
Get feedback from someone like a mentor, school counselor, or teacher on your final application.

2-year College *Application* Process

- Apply online, by mail, or in person
- Submit the FAFSA or WASFA
- Schedule an *academic advising* appointment to develop an academic plan.
- Have your high school *transcripts* evaluated to determine which classes you place into. If this option is unavailable to you, explore going through Directed Self Placement or taking a *placement test*. Many colleges also accept ACT or SAT scores.

What's the Common Application?

The common application, also known as the common app, is a single college admissions application used by more than 700 colleges in the United States. Once you complete the common app, you can send it to multiple colleges. The common app is only for eligible 4-year colleges and *universities*. To begin the common application, go to commonapp.org.



Washington Colleges that Accept the Common App:

Bellevue College - Health Sciences, Education & Wellness Institute (Bellevue, WA)

Central Washington University (Ellensburg, WA)

Cornish College of the Arts (Seattle, WA)

Eastern Washington University (Cheney, WA)

Gonzaga University (Spokane, WA)

Northwest University (Kirkland, WA)

Pacific Lutheran University (Tacoma, WA)

Saint Martin's University (Lacey, WA)

Seattle Pacific University (Seattle, WA)

Seattle University (Seattle, WA)

The Evergreen State College (Olympia, WA)

University of Puget Sound (Tacoma, WA)

University of Washington - Bothell (Bothell, WA)

University of Washington - Tacoma (Tacoma, WA)

University of Washington (Seattle, WA)

Washington State University (Pullman, WA)

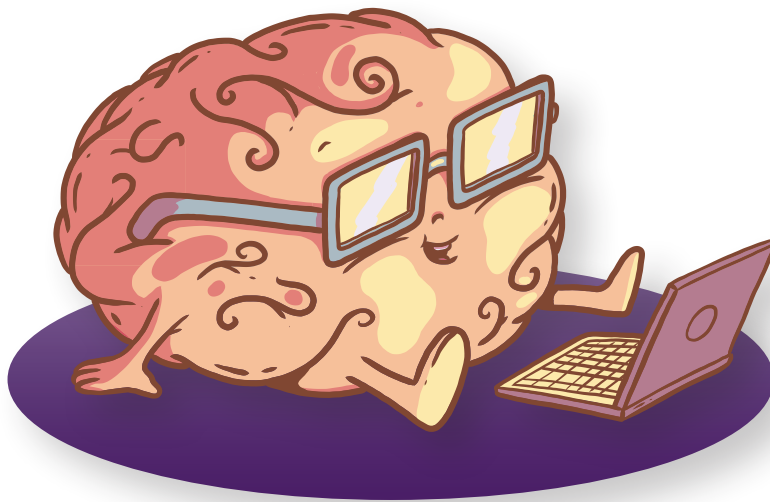
Western Washington University (Bellingham, WA)

Whitman College (Walla Walla, WA)

Whitworth University (Spokane, WA)

7

Glossary



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Glossary

Academic Advising: Helps you understand the college's academic systems, choose and apply to a major, and access campus resources.

Academic Support: Services on campus that support academic success, such as tutoring, advising, etc.

ACT: ACT is an abbreviation of American College Testing. Entrance exams used by many colleges as a part of the admission decision. Most Washington State schools no longer require ACT scores for admissions; however, successful completion of the test(s) could serve as a graduation pathway option. You will need to submit your exam scores online through the testing agency's website.

Admissions Counselors: College representatives (sometimes called admissions advisors) who review student applications and can provide information and guidance about the college.

Advanced Placement (AP): A program that allows students to take challenging college-level courses while still in high school. Students may earn college credit and/or advanced placement into upper-level college courses by successfully passing AP exams. Many colleges and universities recognize AP courses when making admissions decisions.

Application: A form that you must fill out in order to apply for colleges, scholarships, or financial aid.

Apprenticeship: A program that enables participants to gain a license to practice in a regulated occupation. Includes on-the-job training and completion of classroom-based learning in partnership with a college, university, or training provider, while getting paid.

Associate Degree: This kind of degree indicates the completion of a 2-year college program. Many students earn an Associate Degree and then transfer to a 4-year college or university.

Award: An offer from a college or career school that states the type (loans, institutional aid, grants, scholarships, and work-study) and amount of financial aid the school is willing to provide if you accept admission and register to take classes at that school.

Bachelor's Degree: An undergraduate academic degree awarded by colleges and universities upon completion of a course of study lasting three to six years. The most common are the Bachelor of Arts and the Bachelor of Science.

Benefits: Non-wage payment provided to employees in addition to their base salaries and wages, such as health insurance (medical, dental, and vision), retirement plans, and paid time off..

Cambridge International: A dual-credit program that gives students the opportunity to earn high school and college credit at the same time.

Campus: The entire property of a university, college, or school - including the grounds and buildings.

Campus Size: This is the number of students enrolled in the college.

Certificate: Awarded to a person to indicate knowledge of a certain subject or skill upon completing specific education or passing a test.

College: A smaller institution of higher education that offers undergraduate programs, features small student populations, and more intimate campuses. The term can also refer to schools that offer focused and professional specializations like community, vocational, and technical colleges.

College Budget: The amount of money that you are reasonably able to pay for college expenses.

College Expenses: Costs such as living on campus, food, books, supplies, personal expenses, and transportation.

College Fair: Events where college and university representatives provide information about their school and answer questions. This is a great opportunity to learn about different college options.

Community and Technical Colleges (CTCs): CTCs is the name most commonly used to describe Washington's public 2-year colleges. These schools offer Associate Degrees and certificates, as well as prepare students for specific trades. Many students earn an Associate Degree and then transfer to a 4-year college. Washington state has 34 public CTCs.

Consolidate(d): Combining one or more loans into a single new loan.

Cost of Attendance (COA): The total amount it will cost you to attend your academic program, college, university, or trade school each year. This can include tuition and fees, on-campus room and board (or a housing and food allowance for off-campus students), books, supplies, and transportation.

Cover Letter: A student cover letter should use specific examples to summarize your strengths and accomplishments. A cover letter is normally included in your school applications or with your resume when applying for jobs.

Credits: You typically earn one credit for the successful completion of a single course in high school. Washington requires students to complete a minimum number of credits to graduate. College credits are represented by the hours you've spent in class per week. Typically, one hour in class per week equals one credit.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Dual Credit: Classes that help students transition from high school into postsecondary professional technical programs and careers.

DACA: Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals is a Program announced on June 12, 2012 by President Barack Obama to protect eligible individuals from deportation and access a work permit for two years. The individual must have arrived before the age of 16, have a clean record, etc. Deferred Action does not provide a green card or pathway to citizenship.

Degree: A degree indicates the completion of a 2- or 4-year program at a college or university. The two most common degrees are Associate Degree and bachelor's degrees.

Demographics: Information about a population, including age, gender, race, religion, and highest education level.

Deposit: An enrollment deposit is an amount you put down to secure your spot at a college or university after you receive your acceptance letter. It's almost always non-refundable and is the last step to officially confirm your spot in the school, allowing you to start signing up for your orientation, on-campus housing, and classes. Most colleges will require this deposit to be submitted along with your confirmation of attendance and the amount will be put towards your tuition.

Diploma: A certificate awarded by a high school to show a student has successfully completed high school.

Direct Costs: Expenses that are billed to your student account and paid directly to the school: tuition and fees.

Eligibility: Requirements that must be met to qualify or receive a scholarship. This will vary by scholarship. Some scholarships focus on specific criteria, such as diversity, creativity, and other attributes/skills.

Extracurricular Activities: Any activity that you do outside of the classroom, such as athletics, clubs, community service, etc.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA): The standard form students must complete to apply for federal and state need-based assistance and programs and, in some circumstances, campus-based assistance/aid. Learn more at studentaid.gov.

Federal Loan: A loan is money you borrow and must pay back with interest. Loans made by the federal government, called federal student loans, usually offer borrowers lower interest rates and have more flexible repayment options than loans from banks or other private sources. For more information on the federal loan program: studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/loans

Fees: Money you pay to access school activities, fitness centers, libraries, and student centers. Every college has different fees.

Fee Waiver: If paying an application or testing fee would cause a financial hardship, you can receive a fee waiver to remove payment. There are several methods students can use to get a fee waiver. Many require students to complete a separate application process for each waiver. Most college applications require a fee to help the school where you are applying to pay for the cost of reviewing your application and making an admission decision.

Felony Convictions: More serious crimes. Conviction records are checked, just like all pledge requirements, prior to the awarding of the College Bound Scholarship.

Financial Aid: Any grant, scholarship, loan, or work-study (paid employment) offered to help you meet your college expenses.

Financial Aid Office: Helps you understand your financial aid award, provides information on additional funding resources, and helps you search and apply for scholarships.

Financial Need: The cost of attendance minus your student aid index. This is determined by the information you provide on the FAFSA or WASFA.

Grade Point Average (GPA): A way to transfer letter grades into a numerical scale. The grades received in classes are averaged together to arrive at one cumulative grade. You can find your GPA on your high school transcript.

Grants: A form of gift aid, usually based on financial need. A grant does not need to be repaid, unless, for example, you withdraw from a school and owe a refund.

High School and Beyond Plan: A tool to help guide you through high school. Plans are personalized and designed to help you think about your future and choose coursework that prepares them for goals after high school. This is also a graduation requirement.

Immigration Status: The legal position of people that live in a country permanently without citizenship.

Income: The total amount of money that you earn per year.

Indirect-Costs: Any cost other than tuition and fees, such as books, equipment, transportation, housing, and meals. These typically are not outlined in your cost of attendance, but you may be able to use financial aid for them. Check with your Financial Aid Office for available options.

International Baccalaureate (IB): A rigorous, 2-year program that results in personal and academic development and, upon successful completion, a globally recognized diploma. Students who take IB exams have the chance to earn college credit or advanced placement, or both, within upper-level college courses. Many colleges and universities recognize IB courses as they make admissions decisions.

Internship: An opportunity to work at an organization or corporation to develop work experience. Some internships are unpaid and some are paid.

Letter of Recommendation: Letters that can speak to your qualities, characteristics, and capabilities. These letters typically come from teachers, counselors, community or faith leaders, employers, and other individuals outside your family.

Major: A specific subject that you choose to commit to studying. A large number of classes you take may be related to your major.

Master Promissory Note (MPN): A legal document that contains the Borrower's Rights and Responsibilities and Terms and Conditions for repayment. Direct PLUS and Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized loans have different MPNs. An MPN can also be good for up to 10 years if certain enrollment requirements are met. Learn more at studentaid.gov/mpn.

Merit (Scholarship): Many scholarships award money based on qualities or activities students are involved in, such as grades, theater, sports, or music.

Money Gap: The difference between the cost of a full-year of college and the grants and scholarship you are provided. This may also be referred to as "out of pocket" expenses, which is money you and your family will be responsible for paying.

Need-Based: A designation that is based on a student's financial need. For example, a need-based program might be awarded based on a student's income-eligibility.

Office Hours: Times when professors are available to answer any questions you might have about class.

Official Transcript: Most colleges require your high school transcript, which is a student's academic record that includes a Registrar's signature and the issue date. An official transcript is delivered in a sealed envelope. If you have earned college credit, you will also need to submit your college transcript.

Online College Portal: Some colleges have their own website, which you can use to check admission decisions, financial aid, grades, etc.

On-The-Job Training (OTJ): Job training that is completed in the actual workplace.

Open Enrollment: This means the college accepts all students at any level and offers classes for all levels of education.

Orientation: Most schools and programs require new students to attend an orientation, where you learn about campus resources, the registration process, and meet your peers. Some school or program orientations are in person and others are online. Attend an in-person orientation if you can! Students may also be invited to attend a summer transition program focused on preparing you for your first quarter.

Personal Statement: A way to give some background information about yourself and highlight why you are interested in the school during the admissions process.

Placement Test: Some schools and programs will require you to take a placement test to determine some of the classes you can take. Based on this test, you may need to take an entry-level class before you can take another class required by your program.

Portable: Some scholarships are bound to a specific college. Portable scholarships can be used at the college of your choice and follow you to the next school you attend.

Postsecondary: Education and/or training after high school.

Pre-Apprenticeship: A supportive, hands-on training program that helps prepare students for success in the building trades and to improve their basic skills before applying to an apprenticeship program.

Priority Deadlines: A date that you need to file a FAFSA or WASFA in order receive priority consideration in the financial aid awarding process. The deadline determines the type of funding you will be eligible for and when you may be awarded. Each school sets their own deadlines.

Private 2-Year Colleges: These schools tend to focus on specific trades or vocations and are not publicly funded.

Private 4-Year Colleges and Universities: These schools offer bachelor's degrees and may also offer master's degrees but are independent and are not publicly funded. These colleges or universities often have smaller class sizes.

Professor: The common way to address a teacher in college.

Public 2-Year Colleges: These schools offer Associate Degrees and certificates, as well as prepare students for specific trades. Many students earn an Associate Degree and then transfer to a 4-year college.

Public 4-Year Comprehensive Colleges and Universities: These schools tend to be smaller, are more regionally based, and offer bachelor's and master's degrees.

Public 4-Year Research Colleges and Universities: These schools engage in extensive research activities and offer bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees.

Reach: A school that you might not be accepted to, but is still worth applying to because it's your dream school.

Renewable: A scholarship that can be received for more than one year as long as all eligibility requirements are met.

(Washington) Resident: In most cases, a Washington resident is someone who lives in the state for one year immediately prior to starting their college or program. Both U.S. citizens and non-citizens can be Washington residents, including undocumented students. The state has other requirements for how certain groups of people—such as tribal members, military veterans, and service members—can get residency. Learn more at wsac.wa.gov/student-residency.

Room and Board: The costs associated with living on or off campus, including meal plans.

Running Start: A program that provides you the option of attending certain colleges while also earning high school and college/university credit. To learn more about this program and other options that may be available at your school, please visit wsac.wa.gov/college-credit-high-school

Safety: A school where you will definitely get accepted, but is a backup in case the others don't work out.

SAT: The SAT acronym originally stood for "Scholastic Aptitude Test" but as the test evolved the acronym's meaning was dropped. Most Washington State schools no longer require SAT scores for admissions; however, successful completion of the test(s) could serve as a graduation pathway option. You will need to submit your exam scores online through the testing agency's website.

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP): The process a school uses to determine if a student is meeting all of their educational requirements and is on target to graduate on time with a degree or certificate. This process may vary across schools. For more information, speak with your financial aid office.

Scholarship: Money awarded to you based on criteria such as academics, athletics, community service, or financial need to help pay for education expenses. Scholarships generally do not have to be repaid and can be awarded through your school (institutional scholarships) or through outside committees (private scholarships.)

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM): These four fields share an emphasis on innovation, problem-solving, and critical thinking.

Selectivity: A measure of how difficult it is for you to be accepted into a school. This is measured by percentage of students accepted annually. The lower the acceptance rate, the more selective the school is.

Service Learning: An opportunity to participate in community service activities and then apply the experience to your academic and personal growth.

Short Answer Responses: Additional questions you may need to answer, focusing on specific topics such as diversity, culture, and examples of persistence/overcoming obstacles.

Solid: A school that you will likely be accepted to because you are a competitive applicant.

State Financial Aid: Financial assistance/aid programs funded and administered by the state to help pay in-state college costs.

Summer Transition Program: Some colleges formulate and offer summer programs to prepare students for college. Schools are creating programs to bring students up to the college level in both knowledge and study skills/habits. These programs aim to increase student success by assuring that students are ready to perform at the college level.

Technical (College/School): This usually refers to a school that offers associate's degrees and certain certifications that are necessary to enter technical job fields. Students who attend tech schools may still need to complete a training program, apprentice program, or an entry-level position before they can work in career positions that allow them to employ the full range of skills they learned.

Theology: Religious studies at a school. State financial aid cannot fund religious education.

Trade: A skilled job, typically one requiring manual skills and special training, such as pipe-fitter, carpenter, mechanic, or electrician.

Trade Unions: A labor union that advocates for members' rights and also offers apprenticeship opportunities.

Transfer: A transfer occurs when you switch to a different school. Typically, community colleges offer 2-year degrees with a path to transfer to a 4-year school.

Tuition: The price colleges or universities charge for credits/classes. This pays for things like the instructor and classroom space. Every college has different tuition costs. Some colleges and universities may charge different amounts for in-state and out-of-state tuition. Students who are out-of-state residents may pay more for tuition at some schools.

Undergraduate: A college student who is working to get an associate or bachelor's degree.

Undocumented: A term that can be applied to any person who lives, works, and/or attends school in the United States without the protections of a citizen or permanent resident.

University: A larger institution of higher education that offers undergraduate and graduate programs

Vocational: Also referred to as a trade school. These colleges offer specialized training, skills, or education for specific fields, such as plumbing, carpentry, etc.

Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA): The application available to eligible undocumented students for state financial aid such as the Washington College Grant and the College Bound Scholarship. Learn more at wsac.wa.gov/wasfa

Work-Study: A federally and sometimes state-funded financial aid program that helps college students with financial needs get part-time jobs while attending school.

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A collaborative effort
across organizations to
provide comprehensive college
and career readiness information

College and Career Knowledge: For more information and to view the glossary, check out our websites:

wsac.wa.gov | www.pscn.org | ospi.k12.wa.us/about-ospi | scholarfundwa.org | collegesuccessfoundation.org | roadmapproject.org