6 Enrolling in College

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Making Your Decision

You've submitted your college *applications* and now **the waiting game** starts. This can take anywhere from a month to several months, depending on the type of school. *Colleges* will likely communicate their decision through **email, mail, or their** *online college portal*. Don't forget to check with the college admissions department if you have questions

I just received a decision from a college, what does it mean?

Admitted	You were accepted. Congratulations!
Wait-listed	You have not been accepted nor denied. The college is waiting to see how many students will accept their offer to determine if they have more space.
Denied	You were not accepted. Consider exploring other college options.

Choosing the right college can be tough, but it's key to your success. Discuss your options with your high school counselor.

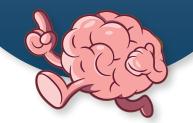


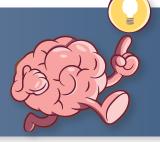
How do I compare colleges?

- Financial: Evaluate grants and scholarships for tuition and other college expenses, and plan how you'll finance the money gap for your entire college education.
- Academics: Make sure the college offers your desired major. Look into the available academic support services like writing centers, math tutoring, and disability services.
- Social: Determine if the college is a good social and cultural fit for you (e.g. diversity, student groups, mentorship opportunities, etc.). Think about what type of environment you like (close to home, big *campus*, rural setting, etc.).

Good to Know

Choosing a college is a big decision, but you can make changes if needed. Consider each option carefully and seek input from family, teachers, or mentors.





Remember

Once you have made your college decision, you must notify the college by confirming your enrollment. For many 4-year colleges the deadline is May 1.



Transitioning to College

You've been accepted to a *college* you'd like to attend - congratulations! There are still many steps to take before you start your classes.

Steps for 4-year colleges:

Pay your new student/enrollment confirmation *fee*, sometimes called a "*deposit*". If you're unable to pay, contact your *admissions office* and ask to defer your deposit.

Request an *official transcript* from your high school and any colleges where you earned *credit*. Send *transcripts* to your college as soon as final grades are posted.

Steps for 2-year colleges:

Submit any other requested *financial aid* forms by the deadline.

Complete the Math and English placement steps for your college.

Housing

On-*campus* housing may include residence halls (dorms), apartments, or houses. **Apply** to live on campus and make sure to **pay your housing deposit** by the deadline. Contact the housing office with any questions.

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Off-campus housing options include living at home, renting an apartment/house, or living in residential fraternities or sororities.

For most 4-year colleges and *universities*, on-campus housing may be a requirement for first-year students. However, if you live within a 45-60 miles radius, some schools will allow you to live at home and you could save money.

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Transitioning to College (continued)

What do I need to do before I start college?

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	Confirm your acceptance by submitting your enrollment verification and <i>deposit</i> by May 1 or your college's deadline.
	Accept your financial aid <i>award</i> .
	Schedule your advising and <i>orientation</i> appointments.
	Apply for housing if you are choosing to live on campus.
	Submit your immunization records. You can access these records from your doctor or school district.
	Register for classes.
	If you are <i>eligible</i> , sign up for student support programs (i.e. TRIO, EOP, CAMP) that will help with academic advising, tutoring, <i>financial aid</i> , etc.

What is orientation?

Most colleges require new students to attend an orientation, where you learn about campus resources,



register for classes, and meet your peers. Some college orientations are in person and others are online. Attend an in-person orientation if you can! You may also be invited to attend a *summer transition program* focused on preparing you for your first quarter.

Orientation is a good way to connect with your roommate or meet one if you don't already have one. Plus, you can use this opportunity to browse your housing options in person.

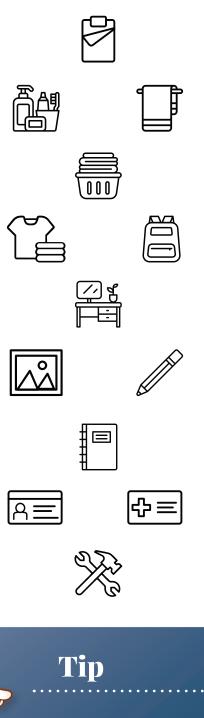
Good to Know

If you're at a 2-year *community or technical college* and plan to *transfer* to a 4-year college in the future, talk to your adviser about which courses to take. Not all 2-year courses will transfer to specific 4-year colleges. Ask about Direct Transfer Agreement options to maximize the likelihood that your *credits* will transfer.



I'm moving! What should I bring to college?

- Bath and Bedding:
 - Comforter, bed sheets, pillow/pillowcases, blanket
 - Towels: bath, washcloths, and hand towels
 - Shower caddy, loofah
 - Shower shoes
- Health and Grooming
 - Shampoo, conditioner, body soap, and deodorant
 - Toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss, and mouthwash
 - Nail clippers, shaving kit/makeup kit
 - Prescription medicines and first aid kit
- Clothing and Laundry
 - Clothes your space will be limited, so only bring what you will wear. You can always bring more back to school after your first trip home.
 - Weather-appropriate outer clothes
 - Laundry basket, laundry detergent, and dryer sheets
 - Suitcase/luggage, hangers, shoe storage
 - Loungewear, sportswear, businesswear
 - Shoes and dress shoes
- Décor (Optional)
 - Personal pictures
 - Fan, curtains
 - Desk lamp and trash can
 - Bulletin board/dry erase markers
- School Supplies
 - Laptop or tablet (optional)
 - Pencils, pens, and highlighters
 - Notebooks, binders
 - Sticky notes, planner
- Miscellaneous
 - Small, inexpensive toolkit
 - A large backpack or shoulder bag for possible weekend trips you may take
- Important
 - Car registration and insurance, if applicable
 - Medical insurance cards
 - Driver's license or state ID and Student ID



This list was created to help guide you on the things you may need and could prioritize. There is no set packing list for college. You have the freedom to bring what you think you will need!

What to Expect Your First Term

College is different than high school in many ways. It's important to learn about what to expect, so you can be successful.

What should I do first?

Locate the housing, food, and transportation options and the medical, mental health, and fitness facilities on *campus*.

Learn where you can go for academicsupport and to form study groups.

Get to know your roommate(s), if applicable, as they may be your first connection on campus. You will also meet a lot of new people through your classes, events, and clubs; be ready to connect with them and become part of a new community.

Good to Know

Never be afraid to ask for help. When in doubt, reach out! College can be some of the best times of your life, but it can also be very difficult. Remember why you wanted to go to college. This will help you feel motivated to stay and finish.

DID YOU KNOW? For every hour you spend in class, you should plan to spend at least two hours on assignments.





• To save money, buy or rent used books, or electronic versions if available.

- Cut down on unnecessary daily expenses (eating out, morning coffee, on-campus parking, etc.).
- Create a quarterly or semester budget and stick to it!

How do I make the most of my time?

- Some classes meet daily and some meet once a week. They may start as early as 8 a.m. and as late as 8 p.m.
 Create a class schedule that works for you. Give yourself plenty of time for meals, homework, errands, and socializing with your community.
- Seek help from friends, tutors, campus resources, or professors during office hours.
- In college you have more free time in your schedule, and no one is going to tell you where you need to be, or when. You will have to juggle classes, social activities, friends, finances, and maybe even a new living situation or job. Manage your time by balancing your homework and personal interests.



College Resources You Should Use

Colleges offer many resources to help you be successful. They are all included in your **tuition** and **fees**, so use them!

Where can I go for academic support?

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Academic advising	Helps you understand the college's academic systems, choose and apply to a major, and access <i>campus</i> resources.
Libraries	Offer a variety of learning spaces where you can get help with research and collaborate with others.
Tutoring centers	Offers help from your peers for subjects like writing and math.
Office hours	Times when your professors are available to answer any questions you have about class.

Where can I get personal support?

- Career Center: Career counseling and help in developing a resumé, writing a *cover letter*, and preparing for a job interview.
- Diversity/Multicultural Center: A space primarily for students of color and other communities to receive social and emotional support and feel safe to express their ideas and experiences.
- **Counseling Services:** Provides confidential counseling and mental health support.
- Disability Resources: Provides reasonable academic accommodations for eligible students. Mental health accommodation requests can also be made. These requests can range from longer test times to having your class notes provided for you, among other accommodations.
- Information Technology (IT): Provides different technology services and is a first stop for most campus technology related requests.
- Veteran Services: Helps veterans and serves as a liaison to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Financial Aid & Scholarship Support?

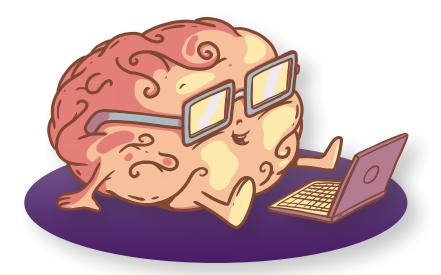
 Financial Aid Office: Helps you understand your financial aid award, provides information on additional funding resources, and helps you search and apply for scholarships.

Where can I get involved?

- **Residence Hall (dorm):** Many college dorms have Resident Advisors who plan activities for the residents.
- Student Union: Provides meeting spaces, events, study groups, and a comfortable environment where you can connect with the college community.
- **Student Life:** Offers a variety of on-campus job opportunities.
- Study Abroad Office: Provides meaningful global travel experiences for college *credit*.
- Recreation Center and Programs: Many colleges have gyms, sports fields, group fitness classes, or club sports.

Campus jobs: Most colleges have multiple options for on-campus jobs. These are great opportunities to get involved in other departments and meet students outside of your class. On-campus jobs are also more flexible with students' schedules.

7 Glossary





Take our survey and help us improve!

Glossary

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

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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.

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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 fullyear 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.

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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**

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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.

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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.

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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 <u>wsac.wa.gov/wasfa</u>

Work-Study: A federally and someitmes 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 | psccn.org | ospi.k12.wa.us/about-ospi | scholarfundwa.org |collegesuccessfoundation.org | httpsoadmapproject.org