

WASHINGTON

COLLEGE APPLICATION CAMPAIGN

Student
Resources

2014

Application Personal Statement and Essay Tips

Choose a Topic That Will Highlight You

Don't focus on the great aspects of a particular college, the amount of dedication it takes to be a doctor or the number of extracurricular activities you took part in during high school.

Do share your personal story and thoughts, take a creative approach and highlight areas that aren't covered in other parts of the application, like your high school records.

Keep Your Focus Narrow and Personal

Don't try to cover too many topics. This will make the essay sound like a résumé that doesn't provide any details about you.

Do focus on one aspect of yourself so the readers can learn more about who you are. Remember that the readers must be able to find your main idea and follow it from beginning to end. Ask a parent or teacher to read just your introduction and tell you what he or she thinks your essay is about.

Show, Don't Tell

Don't simply state a fact to get an idea across, such as "I like to surround myself with people with a variety of backgrounds and interests."

Do include specific details, examples, reasons, and so on to develop your ideas. For the example above, describe a situation when you were surrounded by various types of people. What were you doing? Whom did you talk with? What did you take away from the experience?

Use Your Own Voice

Don't rely on phrases or ideas that people have used many times before. These could include statements like, "There is so much suffering in the world that I feel I have to help people." Avoid overly formal or business-like language, and don't use unnecessary words.

Do write in your own voice. For the above example, you could write about a real experience that you had and how it made you feel you had to take action. And note that admission officers will be able to tell if your essay was edited by an adult.

Ask a Teacher or Parent to Proofread

Don't turn your essay in without proofreading it, and don't rely only on your computer's spell check to catch mistakes. A spell-check program will miss typos like these:

- "After I graduate *form* high school, I plan to get a summer job."
- "From that day on, Daniel was my best *fried*."

Do ask a teacher or parent to proofread your essay to catch mistakes. You should also ask the person who proofreads your essay if the writing sounds like you.

*Adapted from [The College Application Essay](#) by Sarah Myers McGinty.

Contact Information for Washington Colleges

Public Four-Year Colleges and Universities

* indicates branch campus

College	City	Website	Admissions Office
Central Washington University	Ellensburg	www.cwu.edu	866-298-4968
Eastern Washington University	Cheney	www.ewu.edu	509-359-2397
Evergreen State College	Olympia	www.evergreen.edu	360-867-6170
University of Washington – Seattle	Seattle	www.washington.edu	206-543-9686
University of Washington – Bothell*	Bothell	www.uwb.edu	425-352-5000
University of Washington – Tacoma*	Tacoma	www.tacoma.washington.edu	253-692-6742
Washington State University – Pullman	Pullman	www.wsu.edu	509-335-5586
Washington State University – Spokane*	Spokane	www.spokane.wsu.edu	509-358-7978
Washington State University – Tri-Cities*	Richland	www.tricity.wsu.edu	509-372-7250
Washington State University – Vancouver*	Vancouver	www.vancouver.wsu.edu	360-546-9779
Western Washington University	Bellingham	www.wvu.edu	360-650-3440

Private Four-Year Colleges and Universities

College	City	Website	Admissions Office
Bastyr University	Kenmore	www.bastyr.edu	425-602-3330
Cornish College of the Arts	Seattle	www.cornish.edu	206-726-5016
Gonzaga University	Spokane	www.gonzaga.edu	509-328-4220
Heritage University	Toppenish	www.heritage.edu	509-865-8508
Northwest University	Kirkland	www.northwestu.edu	425-889-5231
Pacific Lutheran University	Tacoma	www.plu.edu	253-535-7151
Saint Martin's University	Lacey	www.stmartin.edu	360-438-4311
Seattle Pacific University	Seattle	www.spu.edu	1-800-366-3344

Trinity Lutheran College	Issaquah	www.tlc.edu	425-392-0400
University of Puget Sound	Tacoma	www.ups.edu	253-879-3211
Walla Walla University	College Place	www.wallawalla.edu	509-527-2327
Whitman College	Walla Walla	www.whitman.edu	509-527-5176
Whitworth University	Spokane	www.whitworth.edu	509-777-4283

Public Two-Year Colleges

College	City	Website	Admissions Office
Bates Technical College	Tacoma	www.bates.ctc.edu	253-680-7000
Bellevue College	Bellevue	www.bellevuecollege.edu	425-564-2222
Bellingham Technical College	Bellingham	www.btc.ctc.edu	360-752-8345
Big Bend Community College	Moses Lake	www.bigbend.edu	509-793-2061
Cascadia Community College	Bothell	www.cascadia.edu	425-352-8000
Centralia College	Centralia	www.centralia.edu	360-736-9391 x 221
Clark College	Vancouver	www.clark.edu	360-699-NEXT
Clover Park Technical College	Lakewood	www.cptc.edu	253-589-5800
Columbia Basin College	Pasco	www.columbiabasin.edu	509-547-0511
Edmonds Community College	Lynnwood	www.edcc.edu	425-640-1459
Everett Community College	Everett	www.everettcc.edu	425-388-9219
Grays Harbor College	Aberdeen	www.ghc.edu	360-532-9020
Green River Community College	Auburn	www.greenriver.edu	253-833-9111
Highline Community College	Des Moines	www.highline.ctc.edu	206-878-3710
Lake Washington Institute of Technology	Kirkland	www.lwtech.edu	425-739-8104
Lower Columbia College	Longview	www.lowercolumbia.edu	360-442-2311
North Seattle College	Seattle	www.northseattle.edu	206-527-3663
Olympic College	Bremerton	www.olympic.edu	360-475-7479
Peninsula College	Port Angeles	www.pencol.edu	360-417-6340
Pierce College	Puyallup	www.pierce.ctc.edu	253-840-8400

Renton Technical College	Renton	www.rtc.edu	425-235-2352
Seattle Central College	Seattle	www.seattlecentral.edu	206-587-5450
Shoreline Community College	Shoreline	www.shoreline.ctc.edu	206-546-4621
Skagit Valley College	Mount Vernon	www.skagit.edu	360-416-7600
South Puget Sound Community College	Olympia	www.spscc.ctc.edu	360-754-7711
South Seattle College	Seattle	www.southseattle.edu	206-764-7943
Spokane Community College	Spokane	www.scc.spokane.edu	509-533-8020
Spokane Falls Community College	Spokane	www.spokanefalls.edu	509-533-3500
Tacoma Community College	Tacoma	www.tacomacc.edu	253-566-6042
Walla Walla Community College	Walla Walla	www.wwcc.edu	509-522-2500
Wenatchee Valley College	Wenatchee	www.wvc.edu	509-682-6806
Whatcom Community College	Bellingham	www.whatcom.ctc.edu	360-383-3000
Yakima Valley Community College	Yakima	www.yvcc.edu	509-574-4600

College Application Worksheet

Instructions: Students, complete this College Application Worksheet and bring it with you on the day of your school's College Application event. You may need to ask your family, school counselor, or another adult you trust to assist you in answering all of the questions. **Be sure to keep this information in a safe place given the personal information included.**

Top Three Colleges and Universities you Plan to Submit an Application

Prior to participating in your school's College Application program, you should do some research on the schools to which you plan to apply. Use the worksheet below to keep track of the information you learn during your research on your top three colleges and universities.

1. Name of College:

Is an essay or personal statement required to apply? If so, note the prompt so you can draft a response!:
Deadline for application:
Cost to apply:
Payment option:
SAT and/or ACT required?
Recommendation letter required?
Deadline for scholarship or institutional financial assistance:

2. Name of College:

Is an essay or personal statement required to apply? If so, note the prompt so you can draft a response:
Deadline for application:
Cost to apply:
Payment option:
SAT and/or ACT required?
Recommendation letter required?
Deadline for scholarship or institutional financial assistance:

3. Name of College:

Is an essay or personal statement required to apply? If so, note the prompt so you can draft a response!:
Deadline for application:
Cost to apply:
Payment option:
SAT and/or ACT required?
Recommendation letter required?
Deadline for scholarship or institutional financial assistance:

It is strongly recommended that you write your essays and personal statements well in advance of your school's College Application event. Your English teacher, school counselor, and other adults you trust are good resources to assist you in getting your essays to a final version. You should bring a final, proofed, electronic copy of your essays and/or personal statements on a flash drive to the event. If flash drives are not allowed on your school computers, talk to your school counselor before the College Application event about how you can access these documents while applying.

Test Scores

Many applications for college admission will request information related to tests that you have taken. Use the worksheet below to list the scores for tests you have already taken. If you have not yet taken the SAT or ACT, speak with your school counselor about upcoming test dates – you will need to take at least one of these college entrance exams soon! Most colleges will also require an “official” score that is sent by College Board (SAT scores) or ACT (ACT scores). Talk with your school counselor about how to do this.

SAT

Test #1:

Date Taken:

Total Score:

Critical Reading Score:

Mathematics Score:

Writing Score:

Test #2:

Date Taken:

Total Score:

Critical Reading Score:

Mathematics Score:

Writing Score:

ACT

Test #1:

Date Taken:

Total Score:

Critical Reading Score:

Mathematics Score:

Science Score:

Writing Score:

Test #2:

Date Taken:

Total Score:

Critical Reading Score:

Mathematics Score:

Science Score:

Writing Score:

Extra-Curricular Activities

Some applications request information related to the activities that you participate in outside of your high school classes. This could include clubs, organizations or any other activity that you want to share with the college. List your activities below, including the year(s) you participated and if you held a position or received an award related to the activity.

Activity 1:

Years Participated:

Leadership position held:

Awards:

Activity 2:

Years Participated:

Leadership position held:

Awards:

Activity 3:

Years Participated:

Leadership position held:

Awards:

Activity 4:
Years Participated:
Leadership position held:
Awards:

Activity 5:
Years Participated:
Leadership position held:
Awards:

Personal Information

Many colleges will ask you to provide information related to your residency and citizenship. You may need to provide the following information when completing your application. If you are uncertain about an answer, your parent or guardian may be able to help.

- 1. Social Security Number** (This is needed to get your FAFSA PIN which you will register for after you apply to college during the College Application event. Some colleges may also require this on their application.) Bring this with you. Do not write it here. It's important that you keep your Social Security Number private and safe.
- 2. Place of Birth**
City:
State:
Country:
- 3. County of Residency:**
- 4. Have you ever lived outside of [State's Name]?**
If yes, how many years have you lived in [State's Name]?
When did you move to [State's Name]? (this may be your birthdate)
- 5. Citizenship Status (circle one)**
US citizen Permanent Resident Alien Nonresident Alien Other
- 6. Did your parent(s)/guardian(s) pay state income taxes last year? Yes No**
If Yes, in which state?
- 7. Do you have a parent or guardian who is currently on active duty in the military?**
Yes No
- 8. Employment Information:** List any employment you have held for the last two years, including dates. It would be good to include volunteer information here as well:

Employer:	Dates Employed:
Employer:	Dates Employed:
Employer:	Dates Employed:
Employer:	Dates Employed:

College Application Information

Many colleges will ask for information regarding your college plans. You may be asked what subject area you intend to major in and for which term you are applying. Be sure to do research prior to your school's College Application event regarding whether the colleges you are interested in have the major you want to study. If you don't know what you want to study, that's okay! You can work with your school counselor while you're still in high school to do career exploration and there will be resources on college campus to assist with this as well. If you don't know the subject area in which you want to major, you can likely apply with "undecided," but do your research before the College Application event to make sure that is an option at the schools to which you plan to apply! Regardless, you can also change your major once you are enrolled in college too.

Intended Program or Major:

Term for which you are applying (for most graduating seniors, this will be fall enrollment following your graduation from high school):

Information for DREAMERS

HB 1079

In Washington State, students who are non-citizens who have graduated from a Washington State high school and have lived in the state for at least three years may be eligible for in-state tuition at public institutions, rather than being charged non-resident tuition.

To qualify for in-state tuition, there are three criteria you must meet

1. Graduate from a Washington State High School (or obtained a GED or equivalent).
2. Lived in Washington for at least three years prior to earning the high school diploma or equivalent and continuously since.
3. Sign an affidavit (written promise) affirming eligibility and promising to become a permanent resident/citizen of the United States when eligible to apply.

You must include the [HB 1079 affidavit](#) with your college applications in order to qualify for resident tuition rates.

Washington State Application for Financial Aid (WASFA)

A new state law has expanded eligibility for the Washington State Need Grant to low-income, non-citizen students who meet the program's eligibility requirements and satisfy the following residency criteria:

1. Have graduated from a Washington high school or obtained a GED (or will do so before beginning college).
2. Have lived in Washington for three years prior to, and continuously since, earning the high school diploma or equivalent.
3. Sign an affidavit (written promise) affirming eligibility and promising to become a permanent resident/citizen of the United States when eligible to apply.

For more information and to begin a WASFA, please visit readysetgrad.org/wasfa

College Application Checklist

Students, please work with your parents to complete the College Application Checklist if you plan to submit a college application during College Application Campaign.

Student Information

Write your user names and passwords on the line above if you have already created any online application accounts.

Full Name (First, Middle, Last)

Permanent Address (where all mail will be sent) City, State, Zip

Home Phone Number

Mobile Phone Number

E-mail Address

Social Security Number

Driver's License Number & Date Issued

Date of Birth

Place of Birth (City, State, Country)

Parent/Guardian Information

First Parent/Guardian Full Name (First, Middle, Last)

Street Address, City, State, Zip

Telephone Number

Mobile Phone Number

E-mail Address

Please indicate the highest education level completed by Parent/Guardian:

Unknown

Elementary/Middle School (K-8)

High School/GED

2-Year College

4-Year College

Graduate School

Second Parent/Guardian Full Name (First, Middle, Last)

Street Address, City, State, Zip

Telephone Number

Mobile Phone Number

E-mail Address

Please indicate the highest education level completed by Parent/Guardian:

Unknown

Elementary/Middle School (K-8)

High School/GED

2-Year College

4-Year College

Graduate School

High School Information

Name of Current High School

Phone Number

Mailing Address, City, State, Zip

Date You Entered High School

Expected Graduation Date

Please list any other high schools you have attended.

High School Name

Phone Number

Mailing Address

Dates of Attendance

High School Name

Phone Number

Mailing Address

Dates of Attendance

List any colleges you have attended for which you expect to receive college credit.

College Name

City, State

Dates of Attendance

List any college-credit courses you are taking during your senior year. Please indicate whether they are Advanced Placement (AP), Running Start, or another Dual Enrollment option (College Courses).

Fall Semester

Spring Semester

List any other courses (summer school, online, etc.)

SAT Test Date (month/year)

Math Score

Verbal Score

ACT Test Date (month/year)

Composite Score

List your extracurricular, community and family activities, and hobbies. Be prepared to include specific events and major accomplishments from musical or artistic talent to volunteer services to awards received.

List any work experience.

Top three colleges and universities you wish to submit an application:

1.

Special requirements (essay, personal statement, residency, etc.): _____
Deadline for application: _____
Cost to apply: _____
Payment option: _____
Deadline for scholarship or institutional financial assistance: _____

2.

Special requirements (essay, personal statement, residency, etc.): _____
Deadline for application: _____
Cost to apply: _____
Payment option: _____
Deadline for scholarship or institutional financial assistance: _____

3.

Special requirements (essay, personal statement, residency, etc.): _____
Deadline for application: _____
Cost to apply: _____
Payment option: _____
Deadline for scholarship or institutional financial assistance: _____

It is strongly recommended that you write your essays and personal statements well in advance of application deadline.

Frequently Asked Questions during Application Completion

Enrollment Information

What is my entering term and year?

Most students will select the fall semester following senior year; however, choose the summer option if you plan to attend summer school prior to Fall enrollment.

What is my entrance status?

The following are definitions for each status.

- ✓ Freshman: This will be the first college in which you enroll after graduating high school. Check this even if you have advanced placement (AP) credit, or dual enrollment, or have earned college credit in high school. (Most students will have this status.)
- ✓ Transfer: If you are graduating high school in the coming year and going directly to college, you are not a transfer student even if you have college credit.
- ✓ Non Degree: You want to take college course(s) but are not seeking a degree.

What is my desired major?

Under First Choice, you can choose your first choice of majors. A major is the academic area you are most interested in, like math, English, or biomedical engineering. You may check "Undecided." Please note that you can change your major during your college program, no matter what you put in this section now

Address

Can I list a Post Office Box?

You will need to also include a physical address even if you use a Post Office Box for your mailing address. Make sure this information is correct. The date the address became your permanent mailing address is the month and year you moved to this location (which may even be your date of birth).

Personal Information

What types of personal information will I need to provide?

You will be asked to enter your nine-digit Social Security Number. If you do not have a nine-digit Social Security Number, please enter all zeroes in the application. You may want to read information in this packet about HB 1079 and WASFA.

School Information

If your school can submit your high school transcripts electronically, you will need the school code to put on the application.

College Information

What should I list for current college courses in progress or planned, including the term (to be) taken, course subject and number (example: BIO 1001), credit hours, and college/university?

Please note that dual enrollment (high school and college classes) may be added here; however, do not list AP courses.

Family Information

What family information am I required to submit?

You will need to answer the following required question: Are your father and/or mother living? Also, *Legal Guardian Information* is the same information requested for father and mother and Emergency Contact Information is required if it is other than parent or guardian.

Activities and Interests

Do I have to list all my activities and interests for each college application?

If you have a significant number of activities and interests that you wish to include, you might consider putting them on a flash drive to copy and paste to your applications. Because colleges are more likely to accept students who have been involved in their school and community, it is to your advantage to list them. Remember to include both school and non-school activities and interests.

Campus Specific Information

What additional information will I need to include for each college application?

This information varies by educational institution. You can find more information by looking at the campus website. For this reason, it's a good idea to look at each school's actual application prior to completing it.

Miscellaneous Information

What types of questions will I be asked about my past criminal activity?

Virtually all campuses require students to answer questions about legal infractions. Answering "yes" to one or more of the questions will not necessarily preclude your being admitted. However, your failure to provide complete, accurate, and truthful information can be grounds to deny or withdraw your admission, dismiss you, or subject you to disciplinary sanctions after enrollment. A campus may spot-check records and obtain official court and/or school documentation to ensure accuracy, and these campuses may share pertinent information as needed for the safety of others. Some campuses have a process for conducting criminal background checks on applicants which may or may not happen with regard to your application.

Complete honesty is expected.

Student Instructions for College Application Month

Congratulations! You are taking the first step necessary for going to college – applying! This program is designed to assist you with this process. Be aware, there are several things you will need to do after today to complete the college application process. Most importantly, as part of this event, you will have an opportunity to begin the process of submitting a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) which will help you determine the financial aid you are eligible to receive.

The college and financial application process in 10 Steps!

Step 1: If you are applying online, go to the college application website and find the colleges to which you want to apply. This could be a website with multiple college applications or the website of the college(s) to which you are applying. Check with your school counselor or volunteer if you are unsure. If you are not applying to college online, get a hard copy of the admissions application from your school counselor.

Step 2: If you think you qualify for an application fee waiver – talk to your school counselor.

Step 3: Complete the application(s) to the colleges and universities to which you want to apply.

Step 4: Make note of any additional items you need to submit with your application (essay, transcripts, SAT or ACT scores, recommendation letters).

Step 5: Print out a copy of your confirmation page if you applied online. If you are applying through a paper application, talk to your school counselor about how to make a copy of your application. Keep the confirmation page or a copy of the application for your records!

Step 6: Register for your FAFSA PIN – you will need this to complete your Free Application for Federal Student Aid form early next year. Many grants, loans, and scholarships will require that you submit a FAFSA so this is a very important step. Go here to register for your FAFSA PIN: <http://www.pin.ed.gov>

You will need your social security number, your mailing address, and an email address to complete the process. REMEMBER YOUR FAFSA PIN! Write it down if that will help you remember it and keep it in a safe place!

Step 7: After you submit your college application and register for your FAFSA PIN, be sure to submit the [Name of State's ACAC Program]'s student survey. Your feedback is extremely important to us.

Step 8: Complete the student sign-out sheet before you leave the computer lab. You will need to list the colleges you applied to and whether you completed the FAFSA PIN process.

Step 9: Be sure to get the handouts provided by your school after you sign-out!

Step 10: Follow-up! Make sure you submit any additional information the colleges you applied to require. This could include recommendation letters, test scores, and high school transcripts. Also, the next important step in the process is completing your FAFSA. You already have your PIN, make sure you submit your FAFSA early next year – it is available January 1st

I Applied...Now What?

OK, so you've applied to college and that's great, but what happens now?

Applying is one of the first steps on your path to attending to college. Keep in mind that it may take a couple of months for the college or university to get back to you. Here's a step-by-step guide for what to do in the meantime:

Once you've submitted your application, make sure that you've turned in everything you need in order for the college to consider you as a potential student. Have you:

- ✓ Submitted your application fee (if the college charges a fee)?
- ✓ Asked your high school counselor to send your transcript to the college?
- ✓ Submitted your letters of recommendation (if required by the college)?
- ✓ Submitted your essay (if required by the college)?
- ✓ Sent any college transcripts you might have (from dual-credit courses)?
- ✓ Sent your AP scores (if you have taken AP courses)?

Even after you're accepted to a college, there's still a lot of work to do to make your final decision and get ready. You'll want to consider what financial aid is available to you at the colleges you're considering, and you'll want to decide if you want to live on campus or commute. Of course, once you decide on a college, you'll need to register as a new student and enroll in classes. Here are a few of the items you'll need to consider later this year:

Financial Aid: Sometime after January 1, you'll need to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). If possible, you should complete the FAFSA before March 1, because that's the deadline for many state-level scholarship and financial aid programs. Waiting longer than this may decrease the amount of financial aid you qualify for.

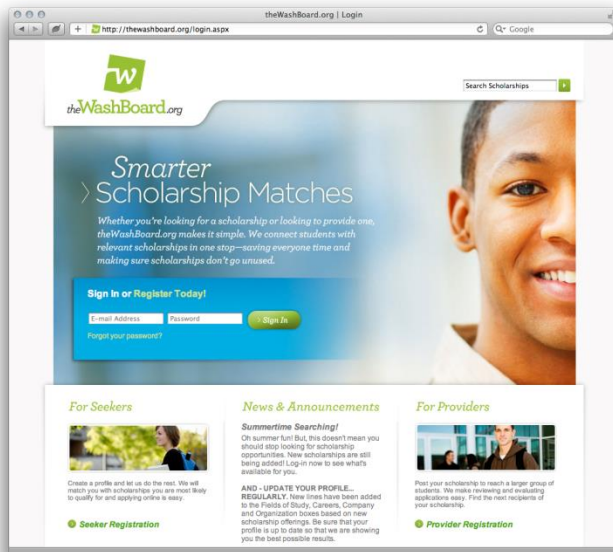
Visit college and university web sites to see what sort of financial aid and scholarship programs are offered at the school you plan to attend. Complete and submit applications for as many scholarships, grants, and other financial aid awards as you can find!

Go to www.thewashboard.org and create a profile to search for scholarships. This is a free, secure resource provided by the Washington Student Achievement Council.



TheWashBoard.org is a free, web-based scholarship clearinghouse that matches Washington scholarship seekers with Washington scholarship providers.

Join thousands of students receiving free money for college on theWashBoard.org!



“As a student, it is very difficult to keep up with school work and still make time to find scholarships. This website truly makes that process easier. It even sends out reminders! That is fantastic!”

—Student User

In just four years, over 170,000 scholarship seekers have registered and last year more than \$40 million was available in scholarships.

HOW THEWASHBOARD.ORG WORKS

- Go to theWashBoard.org and register.
- Fill in your student profile as completely as possible.
- Go to MY MATCHES to explore scholarships that are matches just for you.
- Apply and submit your applications by the due date.

OUR PROMISE

We will NEVER share your personal, private information with anyone! No one will have access to your information until YOU apply for a scholarship.



“My list of scholarship matches was extensive and informative. Most importantly, I found out about, applied for, and received two scholarships that I hadn’t heard of through any of my other research.”

—Jeffrey Hill, Graduate, Grays Harbor College

THERE’S A SCHOLARSHIP FOR THAT

Scholarships listed on theWashBoard.org are diverse and support a wide variety of student interests and accomplishments:

30% of listed scholarships require a GPA of 3.0 or higher

More than half of scholarships are not based on financial need

One third of scholarships listed are renewable, which means you may be eligible for continued scholarship funding as you continue your education

The scholarships listed in 2013-14 represented over a maximum of 6,957 individual awards.

Over 80 percent of surveyed scholarship seekers would recommend theWashBoard.org to their friends.

THE WASHBOARD.ORG IN A NUTSHELL

Students’ private information is kept confidential

Free resource for Washington students or Washington residents attending college outside of Washington

Helps students quickly identify scholarships for which they are eligible by showing only those scholarship opportunities which match their profile data

Web-based, so you can use it at school, at the library, or at home

Serves all ages of students, from middle school, through college and into graduate school

No spam or ads



TheWashBoard.org is supported by the Washington Scholarship Coalition, a public/private partnership that includes non-profits, public agencies, and private foundations.

Email info@theWashBoard.org

Call 1-888-535-0747 Ext. #8

College Application Campaign

College Application Campaign is a pilot initiative of Washington State GEAR UP and the Washington Student Achievement Council (the Council). The Council provides strategic planning, oversight, and advocacy to support increased student success and higher overall levels of educational attainment in Washington State. For more information, visit www.wsac.wa.gov.

