

Winter 2024 ICRC Report

Admissions is Open - 2024

Applications for 2024 admission are now open. [Please encourage students to apply now!](#)

We are excited to welcome Washington students to any one of our public four-year universities or college! If a student wants to go to college, is thinking of college, or has not yet considered college, there is a place for them in Washington to achieve their dreams, receive an education, earn a degree, and follow their passion. Together, we are committed to serve all students by identifying and reducing gaps among student populations.

Postsecondary Policy and Engagement

State Admissions Standards Policy Review

In February and March, Washington's public baccalaureate institutions will begin a process of reviewing feedback to the proposed changes to the state's minimum admission standards at the state's public four-year college and universities. In December, our sector received feedback on the proposal shared in winter 2023 with WSAC and stakeholders. In February, the institutions will meet to discuss the feedback and potential further revisions to the proposal. The intent is to share proposed revisions and a final draft with WSAC by the end of March.

Admissions Focused Webinars

Washington's public baccalaureate institutions wrapped up a series of admissions focused webinars this fall. Our sector hosted three webinars focused on key aspects of admissions including CADRs, holistic admissions, and the application process. Our sector is planning to offer a spring webinar and hold a similar series of webinars next fall.

Raise the Bar: College Excellence and Equity – Transfer Summit

As part of its [Raise the Bar: Attaining College Excellence and Equity initiative](#), the U.S. Department of Education hosted a summit in November at Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) with 200 higher education leaders on making it easier for students to transfer from one college to another, in turn helping them save time and money. The Council of Presidents was invited by the Biden Administration to present with colleagues from Maryland and Colorado on the creation and work of multi-sector transfer entities. In addition, the summit included teams of institutional and state representatives from 11 states across the country: California, Colorado, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, and Washington. COP also participated as part of the Washington delegation. At the convening, participants made commitments to support effective state transfer policy, institutional transfer policy and practice, transfer student advising and navigation, and data- and technology-enabled transfer solutions. Washington is meeting with the co-chairs of JTC in March to further discuss the alignment of this work with the current work underway by JTC.

Coordinating Committee on Apprenticeship and Higher Education

In 2022, the Washington Legislature passed [SSSB 5764](#) focused on the intersection between higher education and apprenticeships. As part of this legislation, the Coordinating Committee on Apprenticeships and Higher Education was created. COP was invited to be a member of the Committee. The purpose of the Coordinating Committee is to provide leadership; consider, refine, and advance potential solutions; and help guide the parties involved in the collaborative process to respond to SB 5764. SB 5764 seeks to increase pathways to higher education credits and degrees for state-registered apprentices, sustainably fund related supplemental instruction, and remove barriers to the Washington College Grant Program. In February, the Committee will hold its initial meeting for this collaborative multi-year work that will culminate in a final report in 2027.

SAO Dual Credit Audit

The state auditor is in the process of conducting a [performance audit](#) on the [transferability of Running Start and College in the High School credit](#). The state's auditor chose eight institutions to engage in the audit. The institutions were selected based on geographic mix, as well as a mix of those offering and not offering RS and CiHS. The eight institutions include: Eastern Washington University, University of Washington, Washington State University, Western Washington University, Bellevue College, Columbia Basin College, Olympic College, and Big Bend College. Meetings between the state's auditor's office, ERDC, and institutions began in late spring and continue as data is identified for the performance audit. COP is convening leads for this work from our institutions involved each month to share information and collaborate through this process. In addition, COP is in regular contact with ERDC about this work.

ERDC Dual Credit Work Group

The ERDC-led Dual Credit Work Group continues to meet to further multi-sector, collaborative discussions around dual credit research and data. Most recently, ERDC published a brief: [Postsecondary Enrollment Outcomes for Students who Enroll in Dual Credit](#).

Dual Credit Partnerships

COP continues to partner and regularly meet with dual credit leads from the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges and the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. This allows us to collectively address current and emerging issues around dual credit, engage with opportunities and challenges, and raise any questions.

CiHS State Review Process

In November, the CiHS State Review Committee completed the 2023 state review of college and university CiHS programs. The State Review Committee approved [20 CiHS programs](#). Of these programs, nine are NACEP accredited.

Washington Guaranteed Admissions Program (WAGAP)TM

The [Washington Guaranteed Admissions Program \(WAGAP\)TM](#) supports a college-going culture and guaranteed admission efforts at Central Washington University, Eastern Washington University, The Evergreen State College, University of Washington Tacoma, Washington State University, and Western Washington University. WAGAPTM is the most recent collaborative initiative among the state's public four-year institutions to increase the college-going culture in Washington.

This marks the third year of the initiative. Together, six public baccalaureate institutions and 132 K-12 partners are engaged this academic year. Our partners include 121 school districts located across all nine education school districts (ESDs) and 11 schools that include a mix of private, public, tribal, and charter schools. This represents 40% of all Washington public school districts.

The presidents of Washington's public baccalaureate institutions approved a WAGAPTM work plan in fall 2023. Over the winter and spring, the institutions and COP will be engaged around onboarding communications and materials for new partners, developing communications for students and families, and building and strengthening partnerships with stakeholders.

New Degrees

New public four-year university degrees implemented since the fall 2023 ICRC meeting:

- EWU Cheney BS Recreation Experience Management
- EWU Cheney BS Lifestyle Medicine
- EWU Cheney BS Interdisciplinary Studies- Workforce Management
- EWU Spokane BS Healthcare Administration

2024 Supplemental Legislative Session

The 2024 supplemental legislative session convened on January 8, 2024. The session is in Week 4 of a 60-day session; nearly halfway through. To date, several key deadlines have passed and in the next few weeks the Legislature will meet several more important deadlines in the process.

- January 31 - All policy bills must have moved from their respective policy committee in the chamber of origin to either a fiscal committee or the rules committee.
- February 5– All policy bills with a fiscal impact must have been moved from their respective fiscal committees in the chamber of origin to the rules committee for consideration on the chamber floor.
- February 13 – All bills, unless deemed necessary to implement the budget (NTIB), must have moved from their chamber of origin to the opposite chamber.
- February 21 - All policy bills must have moved from their respective policy committee in the opposite chamber to either a fiscal committee or the rules committee.

Active Bills of Interest for ICRC as of 2/7/24

Admissions/Registration/Enrollment

- [HB 2004](#): Providing early registration at institutions of higher education for military students
- [SB 6264](#): Competency-based education

Artificial Intelligence

- [HB 1934/SB 5838](#): AI Task Force
- [HJM 4005](#) AI Bill of Rights Blueprint

Credentialing/Degrees/Academic Programs

- [HB 2164](#): Providing postsecondary education consumer protections
- [HB 2216](#): Reducing barriers to state employment by eliminating two-year and four-year degree requirements that are unnecessary

Data Sharing

- [SB 6053](#): Improving equitable access to postsecondary education

Dual Credit

- [HB 1146](#): Dual credit program notice
- [HB 2441](#): Establishing a pilot program eliminating college in the high school fees for private not-for-profit four-year institutions
- [SB 5670](#): Permitting 10th grade students to participate in running start in online settings

Financial Aid

- [HB 1943](#): National guard ed. grants
- [HB 1950/SB 6035](#): Concerning the public service loan forgiveness program
- [HB 2025](#): Modifying placement and salary matching requirements for the state work-study program
- [HB 2214](#): Permitting beneficiaries of public assistance programs to automatically qualify as income-eligible for the purpose of receiving the Washington college grant
- [SB 5904](#): Extending the terms of eligibility for financial aid programs
- [SB 5953](#): Concerning financial aid grants for incarcerated students

K-12

- [HB 1915](#): Making financial education instruction a graduation prerequisite and a required component of public education
- [HB 2110](#): Reorganizing statutory requirements governing high school graduation
- [SB 5849](#): Concerning a computer science competency graduation requirement

COP Contact and Resource Information

Discover the latest information about Washington's public baccalaureate sector and COP on our [website](#) and on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).



ICRC Winter 2024

Update from Independent Colleges of Washington

February 8, 2024

info@icwashington.org



INDEPENDENT
COLLEGES OF
WASHINGTON



**ICW campuses
are close
to students
across the
state**

Top Fields of Study



**Business, Management,
Marketing, and Related
Support Services**



Education



**Health Professions and
Related Programs**



**Computer and Information
Sciences and Support Services**



**Biological and
Biomedical Sciences**



Social Sciences



Psychology



Engineering



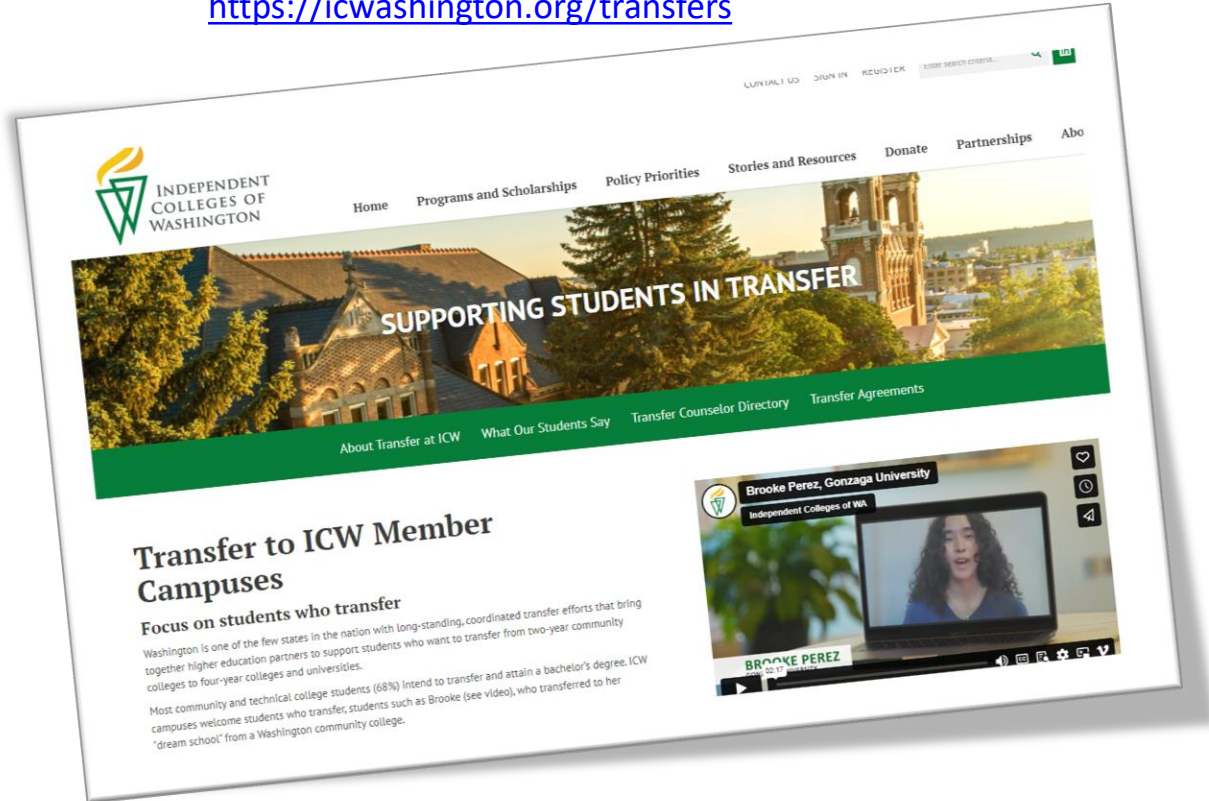
**Communication, Journalism,
and Related Programs**



**Legal Professions
and Studies**

Supporting Students in Transfer

<https://icwashington.org/transfers>




The screenshot shows the website's navigation menu with links for Home, Programs and Scholarships, Policy Priorities, Stories and Resources, Donate, Partnerships, and About. The main banner features a photograph of a university building with the text "SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN TRANSFER" overlaid. Below the banner are links for "About Transfer at ICW", "What Our Students Say", "Transfer Counselor Directory", and "Transfer Agreements".

Transfer to ICW Member Campuses

Focus on students who transfer

Washington is one of the few states in the nation with long-standing, coordinated transfer efforts that bring together higher education partners to support students who want to transfer from two-year community colleges to four-year colleges and universities.

Most community and technical college students (68%) intend to transfer and attain a bachelor's degree. ICW campuses welcome students who transfer, students such as Brooke (see video), who transferred to her "dream school" from a Washington community college.



Brooke Perez, Gonzaga University
Independent Colleges of WA

BRooke PEREZ
09:22:17

Participation in Statewide Agreements

Member Campus	AA/AS DTA	Biology	Business	Comp. Science	Engineerin g	Practical Nurse-BSN	RN-BSN	Pre- Nursing	Reverse Transfer
Gonzaga University	Y		Y	Y	Y				
Heritage University	Y		Y	Y		Y			
Pacific Lutheran University	Y		Y	Y				Y	Y
Saint Martin's University	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Seattle Pacific University	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			Y	Y
Seattle University	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			Y	Y
University of Puget Sound	Y								
Whitworth University	Y	Y	Y	Y					



Counselors for Students Transferring

College/University	Transfer Staff	Contact
Gonzaga University	Lindsey Spencer	spencerL2@gonzaga.edu
Heritage University	Miriam Soto Guillen	Soto-Guil_M@heritage.edu
Pacific Lutheran University	Jordan Pike	jordan.pike@plu.edu
Saint Martin's University	Caitlin Gordon Cabe	cgordon@stmartin.edu
Seattle Pacific University	Bryan Jones	bryan@spu.edu
Seattle University	<i>Three counselors, based on last name of the student</i>	transfer@seattleu.edu
University of Puget Sound	Torri Henson	thenson@pugetsound.edu
Whitman College	Makaya Kekoa Resner	Resnerm@whitman.edu
Whitworth University	Lisa Blumenthal	Lblumenthal@whitworth.edu



Working with students during FAFSA delays and challenges

ICW campuses are actively engaging with students via various communication channels examples as of February:

Member campus	Link (social media, campus website, etc)
Gonzaga University	New FAFSA (FAFSA Simplification)
Heritage University	Heritage University to offer help filling out FAFSA forms during “Financial Aid Nights”
Pacific Lutheran University	New FAFSA Communications from PLU
Saint Martin's University	The FAFSA has changed significantly for the 24-25 academic year
Seattle Pacific University	2024-25 FAFSA & FAFSA Simplification, updates
Seattle University	2024-2025 FAFSA Changes
University of Puget Sound	Changes to the 2024-25 FAFSA, What you need to know
Whitman College	Despite #FAFSA delays, Whitman College will provide financial aid offers at the same time as admittance letters so students and families can make informed decisions.
Whitworth University	FAFSA Simplification Financial Aid Whitworth University



Questions?

If you have any questions, please contact:

Terri Standish-Kuon, Ph.D.

President and CEO

Independent Colleges of Washington

Email: terri@icwashington.org

206-623-4494

**OUR 2023
ANNUAL REPORT
IS NOW ONLINE!**



Hear what students are saying
about the impact of ICW

ICWAnnualReport.org