

BHS College Admissions & Options Resources

BHS Counseling Department
Fall 2020

Credit Requirements	SPS Graduation Requirements	Public Universities & Colleges	Selective Universities & Colleges
English	4	4	4
Sciences	3	3	4
Math	3	3	4
Social Studies	3	3	3-4
Fine Arts	2 *(or 1 FA & 1 PP)	1	1
World Language	2 *(or PP)	2	3-4
Physical Ed / PE	1.5	N/A	N/A
Occupational Ed / CTE	1	N/A	N/A
Health	.5	N/A	N/A
Electives	4	N/A	N/A

**Personalized Pathway courses are classes that lead to a specific post-high school career outcome chosen by the student, based on the student's interest & High School and Beyond Plan.*

Service Learning

60 hours of volunteer work is required. Students must complete and turn in a “Service Learning Log & Reflection” form to have hours count.

Please document & send any hours you have already completed to your counselor now.

At this time we want students to be safe and not risk their health and safety if they are not comfortable doing community service hours.

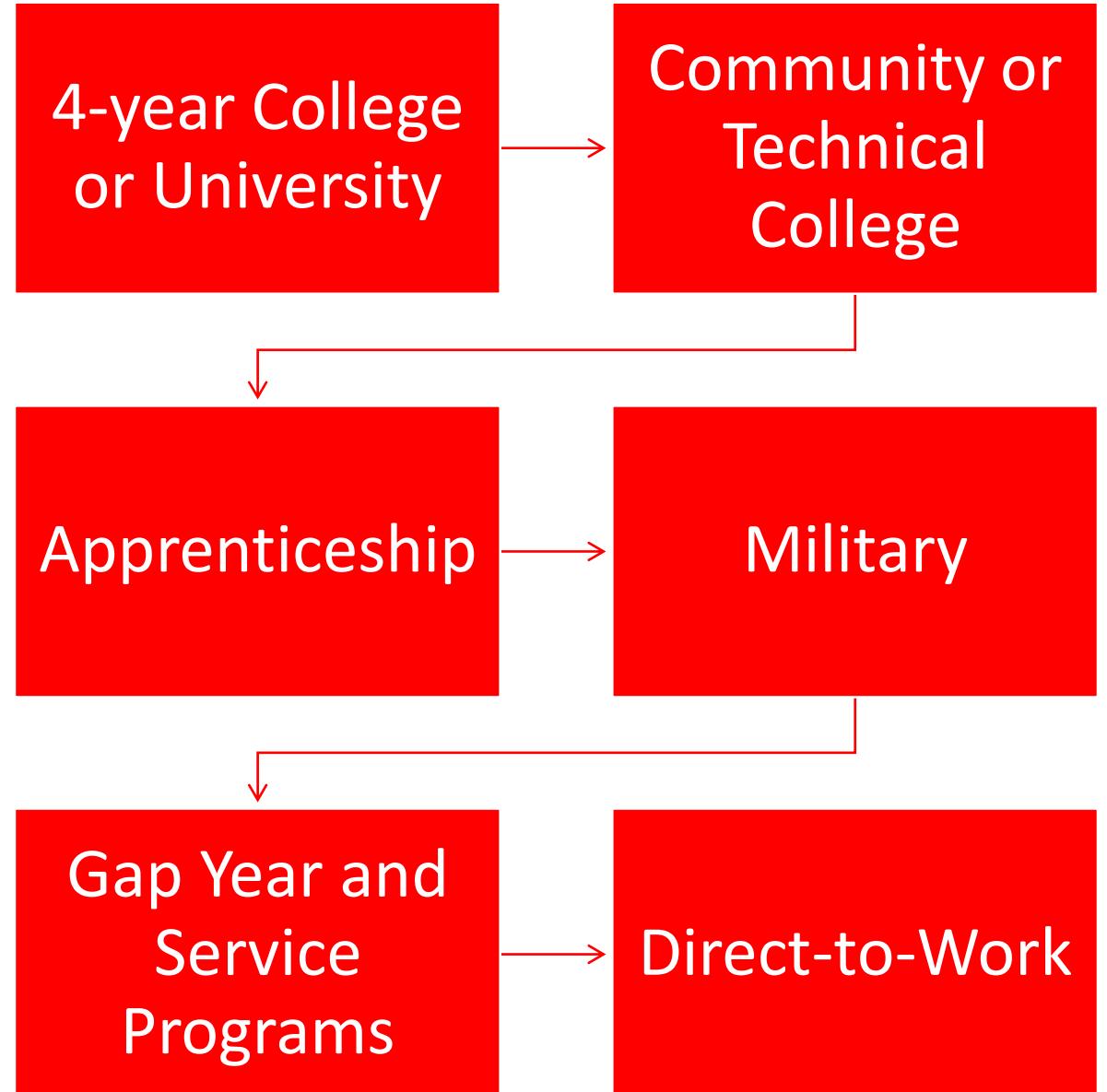
The “Service Learning Log & Reflection” can be found at:

https://ballardhs.seattleschools.org/services/service_learning

PE Waivers

- PE Waivers will be granted for only 1 Semester at a time.
- A student must take other classes to make up for the missing credits to meet the 24 credit requirement.
- A student who is a Teacher's Assistant or has a hole in their schedule may not receive a waiver.
- Waivers are available on your counselor's Schoology page.

Post High School Pathways



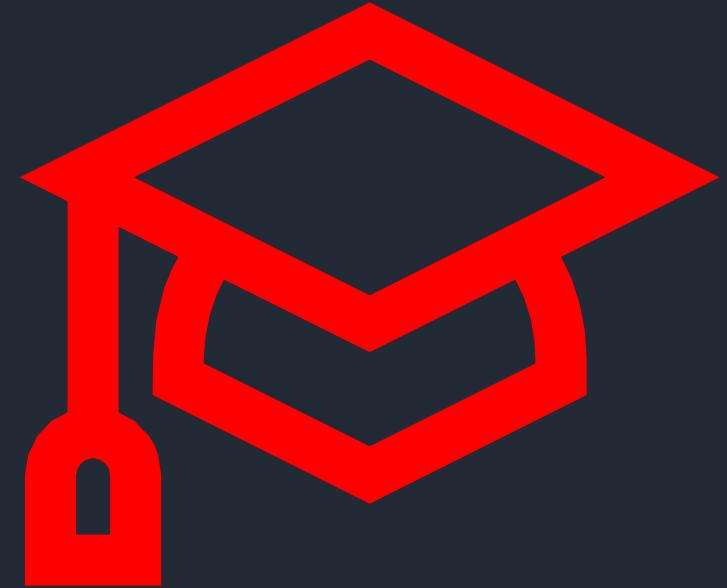
Details for your college applications:

- **G.P.A. (cumulative)** This is unweighted, 4.0 highest, and is on your transcript.
- **Class Rank** This uses a weighted g.p.a. with bonus points for AP, Honors, CIHS classes. Ballard High School reports class rank by decile. Class rank will be available for Seniors starting on **October 1st**. To request your rank, e-mail BHS Counseling Secretary, Carol Bristol at christol@seattleschools.org
- **Letters of Recommendation** Seniors needing a letter of recommendation from their counselor will need to answer questions on the “Student Information Sheet” & attach a resume or activity log. Please allow a minimum of 2 school weeks before your first deadline. Letters will not be provided without this form being completed within this time frame. Complete the online “Student Information Sheet” by logging on with your school email. Link can be found at: https://ballardhs.seattleschools.org/services/counseling_center/applying_to_college

Sending Transcripts

Each College and University has their own steps on how they would like you to send transcripts to them. Here are some guidelines for you to follow.

1. If you need an unofficial transcript, please email Ms. Bristol chbristol@seattleschools.org to request one.
2. Common App & Coalition: Add your School Counselor info and they will send your transcript for you as part of the recommendation. (Depending on the school – i.e. UW does not require a transcript).
3. If #1 or #2 does not apply, please request transcripts through Naviance. Detailed instructions can be found on [Senior Page](#) of the Counseling website



What are colleges looking for?

Solid Academic Core
(Required classes,
rigor, grades, trends)

Test Scores

Activities

Essays

Recommendations

Enthusiasm for
school

Perseverance

College Admissions Options

TYPE	BINDING	DUE	COMMIT
Early Decision	YES	Nov	Upon acceptance
Early Action	NO	Nov	by 5/1
Regular Decision	NO	Nov, Dec & Jan	by 5/1
Rolling	NO	Varies depending on how quickly spots fill up	by 5/1

Types of Applications

Common Application	900 Colleges, 1 application Examples: Seattle U, Lewis & Clark, Chapman
Coalition Application	Over 100 colleges, 1 application Examples: UW Seattle, University of Oregon
System – wide	Examples: U of California schools, State U of New York, Cal State Universities
College Specific	Examples: WSU, CWU, Boise State

Helpful Hints

1

Create an organization system with requirements and deadlines

2

Complete profile sections ahead of time when possible

3

Refine activities list

4

Don't wait until the last minute!



The Essay Basics

To find out more about you that can't be seen
on any other part of application

To see how you utilize critical thought and
apply it to a variety of situations

To get a glimpse of your writing “voice” and
how you communicate ideas

Allows you a voice in the decision process

Essay Tips

Leave yourself plenty of time

Research prompts (both main & supplements- if required)

Ask someone to read it

Write out potential paths

Use whatever method fits your personality

Outline

Write, read, let it sit, repeat

Letters of Recommendation

- Helps admissions counselors get a **complete picture of applicant**
- Not all colleges request recommendations (check each schools requirement)
- **Teacher letters** of recommendations describe the student as a **learner in the classroom**
 - Choose a teacher you've developed a rapport within a core subject
 - If* a second is required, ask a teacher in a different subject area--so if you asked an LA or SS teacher then ask a math/science, WL or elective teacher
- Counselor letters or recommendation describe the student holistically as a person
- Should be requested at least 2 weeks in advance

Standardized Test ACT & SAT

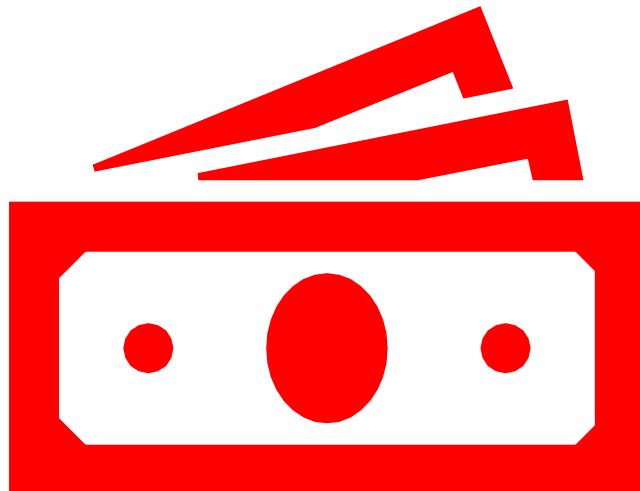
ACT - www.actstudent.org

SAT - www.collegeboard.org

- Used for college admissions decisions and in awarding merit based scholarships.
- SAT Subject Tests - required by a handful of schools
- Request scores be sent directly from SAT or ACT sites. **Send scores as soon as you begin applying to a college.** Do not wait!
- Many schools are going test-optional due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. -Check each schools current testing policy!
- Testing Policies -If a college is under a **test-optional policy**, colleges still welcome test scores from students who choose to submit them and consider them in the review process. If a school is **test blind**, it means they will not consider standardized testing at all.

Check testing policies here: <https://www.nacacnet.org/news--publications/newsroom/test-optional-means-test-optional>

Sources of Funding



- Federal Grants & Loans
- State Grants & Scholarships
- **Work Study** (When completing your FAFSA you must select "Yes" when asked if you want to be CONSIDERED for work study)
- Private Scholarships
- Institutional Grants & Scholarships

Financial Aid Applications

BHS Financial Aid Night, Tue, October 13th @ 7PM via Teams Live. More info on BHS website

- The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is the first step to receiving aid for college and is used by most schools to award financial aid. The FAFSA is available beginning October 1st of your senior year. Many financial aid deadlines are in mid-January so complete the FAFSA as soon as possible after October 1st. www.fafsa.gov
- CSS/Financial Aid Profile is used by some colleges in addition to the FAFSA to determine financial aid which can be offered from sources outside of the federal government. <https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>
- WASFA The Washington Application for State Financial Aid or WASFA is a free application for state financial aid for students who are not eligible for federal aid because of immigration status. <https://readysetgrad.wa.gov/wasfa-washington-application-state-financial-aid>

12th Year Campaign Statewide Financial Aid Completion Events

The 12th Year Campaign can help you with filing a FAFSA or WASFA financial aid application. Join one of the virtual events listed below to learn more and get help.

For more information & to register go to <https://wsac.wa.gov/apply>

Date	Time
October 6, 2020	5:00-8:00pm
October 15, 2020	11:00am-2:00pm
October 24, 2020	11:00am-2:00pm
October 28, 2020	5:00-8:00pm
November 10, 2020	11:00am-2:00pm
November 19, 2020	5:00-8:00pm
December 1, 2020	5:00-8:00pm

FAFSA Help with Otterbot!

- Otterbot is a free texting service designed to help Washington students navigate financial aid. Students can access Otterbot ANYTIME via text by texting "**Hi Otter**" to **360-928-7281**
- After a student signs up for Otter, they will receive periodic messages with need-to-know financial aid information, resources, suggestions, dates, and deadlines.
- When a student gets a text from Otter, they may follow-up with questions by replying directly to the message.

<https://wsac.wa.gov/otterbot>



What do you want to know
about financial aid?

Text Otter!



Sign up for text messages to get information and help applying for financial aid as you get ready for college. Learn more at wsac.wa.gov/otterbot.

Text (360) 928-7281 and write "Hi Otter" to start.
You can opt out at any time.



Financial Aid Calculator

- Many undergraduate students can cover some or all their college costs with the **Washington College Grant (WCG)** and **Federal Pell Grant (Pell)**.
- To get an estimate, you'll need to enter information about your family size and income. You can optionally enter the estimated family contribution (EFC) from a current, completed FAFSA or WASFA to estimate awards.
- <https://portal.wsac.wa.gov/a/aid-calculator/>

Washington College Grant

- Formerly the State Need Grant, makes education and training beyond high school affordable.
- Beginning in 2020-21, more low- and middle-income families now qualify. An eligible student from a family of four making around \$50,000 or less per year would receive a full award. Partial grants are available for families making up to the state's median family income, around \$97,000 per year.
- **What does it cover?** The maximum award amount will cover full tuition at any approved/eligible in-state public college or university, including community or technical colleges, or provide a comparable amount toward tuition and other education-related costs at an approved private college or career training program.



Western Undergrad Exchange

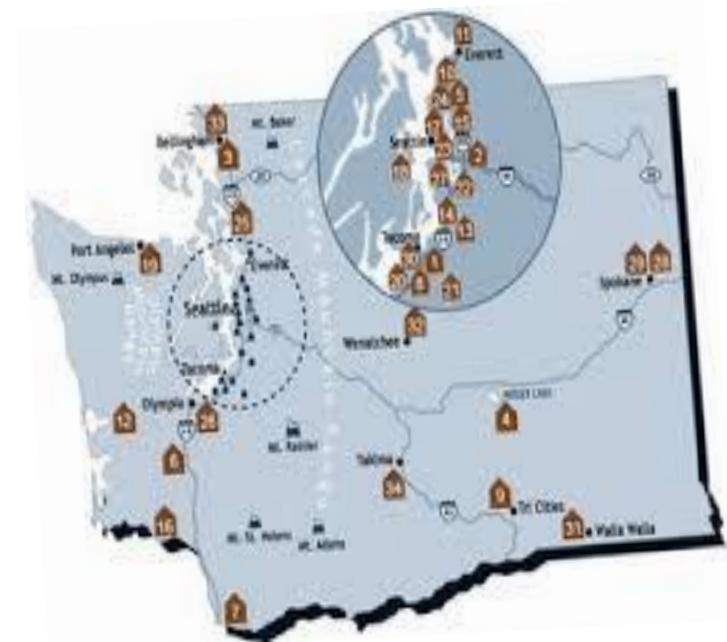
The Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) is an agreement among WICHE's 16 member states and territories, through which eligible students can choose from hundreds of undergraduate programs and pay no more than 150 percent of that institution's resident tuition rate.

<https://www.wiche.edu/tuition-savings/wue>

Community & Technical Colleges

- Whatever you're interested in doing — whether transferring to a university, training for a career or getting the basics — Washington state community and technical colleges have classes, programs and majors for you. <https://www.sbctc.edu/becoming-a-student/>
- If you are planning on applying to a Washington State community or technical college, you apply online with **WEB ADMISSIONS CENTER**

<https://www.public.ctc.edu/ApplicantWebClient/Applicant/ApplicationInstructions.aspx#Account>



Seattle Promise Scholarship

Application due:
Feb 1st, 2021

Seattle Promise is a program offered to all Seattle Public School Graduates who wish to attend one of the local Seattle colleges, North, Central, or South. The program provides the first two years (or up to 90 credits) of tuition, additional financial support for books, transportation, housing, etc. to those with financial need, and personal guidance to succeed in college. All Seattle public high school graduates are eligible regardless of grade point average (GPA), income, or country of birth.

<https://seattlepromise.seattlecolleges.edu/>

BHS Contact: Kelsey Peronto, North Seattle College
Kelsey.Peronto@seattlecolleges.edu

Considering the military?

- If you're thinking of enlisting, start with some research
- It's a big decision you'll have important choices to make when you sign up
- As an active duty enlisted member, you'll learn job specialty and do hands on work. You'll sign a contract, usually for 4 years.
- The military has 5 branches: Airforce, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, & Navy. Each has it's own focus, job specialties, base locations and more.

<https://www.usa.gov/join-military>

Gap Year Opportunities-

A gap year is typically a year break before college during which students engage in various educational & developmental activities such as travel or work.

- <https://serviceyear.org>
- <https://dynamy.org/gap-year-fairs>
- <https://www.gapyearassociation.org>
- <https://www.gooverseas.com/gap-year/usa-fairs>
- <https://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/americorps>

Apprenticeships- a system of education & training using a planned, closely supervised combination of hands-on, on-the-job training, and academic classroom-style education.

Year Up & Job Corp

- Seattle City Light Apprenticeship program- training for a variety of craft positions in the electrical utility industry. <http://www.seattle.gov/light/careers/apprentice/default.asp>
- ANEW -Offers high-quality, pre-apprenticeship training programs that help individuals obtain careers in construction trades. <https://anewaop.org>
- YEAR UP - One-year training program offers real access to today's best companies and a proven path to career success. <https://www.yearup.org/students>
- Job Corps - Offers free education and vocational training to young men & women ages 16 to 24. <https://www.jobcorps.gov/>

PNACAC'S
2020
**COLLEGE
FAIRS**

Learn more online at
pnacac.swoogo.com/PNACAC



Scan now to
register!



START YOUR COLLEGE SEARCH

EXPLORE YOUR TOP SCHOOL'S BOOTHS SEPTEMBER 15 - DECEMBER 31

REAL CONNECTIONS

- ATTEND LIVE PRESENTATIONS TO GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR COLLEGE SEARCH
- CONNECT WITH OVER 100 COLLEGES FROM ACROSS THE US AND BEYOND
- CHECK OUT LIVE WORKSHOPS ABOUT THE COLLEGE SEARCH PROCESS, FINANCIAL AID OPPORTUNITIES, AND MORE

LIVE VIRTUAL FAIRS



OCTOBER 19: 9AM - 12PM

OCTOBER 20: 4PM - 7PM

OCTOBER 21: 10AM - 1PM

4PM - 7PM

OCTOBER 22: 4PM - 7PM

Counselor Contacts

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