

Washington Minimum Admissions Standards Washington Public Four-Year Universities

Introduction

The Washington Minimum Admission Standards identify the minimum requirements for admission to Washington's public, four-year college and universities (universities). Universities include:

- Central Washington University
- Eastern Washington University
- The Evergreen State College
- University of Washington (Bothell, Seattle, and Tacoma campuses)
- Washington State University (all campuses)
- Western Washington University

The standards are designed to ensure students are well-prepared to achieve their postsecondary educational goals. Washington's universities believe higher education is for everyone who wants to attend. Whether a student is considering higher education, planning to attend, or has never contemplated the possibility, there is a place for them at a Washington university.

There are three admission categories to a Washington university:

- First-year students
- Transfer students
- Graduate and Professional students

Admission Standards for First-Year Students

Students will be evaluated according to the Admission Standards for First-Year Students if they meet **one of** the following criteria and answer yes to at least **one** of the following statements:

Criteria

1. Have earned a high school diploma or its equivalent and are enrolled in college or university with fewer than 40 quarter credits or 26 semester credits of college-level coursework.
2. **OR**, are enrolled in college or university with 40 or more quarter credits or 26 or more semester credits of college-level credit, **or** an associate's degree and are entering a university directly from high school.

Statements

- The student plans to start university in the summer or fall immediately following high school graduation.
- The student has participated in a dual credit program recognized by Washington and has earned or is expecting to earn college credit while in high school, regardless of the number of credits or if an associate degree was earned, and plans to enter university immediately following high school graduation. This would include students enrolled in Running Start.
- Student has never attended any college or university after high school completion.

A student who meets the First-Year Student admission definition above and is enrolling in a university will be evaluated for admission under the Admission Standards for First-Year Students. If the student does not meet the requirements of the Admission Standards for First-Year Students, they may be considered under the Admission Standards for Alternative First-Year Students. The minimum admission details for each university can be found in the Washington Public Four-Year Minimum Admission Information document.

Table 1. University Admission Standards for First-Year Students: Minimum Requirements for Admission

Requirements	First-Year Student Admissions (Standard 1.1)	Alternative First-Year Student Admission (Standard 1.2)	
		<i>Option 1</i>	<i>Option 2</i>
High School GPA	Transcribed 2.0 or higher, cumulative, unweighted	Transcribed 2.0 or higher, cumulative, unweighted or a passing score on a Washington approved high school equivalency test (GED)	Transcribed 2.5 or higher, cumulative, unweighted or a passing score on a Washington approved high school equivalency test (GED)
Coursework	Complete all Core Classes for College	Complete Core Classes for College with no more than three Core Classes for College credits waived	
Tests		Follow the university’s standardized test policy or be granted a waiver of the test requirement	Follow the university’s standardized test policy or be granted a waiver of the test requirement
Essay			Write an essay demonstrating critical thinking and communication skills, if required by a university
Other Considerations		Present evidence of success outside the classroom and strong motivation to success in higher education as determined by the university	Present evidence of success outside the classroom and strong motivation to success in higher education as determined by the university
Notes	A higher GPA may be required for direct to major programs. Must meet all requirements.	All students are eligible for this option. Must meet all requirements. Students are strongly encouraged to not waive English or Math Core Classes for College	Only applies to students 25 years or older. Must meet a minimum of two of the requirements above

Minimum Grade Point Average

Students must attain a minimum, unweighted cumulative grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale, except for Alternative Admissions Option 2 (see *Table 1. University Admissions Policies for First-Year Students: Minimum Requirements for Admissions*). Graduates from high schools not using a grading system would be exempt from the GPA requirement but must submit equivalent measures of performance as determined by the university to which they are applying.

Standardized Test Policies Regarding Admissions Exams

Standardized test policies must be implemented consistently and fairly. Each university will choose one standardized test policy to follow. Universities must provide a copy of standardized test policies for admissions exams to the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) prior to making changes to an existing policy or implementing a new policy. Students are encouraged to contact universities directly with any questions. If a student chooses to submit official SAT or ACT test score(s), the scores must be sent directly to the university to which a student is applying.

Coursework in High School

Universities know that academic preparation, especially in English and math, directly impacts success in college. The Core Classes for College (Three Cs) represent the minimum required high school credits in six subject areas totaling 17 credits. To meet the Three Cs, students must complete the courses upon high school completion. Students may take coursework in middle school, in accordance with [RCW 28A.230.090](#), to meet the Three Cs.

For the purposes of the Three Cs, laboratory science is defined as a class in which at least one class period each week is devoted to providing an opportunity for students to manipulate equipment, materials, or specimens, to develop skills in observation and analysis, and to discover, demonstrate, illustrate, or test scientific principles or concepts.

A pre-college class is defined as a class that is designated below the 100 level (e.g., MATH 098). Pre-college courses in English and math may be equivalent to a Three Cs class, provided the course is designed to meet the same learning outcomes as the high school class it substitutes for. Pre-college classes are **not** transferable to a university. School districts should complete the class review process to determine if a pre-college class may meet a Three Cs requirement.

The following types of classes, generally, do not meet the Three Cs: (1) special education/remedial academic and (2) extracurricular. School districts should utilize the class review process to determine if a special education/remedial academic or extracurricular class may meet the Three Cs.

Students earn one credit by completing one full academic year of coursework. School districts may use alternative scheduling that permits students to earn a full credit in a given subject area in less than a single academic year. School districts may also use mastery-based assessments to award credit.

Three Cs Requirements: Subject Area, Credits and Coursework

Three Cs Requirements: Subject Area, Credits and Coursework				
English	4 credits	Examples that Meet Requirement	Examples that Do Not Meet Requirement	Notes
	3 credits of literature and composition 1 credit of any English class	English grades 9-12, creative writing, journalistic writing, drama as literature, public speaking, debate, Bridge to College English, business English. Highest level pre-college course at a college or university. Any college course with an English or writing prefix.	AP Seminar, AP Research, acting, basic English skills, developmental reading, library, newspaper staff, developmental, (e.g., remedial, applied) vocabulary, yearbook or annual.	English as a Second Language (ESL) classes will only meet the English elective credit, which is one year/per credit. ESL classes include both high school and college English classes taken in countries where English is not the primary language of instruction.
Mathematics	4 credits			
	3 credits of mathematics earned through completion of one of the following sequences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II (intermediate algebra) Integrated Math I, II and III 1 credit of mathematics that meets requirements.	3 credits of math: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II or Integrated Math I, II, III. Pre-college coursework that would prepare a student for college Algebra. College math courses with intermediate algebra as a prerequisite. 1 credit of math credit: math beyond Algebra II and Math III; Statistics; Logic; Advanced level of Applied Math; Business Finance; Chemistry; Physics; Math-Based Career and Technical class; AP Computer Science A; AP Computer Science Principles; Bridge to College Mathematics. Any college level math-based quantitative course of pre-college math course that prepares for college algebra.	Philosophy	Successful completion of math beyond Algebra II or Integrated Math III, such as pre-calculus and calculus, meets the math requirement.
Sciences	3 credits			
	1 credit of biology 1 credit of chemistry or physics 1 credit of any science class At least 2 credits must be a lab science	1 credit of biology. 1 credit of chemistry or physics. 1 credit of any science: astronomy, physical science, environmental science, geological science, genetics, physiology, or marine science. Comparable college science courses. College science courses with lab will meet the lab science requirement.	Environmental studies	Single class may meet multiple requirements, such as the science and lab credits.
Social Science/ Studies	3 credits			
	3 credits of social science/studies or history	World history, US history, anthropology, contemporary world problems, economics, geography, government, ethnic studies political science, psychology, or sociology. Comparable college courses in the subject area.	Consumer economics, extracurricular classes for credit, religion	

Three C Requirements: Subject Area, Credits and Coursework

World Languages	2 credits	Examples that Meet Requirement	Examples that Do Not Meet Requirement	Notes
	2 credits in the same world language, American Indian language, or American Sign Language	African languages, Arabic, American Indian language, American Sign Language (ASL), Ancient Greek, French, Japanese, Latin, Spanish. Comparable college world language courses.	Computer languages and other forms of sign language.	<p>Students who earn one credit of world language in high school must complete the equivalent of a second credit of the same language in college.</p> <p>Students may meet the world language credit requirement through various ways.</p> <p>Students pass a district-approved mastery assessment with the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) or Proficiency Guidelines.</p> <p>Students may enroll and complete two classes in the same world language while in high school. This may include world language classes in middle school if the high school accepts the classes as equivalent to its own classes and transcribes the classes accordingly.</p> <p>Students may earn the Washington State Seal of Biliteracy to meet this requirement. The Seal of Biliteracy must be transcribed on a student's high school transcript.</p> <p>The world language requirement will be considered satisfied for applicants who complete their education through the seventh grade in a school or schools (a) where English was not the language of instruction and (b) in countries other than Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, or the United States or through a dual language immersion program in the United States.</p>
Arts	1 credit			
	1 credit of art in the fine, visual or performing arts	Art appreciation, band, ceramics, choir, dance, dramatics performance and production, drawing, fiber arts, graphic arts, metal design, music appreciation, music theory, orchestra, painting, photography, printmaking, or sculpture. College coursework completion of 5 quarter credits or 3 semester credits in fine, visual or performing arts; 3 quarter credits or 2 semester credits in art, art history, cinema, filmmaking, dance, music or photography; or 3 quarter credits or 2 semester credits in drama.	Drama as literature, architecture, creative writing, drafting, extracurricular classes for credit, fashion design, interior design, sewing, speech, web design, woodworking.	One credit of art may be met by earning one credit more than the minimum credits required in another core classes for credit areas.
Total	17 credit			

Dual Credit Courses to Meet Three Cs

An Advanced Placement, Cambridge International, and International Baccalaureate class must be transcribed on the student’s high school transcript. School districts should complete the class review process to determine if a class may meet a Three Cs requirement.

College credit earned through Career Technical Education Dual Credit, College in the High School, and Running Start program may be used to meet the Three Cs requirements not earned in high school. **Only** college-level classes may be used to meet a Three Cs requirement. A college-level course is defined as a class that is designated 100-level or higher (e.g., ENGL 101, MATH 146). School districts should complete the class review process to determine if a class may meet a Three Cs requirement.

According to [WAC 180-51-050](#), dual credit students who complete five (5) quarter credits or three (3) semester credits of college-level coursework have earned the equivalent of one Three Cs credit.

Five (5) college quarter credits equal one (1) Core class for college credit
Three (3) college semester credits equal one (1) Core class for college credit

Determination of Three Cs

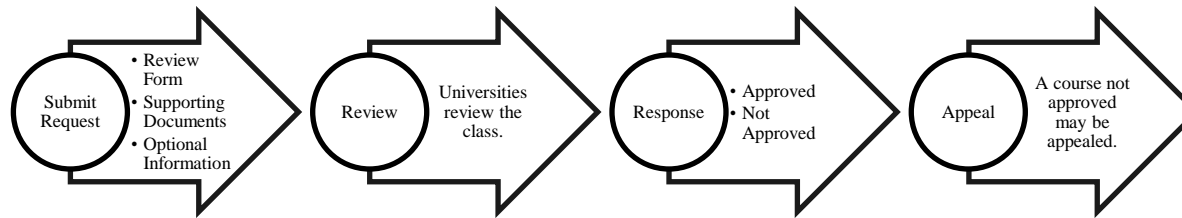
A class meets a Three Cs requirement if it meets **at a minimum** one of the criteria below.

- Approved by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) as a [core course](#) **and** is listed as a class that meets the Three Cs requirements in the table above **or**
- Approved as a class to meet Three Cs through the review process outlined below.

The school district is required to ensure students' transcripts document the Three Cs. According to [WAC 392-415-070](#), school districts are responsible for ensuring classes that meet the Three Cs are identified with a “B” designator on a student’s transcript. Students should consult with their local high school to obtain complete information about the Three Cs. The “B” indicator is used throughout the admission review process. If a Three Cs class is missing the “B” indicator, the institution may take extra time to review the student application and confirm the class meets a Three Cs requirement prior to making an admission decision.

Three Cs Approval Process

Classes that do not meet the criteria for the Three Cs stated above must be reviewed by the universities through the Council of Presidents to be considered as a Three Cs requirement.



1. Submit a class for review to the Council of Presidents. The request must include the following: (a) A completed class review form and (2) Supporting documentation (e.g., syllabus, assessments, learning objectives for the class). Districts and schools are encouraged to use existing documentation created for required approval processes. Additional information may be requested by the Committee, as necessary.
2. The Council of Presidents will distribute class review materials to each university. In their review, universities will ensure that the class review process recognizes academic outcomes or competencies could be achieved in a variety of ways and that the desired class objectives may be accomplished through diverse pedagogical methodologies, including integrated curriculum, interdisciplinary courses, career and technical classes, and independent study programs.
3. The Council of Presidents will inform districts/schools via email if a class is approved or not approved. If a class is not approved the response will include the reasons for the decision and, if appropriate, potential changes that might lead to the approval of the class. Decisions only apply to the requested class. Any substantive changes in the content of the approved classes must be submitted to the Council of Presidents for re-review under the above process. If a class is not approved, an appeal may be made. Final determination of an appeal will be communicated by the Council of Presidents. The Council of Presidents will maintain a record of all reviewed requests.
4. Instructions, timelines, and forms for the class approval process can be found on the Council of Presidents website.

Admission Standards for Transfer Students

Students are considered under the Admission Standards for Transfer Students if the student attended any college or university after the summer immediately following high school graduation. Information about the Three Cs can be found under the *Admissions Standards for First-Year Students* shown above.

Admission Standards for Transfer Students: Minimum Requirements for Admission

Requirements	40 or More Quarter Credits/26 Semester Credits	Less than 40 Quarter Credits/26 Semester Credits
High School GPA	Transcribed 2.0 or higher cumulative GPA in all transferable college-level courses.	Transcribed 2.0 or higher cumulative GPA in all transferable college-level courses.
Coursework		Satisfy the Core Classes for College which may be met through a combination of high school and college coursework or all college coursework
Notes	Attended any college after the summer immediately following high school graduation. Dual credit or associate degree earned as part of a dual credit program do not meet the requirement.	

Admission Standards for Graduate and Professional Students

Students are considered under the graduate and professional student admission standards if a student is applying to a graduate or professional program at an university. A student will be considered for admissions under the *Graduate and Professional Student Admission Standards* or *Alternative Graduate and Professional Student Admission Standard* if the student does not meet the requirements of the *Graduate and Professional Student Admission Standard*.

Bachelor of Applied Science Degrees

University graduate and professional degree programs recognize Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) degrees earned at a Washington community or technical community college. Bachelor of Applied Science degrees are evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the graduate or professional degree program or department for admissions.

Admission Standards for Graduate and Professional Students: Minimum Requirements for Admission

Graduate/Professional Student Admissions (Standard 3.1)

- A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 or equivalent measures of performance if a graduate of an institution with no grading system for those credits earned at the institution awarding the bachelor degree. Students may have earned credits used towards a bachelor degree from multiple institutions. **The 3.0 GPA requirement only requires that the cumulative GPA be reviewed from the degree granting institution.** If a student's cumulative GPA from the degree granting institution is lower than a 3.0 and the student has credits earned from multiple institutions, the student's GPA may automatically be recalculated to include additional transcripts. If this recalculation results in a 3.0, the student has met the minimum GPA requirement. If this recalculation does not result in a 3.0, students may still be under the Alternative Graduate and Professional Student Admission Standards.
- Earned a bachelor degree from a nationally recognized postsecondary institution with institutional accreditation from the following approved accreditation agencies or equivalent for international institutions: Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Higher Learning Commission (HLC), Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE), New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE), Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU), Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) or WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) college or university.

Alternative Graduate/Professional Student Admissions (Standard 3.2)

Option 1: Students who do not meet the minimum GPA requirement, must meet at a minimum **one** of the following requirements.

- Earned a bachelor's degree from a nationally recognized postsecondary institution with institutional accreditation from the following approved accreditation agencies or equivalent for international institutions: Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Higher Learning Commission (HLC), Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE), New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE), Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU), Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) or WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) college or university.
- Submit satisfactory scores on the GRE, GMAT, or another approved test.
- Write an analytical essay demonstrating critical thinking skills.
- Write a statement of intent demonstrating a level of knowledge and intellectual maturity appropriate to the proposed field of graduate study¹.
- Present evidence of professional success in a field relevant to the proposed area of study.
- Complete an admissions interview either in-person or via phone or web.
- Successful completion of a provisional period of enrollment based on conditional admissions.

Note: Students who do not meet the minimum 3.0 GPA graduate or professional program requirement may be admitted as determined by the college or university department or program. Programs can determine their own agreed upon method of assessment for alternate standard admissions

Option 2: Did not earn a bachelor's degree from nationally recognized postsecondary institution with increasingly responsible professional experience, must have significant professional experience² **and** meet at least **two** of the following requirements.

- Submit a transcript showing 100 level course work or higher with the achievement of a 3.0 grade point average for at least 90 quarter hours or 60 semester hours.
- Submit satisfactory scores on the GRE, GMAT, or another approved test.
- Write an analytical essay demonstrating critical thinking skills.
- Write a statement of intent demonstrating a level of knowledge and intellectual maturity appropriate to the proposed field of graduate study.
- Complete an admissions interview either in-person or via phone or web.
- Successful completion of a provisional period of enrollment based on conditional admissions.

¹ An analytical essay typically is focused on a student's academic pursuits and interest, while a statement of intent includes information about a student's personal journey

² Criteria for significant professional experience is determined by individual institutions and their graduate or professional program(s).