



Notification of Request for Authorization under the Degree-Granting Institutions Act

Date posted: October 9, 2026
Institution: College Unbound
Accreditation: New England Commission of Higher Education
Nature of request: Initial authorization to offer degree program in Washington State
Proposed programs: Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Leadership and Change
Locations: Seattle (specific location to be determined)
Background:
College Unbound is a private nonprofit institution with a primary campus in Providence, Rhode Island.

Nature of the review:

Prior to granting authorization to offer new degree programs in Washington State, the Washington Student Achievement Council/Degree Authorization reviews elements such as program outcomes, course requirements, method of course delivery, faculty credentials, and student services.

Information on the program can be found at the end of this notice.

Timeline:

The Washington Student Achievement Council will accept comments on this application until November 9, 2026.

Any individuals with knowledge that may indicate the institution and/or the program does not meet the authorization requirements of WAC 250-61 are requested to submit comments to: [Degree Authorization](#). Please note that comments may be shared with the institution requesting authorization and may be available to the public under Washington State law.

If you would like to know more about the current law and regulations that govern the program, they can be found at [Chapter 28B.85 RCW](#) and [WAC 250-61](#).

Degree and Major Requirements

College Unbound offers a Bachelor of Arts with a major in Organizational Leadership and Change. The program is carefully designed so that the student acquires the necessary lifelong learning competencies that employers and life demand—skills essential to personal development, career development, and participatory citizenship.

Students build understanding of the functions of leadership in organizations and communities in the context of rapid technological and societal change. They design, implement, and evaluate extensive workplace and/or community action research projects to enact change. The program prepares them for careers as community leaders, chief executive officers, general / operational / administrative managers, human resource specialists, educators, and social and community services managers and other management positions.

The College takes a liberal studies approach and is committed to preparing students to become lifelong learners. The general education and Big 10 competency requirements ensure that all students build the analytical and critical thinking skills and intellectual perspectives necessary to engage in ongoing action research that supports their goals. College Unbound's liberal arts based curriculum ensures the degree broadens student views of an increasingly global and diverse world.

Organizational Leadership and Change Major Degree Requirements

Organizational Leadership and Change Major Degree Requirements			
Course and/or Course Category	Course #	Credits	Course Sequence
Core Courses (24 credits required; must earn at least C)			
Reframing Failure	OLC235	3	1st semester
Intro to Organizational Leadership & Change	OLC215	3	1st semester
Learning for Experience	OLC220	3	2nd semester
Research Justice	SBS308	3	2nd semester
Writing for Change	AAH330	3	2nd or 3rd semester
Capstone	OLC400	3	Final semester
Workplace and World Lab A	WWL200A	3	1st semester
Workplace and World Lab Z	WWL400Z	3	Final semester
Major Courses (9 credits required)			
Organizational Studies	Multiple Course Options	3	2nd semester & beyond
Leadership Studies	Multiple Course Options	3	2nd semester & beyond
Change Studies	Multiple Course Options	3	2nd semester & beyond
Big 10 TLC (10 credits required)			
Big 10 TLC Competencies	1 per competency	10	Minimum of 8 credited on degree audit before Capstone
General Education Courses (40 credits required)			
Unbound Journey		1	1st semester
Civics		6	2nd semester & beyond
Arts and Humanities		12	2nd semester & beyond
Science and Math		9	2nd semester & beyond
Social and Behavioral Sciences		12	2nd semester & beyond
Electives (37 credits required)			
Electives		37	2nd semester & beyond
Total Required Credits		(120 credits)	

Major Courses and Outcome Statements

The Organizational Leadership and Change (OLC) major ensures that students can use concepts and methods

from the study of leadership, organizations, and change to develop themselves and others, to lead change, and to transform organizations and communities. The major requires 24 credits of core required courses and 9 credits from the prescribed fields of organization, leadership and change studies

Major Outcome Statements

- Reframing Failure: Plans for, analyzes and learns from failure
- Introduction to Organizational Leadership & Change: Identifies core values and strengths as a leader and change maker, construct a research question for developing core project, navigate and build community in an asynchronous course.
- Learning from Experience: Identifies, documents, and evaluates learning from life experiences
- Research Justice: Evaluates and chooses methodologies for the construction of knowledge based on their emancipatory potential, while centering social action, reflection, and application
- Writing for Change: Uses research, rhetorical, and revision strategies to compose writing that proposes and argues for change
- Organizational Studies: Can analyze how organizations function as systems, including their structures, cultures, and power dynamics, and apply this understanding to navigate and improve organizational contexts.
- Leadership Studies: Can critically examine leadership theories and practices, assess their own leadership development, and facilitate collective action toward shared goals
- Change Studies: Can understand how change occurs in individuals, organizations, and communities, and design and implement strategies for transformative change
- Capstone: Reflects upon learning, assesses personal and professional growth, and plans for future learning and development
- Workplace and World Labs: (WWL) Integrates and applies knowledge from lived experience and formal education to develop CU Core and project and enhance personal and professional capaci