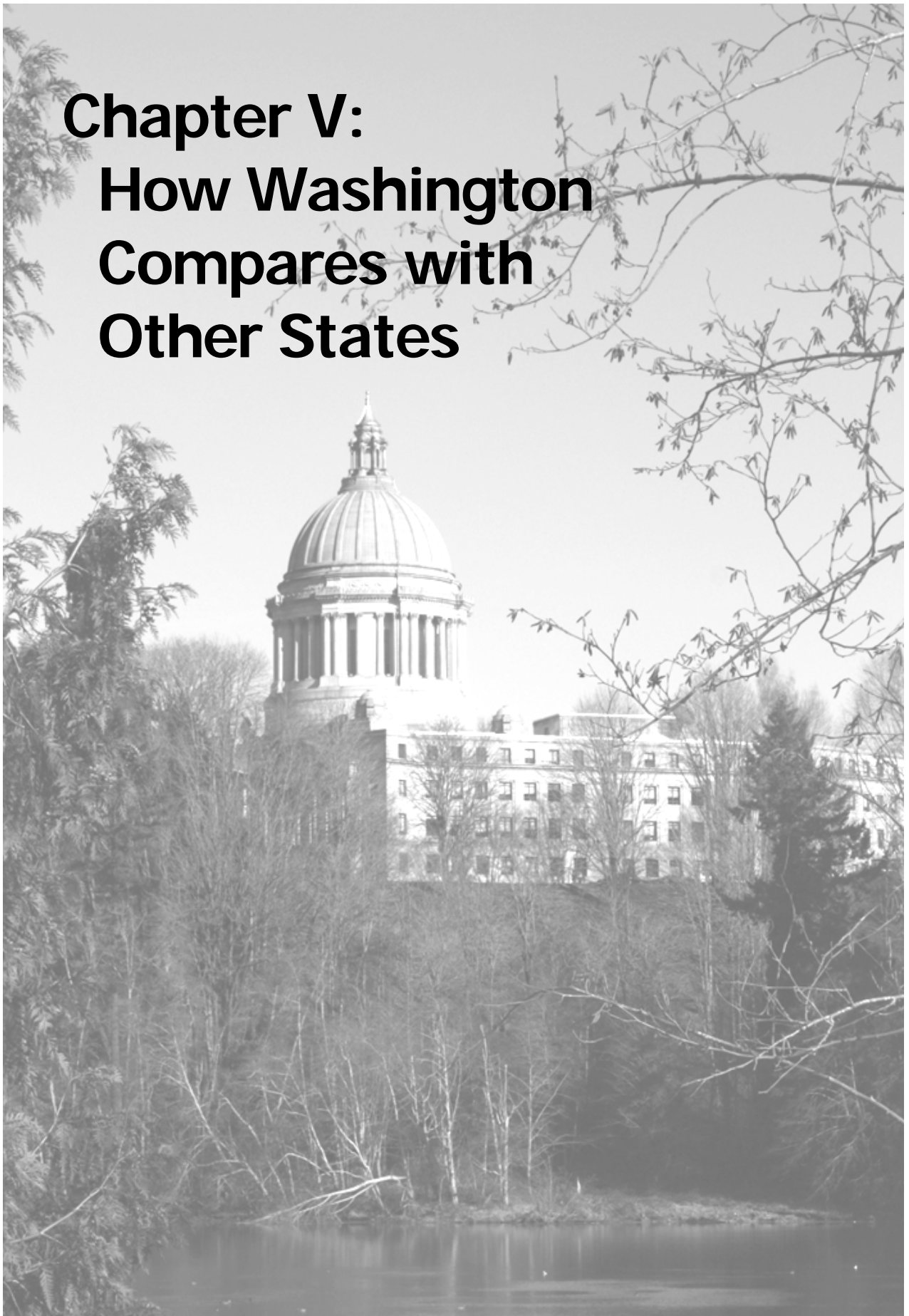


Chapter V: How Washington Compares with Other States

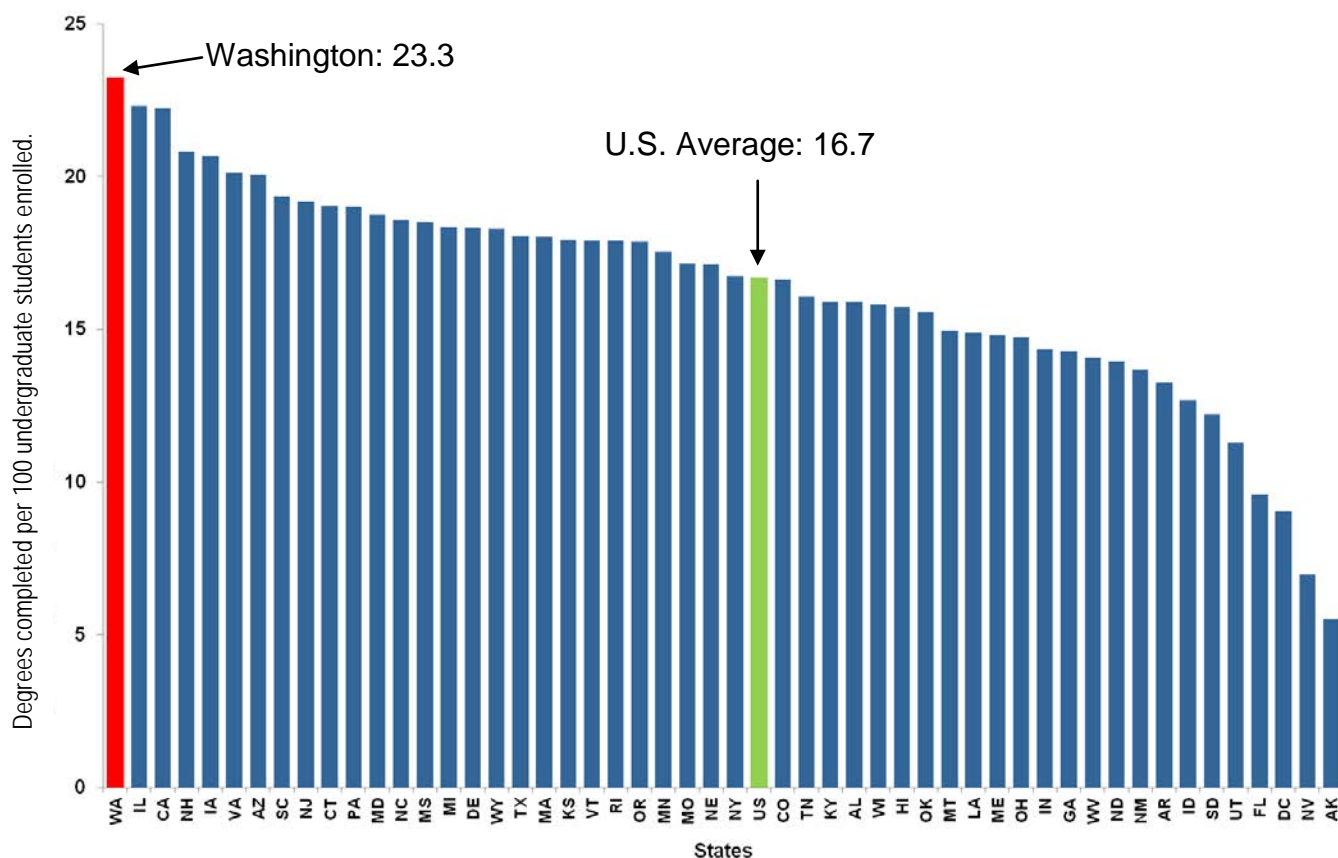


Washington's public four-year colleges are highly productive in degree completion . . .

An undergraduate who attends one of Washington's four-year public colleges and universities has an excellent chance of successfully completing his or her studies and receiving a baccalaureate degree. During the 2009-10 academic year, Washington again was first among all 50 states in the efficient production of baccalaureate degrees among students already enrolled in college.

Factors that help account for Washington's high ranking include the high number of freshmen and transfer students who go on to graduate from the state's baccalaureate institutions.

**How States Compare in Completion of Bachelor's Degrees
Public Baccalaureate Institutions, 2009-10**



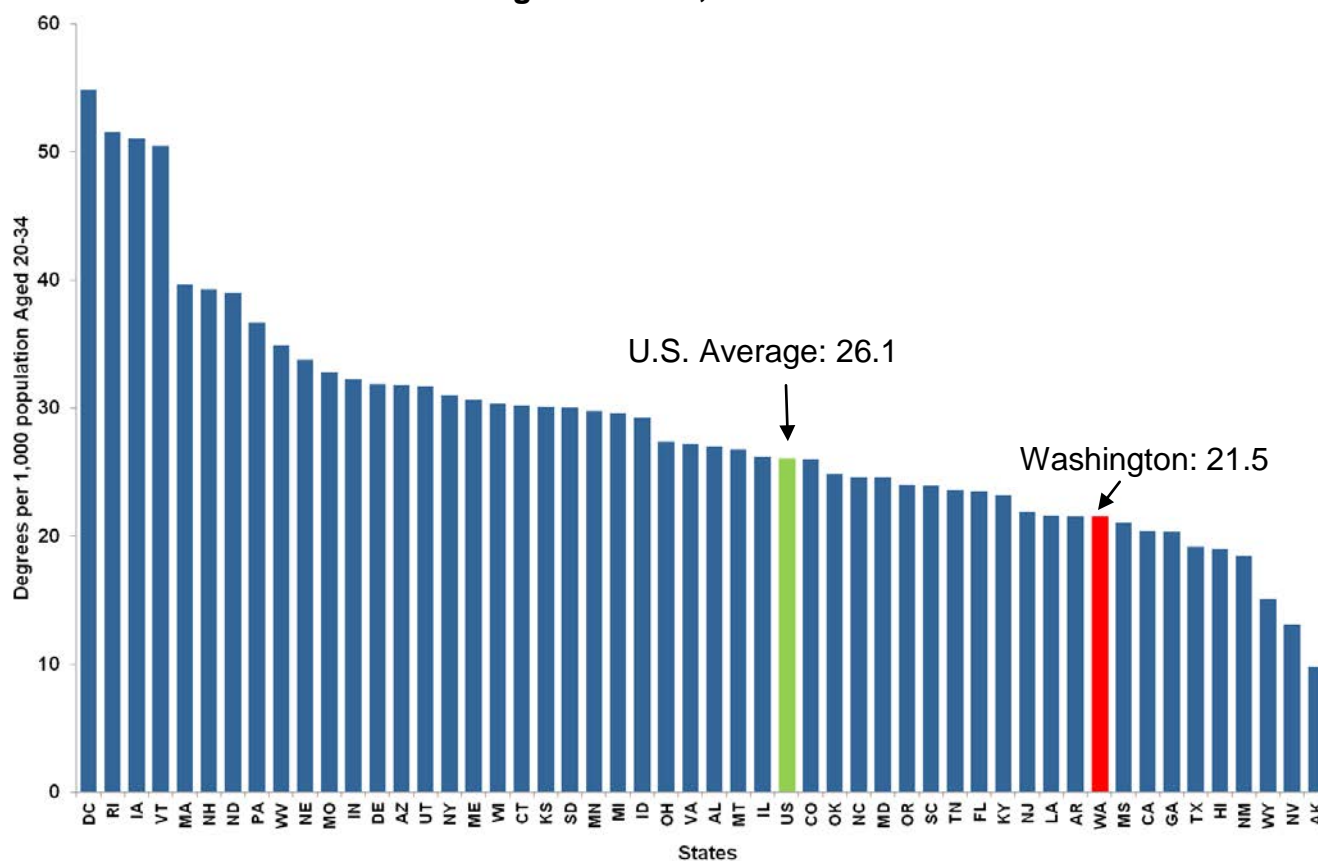
Source: HECB staff analysis of data from Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), National Center for Education Statistics, fall 2010.

... but, based on population, Washington degree production ranks in bottom third of states

Even though Washington is first in baccalaureate degree production among students who *do* go to a four-year college, Washington does not compete well with other states in the number of bachelor's degrees produced in comparison to the state population as a whole.

A major factor contributing to Washington's low ranking in degree production compared to state population is inadequate institutional capacity, which limits access to baccalaureate degree programs. Also, Washington needs to do a better job of encouraging more residents to earn four-year degrees.

Bachelor's Degrees Produced per 1,000 Population Aged 20 to 34, 2009-10



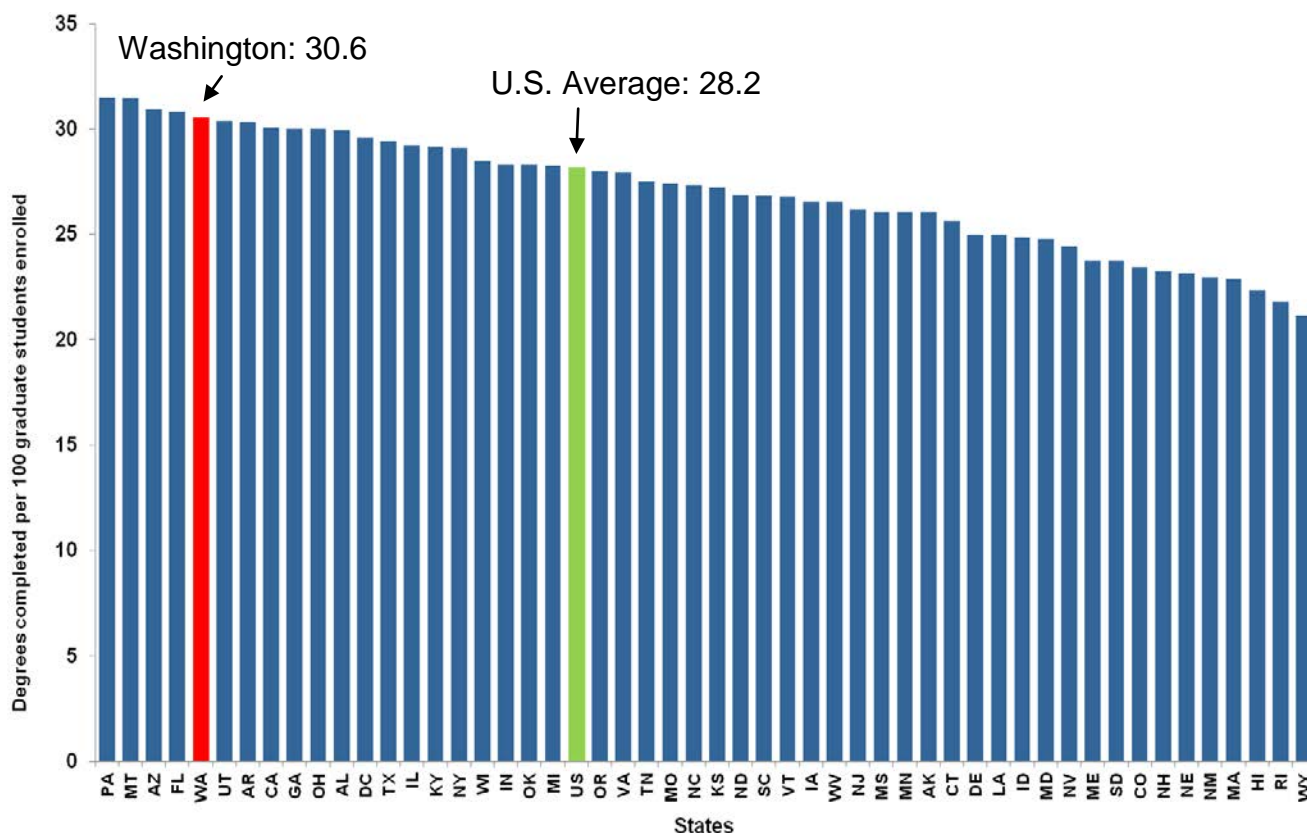
Sources: HECB staff analysis of data from Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS); U.S. Census Bureau 2009 Population Estimates.

Institutions are highly efficient in the production of graduate degrees . . .

Washington not only leads the nation in production of bachelor's degrees among already enrolled students, it also is very efficient in graduating students who are already enrolled in graduate programs. Among all 50 states, Washington ranked fifth in 2009-10 in graduating students who are enrolled in master's and doctoral degree programs.

One factor that may help explain why state colleges and universities are highly efficient in the production of graduate degrees is the highly selective nature of many graduate programs, which means only the very best students are accepted into those programs.

How States Compare in Completion of Graduate Degrees Public Baccalaureate Institutions, 2009-10



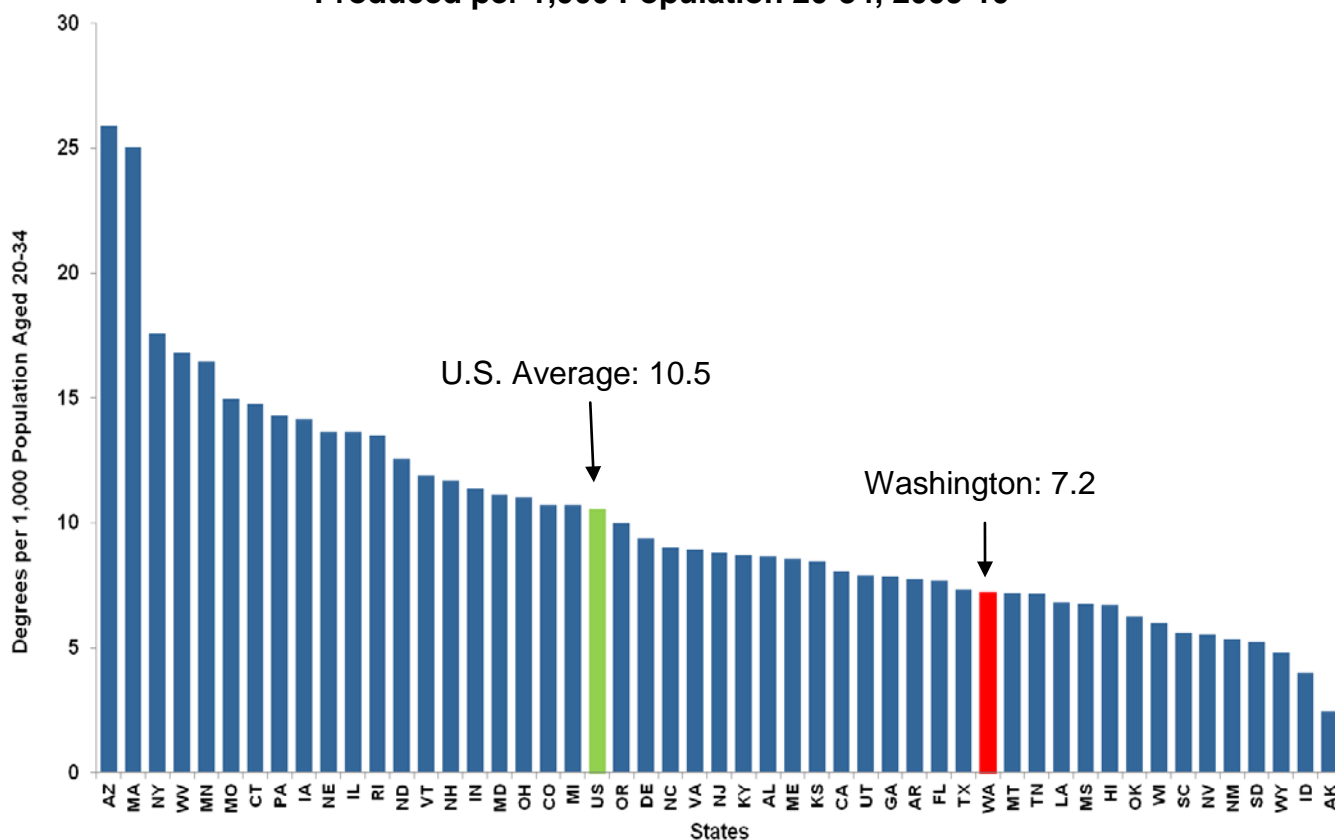
Source: HECB staff analysis of data from Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), National Center for Education Statistics, 2010.

... but Washington needs to boost advanced degree production to keep pace with other states.

Overall, Washington trails many other states in the production of graduate degrees within the population age category most likely to produce master and doctoral degrees. Washington ranks in the bottom third among states in the number of graduate degrees produced.

Washington is home to two public research universities that together produce 88 percent of the doctoral degrees and 52 percent of the professional degrees awarded in the state. The state does a good job of graduating those students who do enroll in master's and doctoral programs. As with baccalaureate degree production, the issue is that not enough Washingtonians go to graduate school.

Washington Is 36th among All U.S. States in Advanced Degrees Produced per 1,000 Population 20-34, 2009-10



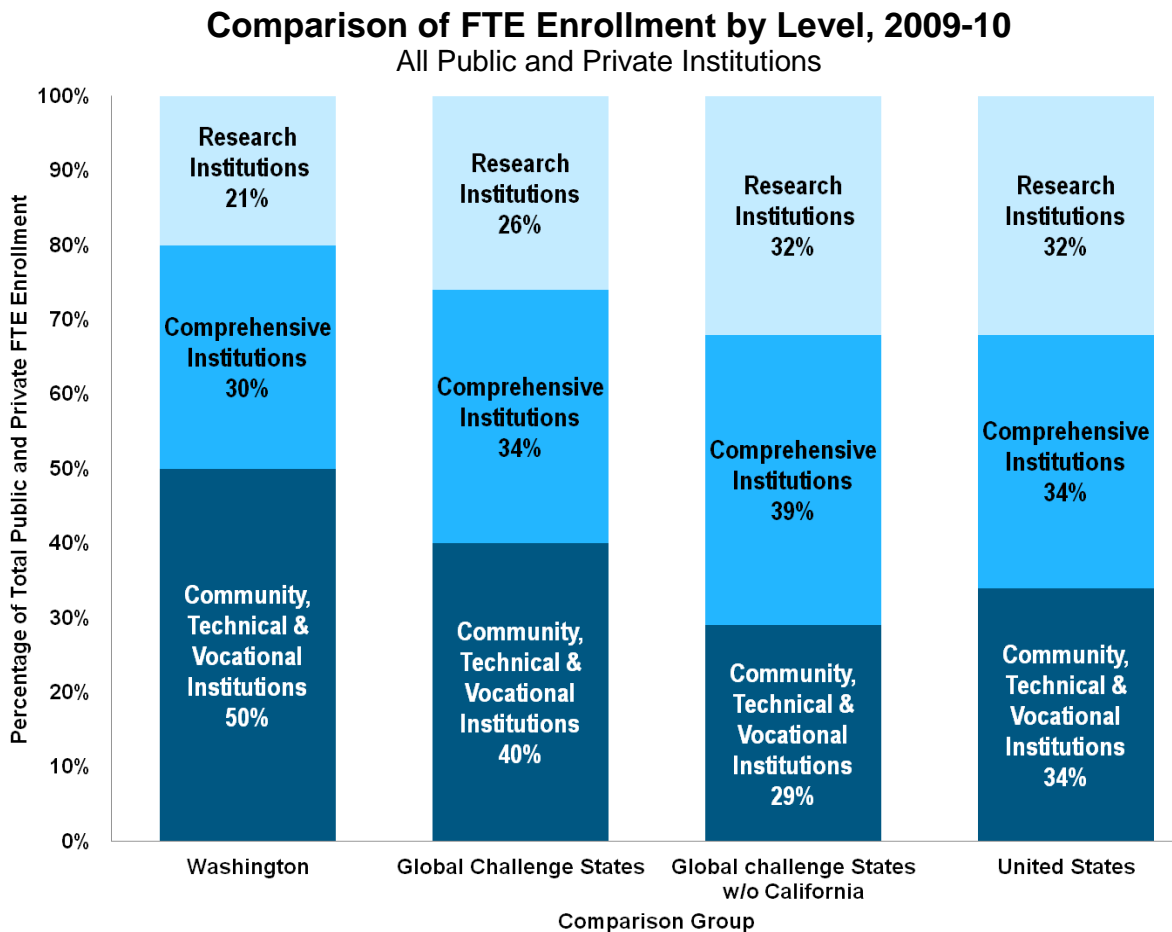
Sources: HECB staff analysis of data from Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), National Center for Education Statistics; U.S. Census Bureau 2009 Population Estimates.

Share of students attending 4-year institutions higher in Washington's peer states

A higher proportion of public and private college students in Washington attend two-year institutions than do so in the United States in general — including in the states most compared with Washington. These include the 15 Western states that comprise the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), and the Global Challenge States (GCS) of Washington, Massachusetts, California, New Jersey, Connecticut, Colorado, Virginia, and Maryland. The GCS are states that have been identified as having a high potential to succeed in today's knowledge-driven, global economy.

While more FTE (full-time equivalent) students fill slots in two-year institutions, Washington has a lower percentage of students in four-year comprehensive and research institutions than in the comparison states.

The percentages suggest that Washington needs to boost the number of students attending four-year institutions if the state is to maintain a competitive standing with similar states in providing adequate numbers of more highly educated workers. It can do this in part by encouraging and facilitating the transfer of more students from two-year to four-year institutions.



Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

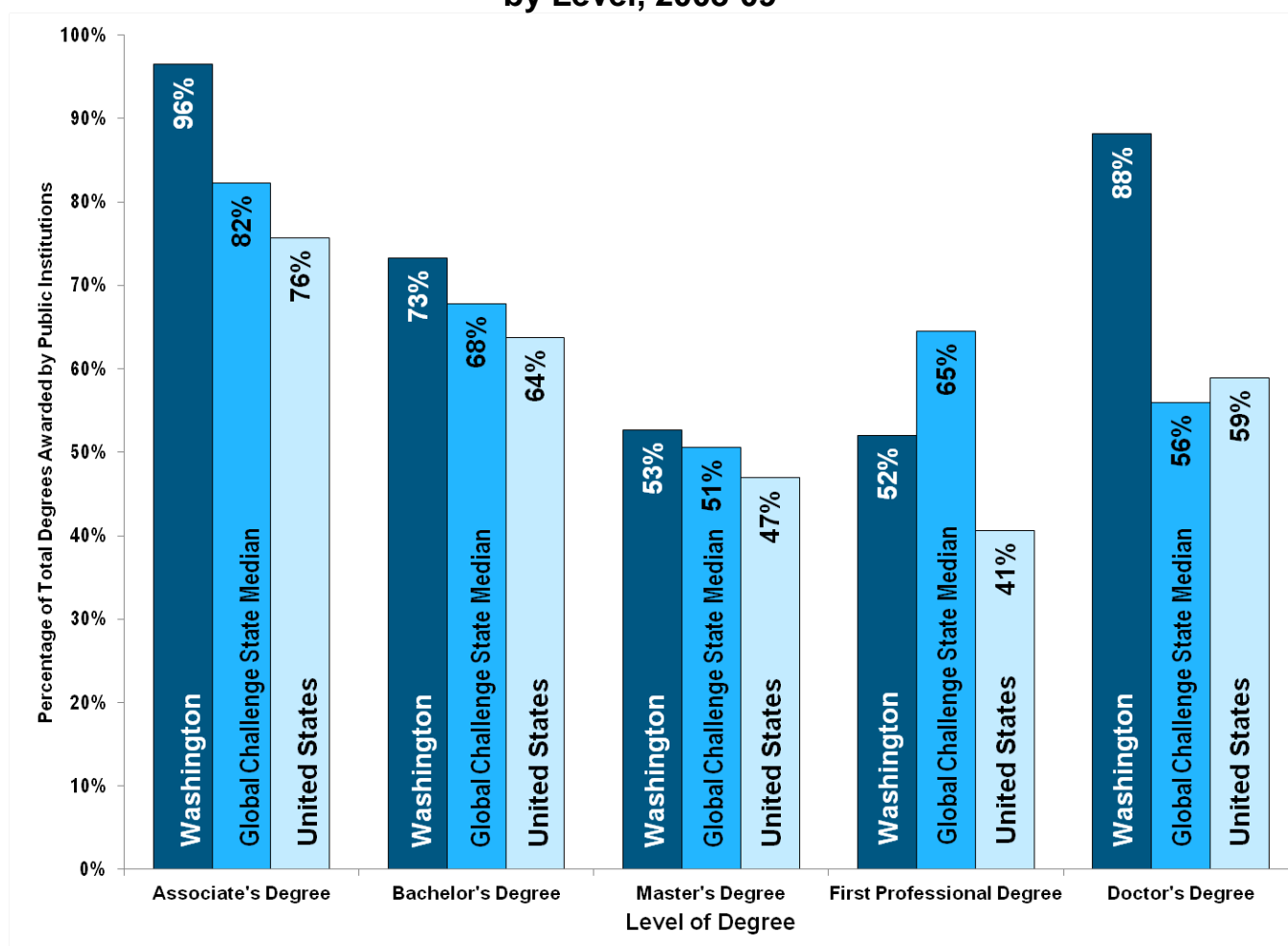
Source: HECB staff analysis of data from Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), National Center for Education Statistics, fall 2010.

Washington's public institutions produce a higher percentage of doctoral and associate degrees than other states

Compared to the rest of the nation, Washington relies heavily on public institutions to produce doctoral and two-year degrees. Only about 12 percent of doctoral degrees are awarded at the state's private institutions, compared to 41 percent nationally and 44 percent in the Global Challenge States, with which Washington is often compared.

Private institutions produce about 4 percent of the associate degrees in Washington, compared to about 24 percent nationally, and about 18 percent in the Global Challenge States.

**Percentage of Total Degrees Awarded from Public Institutions
by Level, 2008-09**



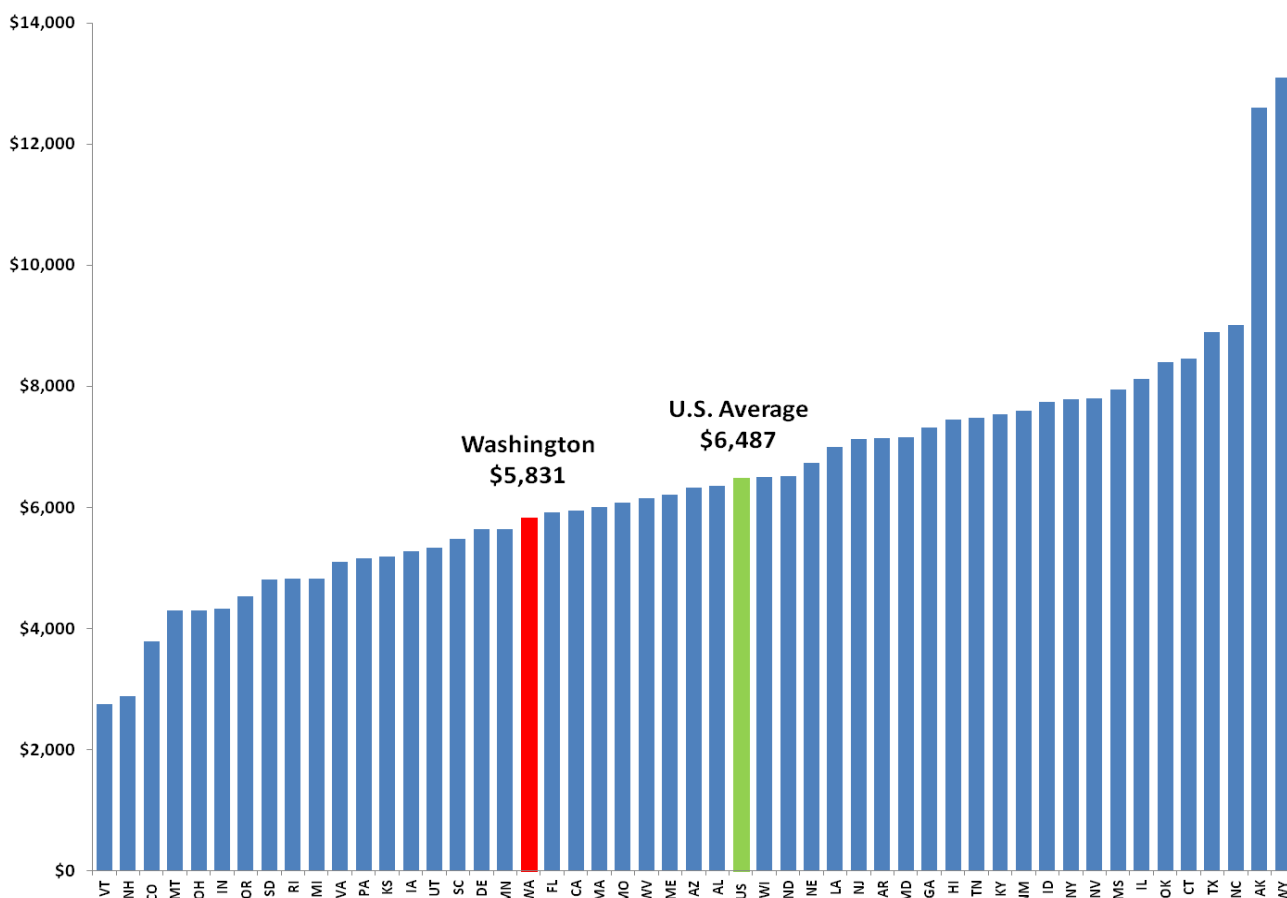
Source: HECB staff analysis of data from National Center for Education Statistics, Digest of Education Statistics 2010.

Washington falls below the national average in appropriations per student

The level of public funding per student attending public colleges and universities in Washington is lower than the national average. Washington's per student appropriations have averaged slightly below the national average over the past quarter century, but the difference in 2010 was greater than the 25-year average. Significant cuts in state appropriations to the institutions in 2010 may partially account for the difference.

To offset cuts in appropriations and maintain a high-quality education system, Washington colleges and universities have significantly increased student tuition rates. As Washington institutions come to rely more heavily on tuition rather than public funding, questions may be raised over the extent to which the state's public higher education system remains truly "public."

State appropriations per student FTE by state, 2010



Source: State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO), State Higher Education Finance FY 2010.

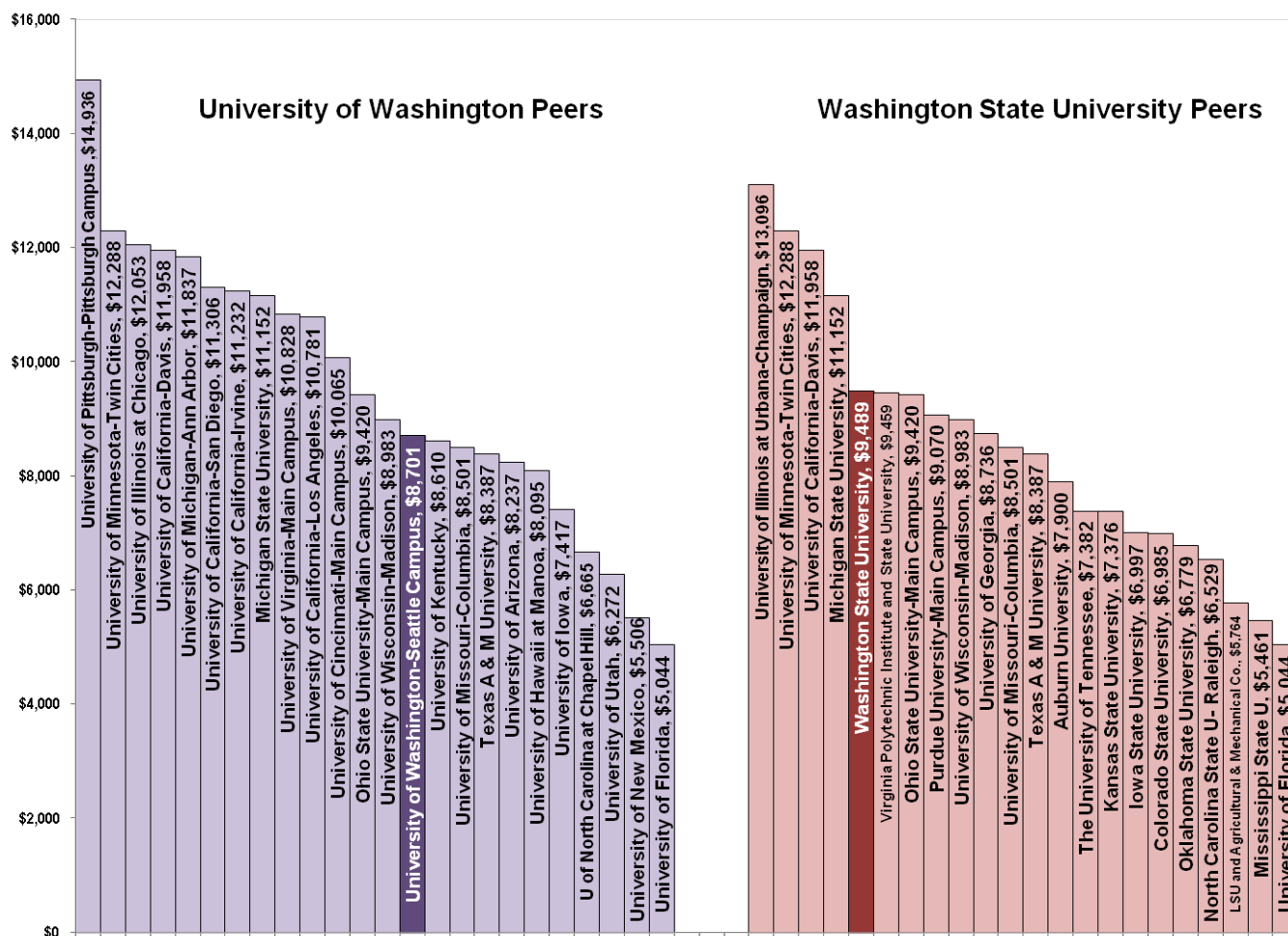
Comparing tuition rates among peer research universities

Peer colleges and universities can be compared based on a number of variables, including quality of academic programs, research output and fiscal matters. With tuition costs continuing to rise across the country, comparisons of tuition rates among peer institutions are of particular interest.

The chart on the left below shows resident undergraduate tuition rates at the University of Washington falling in the middle range compared with those of other public research universities containing medical schools. The chart on the right shows Washington State University's tuition rates ranking in the upper half of its peer set comprised of other land-grant institutions with veterinary medicine programs.

2010-11 Research Institution Peer Group Average Tuition and Fees

Annual Tuition and Required Fees for In-District Full-Time Students at Research Institutions



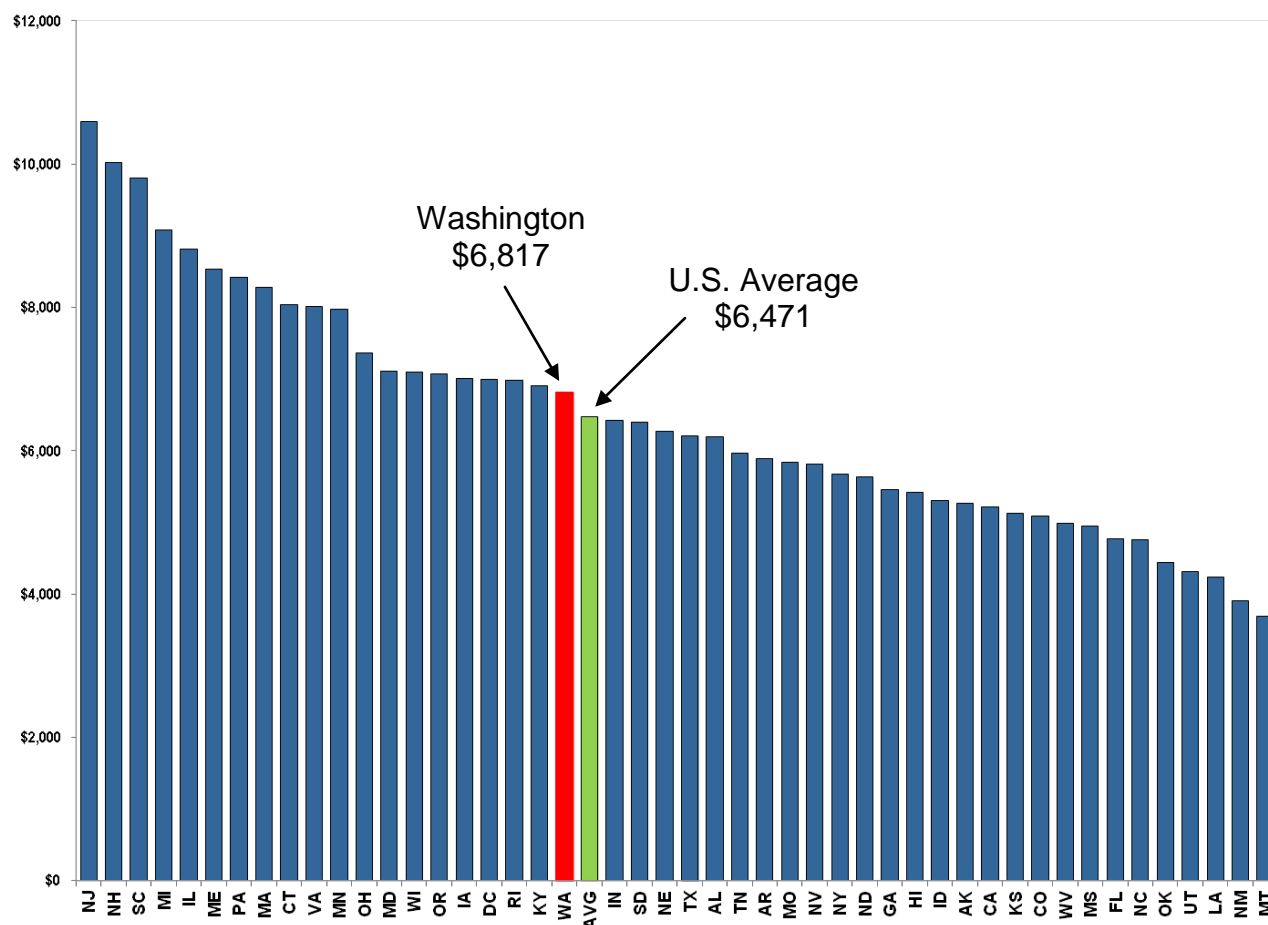
Source: HECB staff analysis of data from Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), National Center for Education Statistics.

Tuition at comprehensive institutions ranks near national average of similar institutions in other states

Baccalaureate institutions that are not classified as research universities also can be compared with peer institutions in other states based on the average tuition rates they charge.

In the chart below, the average annual tuition charged to resident undergraduate students at Western Washington University, Central Washington University, Eastern Washington University, and The Evergreen State College is compared to the average annual tuition at similar institutions in each of the states. The results show that the tuition charged by Washington's comprehensive institutions ranks just slightly above the national average of their peer institutions in other states.

Annual Tuition and Required Fees for In-District Full-Time Students at Comprehensive Peer Institutions, 2010-11



Source: HECB staff analysis of data from Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), National Center for Education Statistics, fall 2011.

How Washington CTCs compare on tuition charged by peers in other states

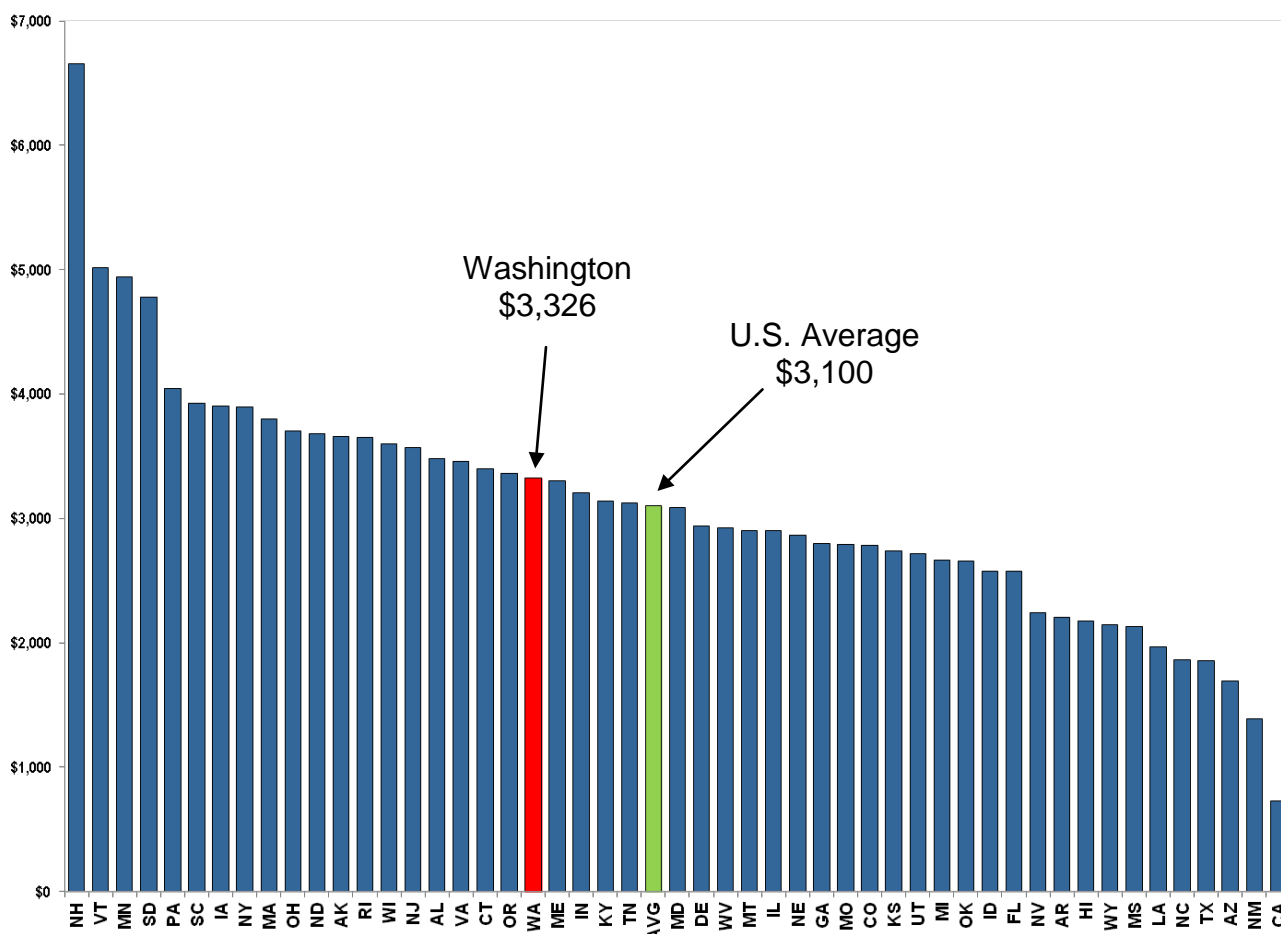
Tuition and required fees at Washington's community and technical colleges (CTCs) were slightly above the national average charged by similar institutions across the nation during the 2010-11 academic year.

Washington was the 20th highest state based on average tuition charged by peer two-year institutions in each of the 50 states. However, it is important to note that small changes in tuition and fees can produce significant changes in this ranking from year to year.

Institutions included in this comparison were all two-year public colleges offering postsecondary academic programs up to an associate degree. Several community colleges in Washington are currently authorized to offer a range of applied baccalaureate programs, but tuition amounts for those programs were not included in the calculations. Also excluded from the analysis were a few colleges that charge their students no tuition.

2010-11 National Community and Technical College Average Fees by State

Annual Tuition and Required Fees for In-District Full-Time Students
and Public Two-Year Institutions



Source: HECB staff analysis of data from Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, National Center for Education Statistics.