

First-Year, First-Time Student Minimum Admission Standards Washington Public Baccalaureate Institutions

These admission standards are designed to ensure students are well-prepared to successfully achieve their postsecondary educational goals at a Washington public institution. Washington's public baccalaureate institutions include Central Washington University, Eastern Washington University, The Evergreen State College, University of Washington, Washington State University, and Western Washington University.

These standards apply to first-year students, defined as those who meet **any one** of the following criteria:

- Plans to enter a higher education institution in the summer or fall immediately following high school graduation.
- Has earned dual credit or an associate's degree in high school and plans to enter a higher education institution immediately following high school graduation.
- Has never attended any higher education institution after high school, regardless of age or high school completion.

If a student is interested in entering a Washington public baccalaureate institution as a first-year student, the student must at least satisfy the following requirements:

1. Earn a cumulative unweighted grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 or better.
2. Complete 17 high school courses for a higher education institution

The 17 courses are:

English	4 credits; Includes 3 credits of college-preparatory coursework in literature and composition and 1 English elective credit.
Mathematics	3 credits; Includes one of two approved pathways: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II or Integrated Math I, II, III.
Science	3 credits; Includes 1 credit in Biology, Chemistry, or Physics; 1 credit Algebra-based-science; 1 credit in any science; and 2 credits must be lab-based-science coursework.
Social Science	3 credits; Includes History, Social Sciences, and Humanities coursework.
World Language	2 credits; Must be in the same World Language, Native American language, or ASL.
Art	1 credit; Includes Fine, Visual, or Performing Arts.
Senior Year Math-Based Quantitative Course	1 credit; Includes a math-based quantitative course that may include, but not limited to, math beyond Algebra II, Statistics, math-based CTE course, Chemistry, Physics, AP Computer Science A, and Bridge to College mathematics.

High school courses that meet baccalaureate requirements

To meet minimum admission requirements, students must complete 17 high school courses for baccalaureate institutions. Keep in mind that taking high school courses isn't the only way to satisfy these requirements. Students may also meet them by completing collegiate-level courses through dual credit. Some courses such as Mathematics and World Languages may be met beginning in middle school, but most will be met in 9th through 12th grade.

The following tables provide detailed descriptions and examples of acceptable courses for each subject area listed in the 17-course summary table above.

ENGLISH

High School Courses

3 credits of college-preparatory English that includes literature and composition.

1 credit of any English class:

- AP research, AP Seminar, Bridge to College English, business English, creative writing, English as a Second Language, English grades 9-12, debate, drama as literature, journalistic writing, public speaking, debate. Highest level pre-college English course at an institution. Any college class with an English or writing prefix.

Courses that **do not** fulfill the requirement include:

- Acting, basic English skills, developmental (e.g., remedial, applied) reading, library, newspaper staff, developmental, (e.g., remedial, applied) courses, vocabulary, yearbook or annual.

MATHEMATICS

High School Courses

3 credits:

- Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II or Integrated Math I, II and III. Pre-college math coursework that would prepare a student for college algebra. Math courses with pre-college as a prerequisite include any higher-level math course such as elementary functions, pre-calculus, calculus and beyond.

Courses that **do not** fulfill the requirement include:

- Advance level of applied math, Bridge to College Mathematics, business finance, chemistry, computer science, logic, math-based career and technical class, philosophy, physics, or statistics.

Notes: Successful completion of math beyond Algebra II or Integrated Math III, such as pre-calculus and calculus, meets the math requirement.

SOCIAL SCIENCE

High School Courses

3 credits:

- Any social science or studies class, any history class, anthropology, contemporary world problems, economics, ethnic studies, geography, government, political science, psychology, sociology, U.S. history, or world history. Comparable college courses in the subject area.

Courses that **do not** fulfill the requirement include:

- Consumer economics, extracurricular classes for credit, or religion

SCIENCE

High School Courses

1 credit of algebra-based science.

- Chemistry, physics, or other algebra-based science.

1 credit in biology, chemistry or physics.

1 credit of science

- Astronomy, environmental science, geological science, genetics, marine science, physical science, or physiology.

2 credits must be lab-based science courses

Courses that **do not** fulfill the requirement include:

- Environmental studies

Notes: Some courses may fulfill more than one science requirement or the 1 credit of math requirement. In those cases, lab science courses may be acceptable for additional credits. The third credit of science is not required to be lab-based.

WORLD LANGUAGE

High School Courses

2 credits of the same world language, Native American Language, or American Sign Language.

- Any social science or studies class, any history class, anthropology, contemporary world problems, economics, ethnic studies, geography, government, political science, psychology, sociology, U.S. history, or world history. Comparable college courses in the subject area.

Courses that **do not** fulfill the requirement include:

- Computer languages and other forms of sign language.

Notes: Students who earn one credit of world language in high school must complete the equivalent of a second credit of the same language in a higher education institution. Some institutions will require three credits to meet institutional graduation requirements. Students may meet the world language credit requirement through various ways: (1) Students pass a district-approved competency assessment consistent with State Board of Education sample policy, the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), or Proficiency Guidelines; (2) 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; and (3) 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. 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.

ART

High School Courses

1 credit in fine, visual, or performing arts.

- Art appreciation, band, ceramics, choir, dance, drama 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.

Courses that **do not** fulfill the requirement include:

- Architecture, creative writing, drama as literature, drafting, extracurricular classes for credit, fashion design, interior design, sewing, speech, web design, or woodworking.

Notes: One credit of art may be met by earning one credit more than the minimum credits required in another core class for credit areas. Some institutions may limit this substitution.

SENIOR YEAR MATH-BASED QUANTITATIVE COURSE

High School Courses

1 credit

- Math beyond Algebra II and III; AP computer science A, AP computer science principles, advanced level of applied math, Bridge to College Mathematics, business finance, chemistry, logic, math-based career and technical education class, philosophy, physics, or statistics. Any college level math-based quantitative course or pre-college math course that prepares for college algebra.

Notes: Successful completion of math beyond Algebra II or Integrated Math III prior to senior year meets both the Math and Senior Year Math-Based Quantitative credit requirements. Required during senior year. Intended to ensure students continue to participate in rigorous math during all four years of high school.

GPA requirement

Students must attain a minimum unweighted cumulative grade point average (GPA) as determined by the standard for admissions evaluation. 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 institution to which the student is applying. Meeting the minimum GPA requirement does not guarantee admission. A higher GPA may be required for direct to major and competitive degree programs.

Washington Minimum Admissions Standards for First-Year, First-Time Students

Requirements	Standard Admissions	Alternative Admissions Option 1	Alternative Admissions Option 2
High School GPA	2.0 or higher	2.0 or higher, or pass GED Test	2.5 or higher, or pass GED Test
Classes	Complete Required Credits	Complete required credits with no more than 3 credits within required waived.	
SAT/ACT Exams		Meet Institutional Requirement	Meet Institutional Requirement
Essay			Required
Other Considerations		Evidence of success outside the classroom	Evidence of success outside the classroom
Notes		Strongly recommended not to waive math or English required classes	Only for first-time students age 25+; meet 2+ requirements above

FAQs

Is there a preferred path to a public baccalaureate institution?

Washington’s public baccalaureate institutions recognize that the journey to college varies for each student. There are many ways to obtain higher education, and no one “right” way. As students prepare and plan for higher education, they are encouraged to consider the following guidance for success:

- Enroll in and complete the most rigorous, high-quality, and relevant classes they are ready and prepared to undertake. While Washington’s public baccalaureate institutions are more accessible compared to many of their peer institutions, admission to high-demand programs remains competitive.
- Institutions will assess rigor in multiple ways, recognizing that students engaged in [mastery-based high school programs](#) and those in traditional seat-time based programs may have different methods of demonstrating rigor.

Do all Washington public baccalaureate institutions accept the Common App or an institutional application for admissions?

Both the Common App and an institutional application are accepted by all Washington public baccalaureate institutions, except UW Tacoma. UW Tacoma only accepts the Common App. Both applications receive full consideration for admission and scholarships. Students should only complete one, either the Common App or institutional application. The institutional application might be best for students who are applying to **only a few schools**. The Common App is a single

application students can use **to apply to more than 1,000 schools**, including every Washington public baccalaureate institution.

Does a student have to provide an official transcript when they apply to a baccalaureate institution?

Students may submit unofficial transcripts when they apply. However, official transcripts will be required once a student enrolls.

What are admission application fee waivers?

Each institution requires an application fee. Students may apply for fee waivers. These may include, but are not limited to, the following fee waivers: ACT/ SAT, Median Family Income, NACAC, TRiO, Veterans, Active Duty, Institutional Waivers, federal free or reduced-price lunch program eligible, public assistance, GEAR UP, qualify for subsidized housing, foster home, homelessness, orphan, or Pell Grant eligible.

Do Washington baccalaureate institutions require SAT or ACT exams for admissions?

Washington public baccalaureate institutions do not require the SAT and ACT exam for admissions purposes. This practice is built on the historical role of SAT and ACT assessment, which had been a small component in the long-standing holistic review process of Washington's public baccalaureate institutions, allowing them to adopt policies focused on factors more predictive of postsecondary success, such as a student's GPA and academic history.

Test Not Considered	Test Not Required	Test Optional
Eastern Washington University; Washington State University	University of Washington	Central Washington University; The Evergreen State College; Western Washington University
Institutions do not consider test scores, nor are test scores considered at any point in the admissions review process, even if a student chooses to submit a test score. No additional alternative measure of college readiness is required in place of a test score.	Institutions do not consider test scores in the admissions review process, even if a student chooses to submit a test score (see <i>test not considered</i>). However, test scores may be considered for placement, entry into Honors program, and/or scholarship awards..	Students may choose to submit test scores to strengthen an application. Not submitting test scores will not disadvantage a student. In place of a test score, students who apply may be required to submit additional and alternative measures of college readiness such as successful completion of dual credit coursework, exams, or scores on high school college readiness assessments

What is holistic admissions?

All Washington public baccalaureate institutions adopt a holistic approach to admissions, considering the student's entire journey and profile. This process, known as holistic admissions, evaluates a student's application in its entirety, including grades and grade trends, classes completed (both type and level), and course patterns, in addition to personal achievements which may include, but are not limited to, volunteer work, leadership roles broadly defined, high school graduation, activities/athletics, family commitments, and work/employment. Every application undergoes a holistic review, even if the student applying has not met the admissions criteria. Students who have not met the high school class requirements for baccalaureate admissions may be offered provisional acceptance to an institution, allowing them to complete necessary coursework during their first year at the institution.

What are the different deadlines for admissions?

Deadlines should be considered as dates of consideration. For most deadlines, if the date passes the student may still apply to the institution. Students should reach out to institutions of interest to answer any specific questions.

There are five main admission-related deadlines. (1) *Early Decision Deadline*: Early decision is a binding commitment, meaning those who apply in this round must attend the selected institution if they are accepted. You can only apply to one institution under early decision because of that binding commitment. (2) *Priority /Early Action Deadline*: Applications that are submitted before the deadline will receive priority in the review. It is not a hard deadline. Students who submit after the priority deadline will generally have their applications reviewed, but not until the institution has reviewed all the applications submitted before the priority deadline. (3) *Regular Decision Deadline*: Regular Decision is the regular application deadline. Applying Regular Decision means a student is not applying in the early round. Students may apply after the regular deadline. (4) *College Decision Day*: The latest day on which students should notify their chosen institution of their decision to attend in the fall. (5) *Rolling Admissions*: Rolling admissions is where students have a much wider window to apply, and applications are reviewed as they are received. UW Seattle does not offer rolling admissions. The UW Seattle opens admissions in September and generally closes admissions at the end of summer.

What if a student does not complete all the required high school courses for baccalaureate admissions?

Students may be eligible through alternative admission requirements. Students should reach out to their intended institution.

How do institutions know if a student has completed the high school required courses?

The school district is required to ensure students' transcripts document students' high school coursework. According to [WAC 392-415-070](#), school districts are responsible for ensuring classes that meet the high school classes for higher education admissions are identified with a "B" designator on a student's transcript. Classes designated as meeting the high school classes for higher education admissions must meet the requirements and guidance for classes in the minimum admission standards. All transcripts are evaluated through the holistic admissions review to ensure classes accurately meet the requirements in the minimum admission standards. Admissions decisions are at the determination of the institution. The "B" indicator is used throughout the admission review process. If a class is missing the "B" indicator, the institution may take extra time to review the student application and confirm the class meets admission requirements prior to making an admission decision.

Do Washington public baccalaureate institutions prefer one type of dual credit over another?

Washington's public baccalaureate institutions accept multiple types of dual credit and do not have a preference of one type over another. Credit earned through dual credit may be used to meet baccalaureate admissions. Classes designated as meeting baccalaureate admissions must meet the requirements and guidance for classes in the minimum admission standards. A Running Start or CiHS class **must be** a collegiate-level class to be considered to meet the requirement. A collegiate-level class is defined as a class that is designated 100-level or higher (e.g., ENGL 101, MATH 146). If a student earns a Washington statewide transfer degree while in high school, the degree will transfer to the baccalaureate institution in accordance with statewide transfer policies and practices.

Can a special education/remedial/developmental education high school class meet the high school class requirements for baccalaureate admissions?

Generally, no. However, if the class is fully aligned with grade-level learning standards for the course represented, it may meet the class requirements for baccalaureate admissions.

May CTE high school classes meet the baccalaureate admissions?

Generally, no. Some exceptions are identified in the requirements and guidance for classes in the minimum admission standards.

Can mastery-based credit be used to meet high school classes for baccalaureate admissions?

Yes. Mastery-based credit by baccalaureate institutions is awarded solely based on a high school student meeting a preset level of proficiency on a set of standards regardless of the time required to meet the standard. Classes designated as meeting baccalaureate admissions must meet the requirements and guidance for classes in the minimum admission standards. Mastery-based assessments use evidence a student has acquired the skills and knowledge equivalent to what

would be expected after completing a course. Mastery-based assessments are an alternative to the traditional path of completing a course or credit through “seat time.” Assessments of students’ mastery may be used to establish class or credit completion. Instead of letter grades, terms may be used to describe mastery of learning outcomes by students. These terms may include met standard, exceeded standard, or does not meet standard. Students may earn mastery-based credit without completing a course by demonstrating proficiency of knowledge acquired outside of a classroom setting.

How are questions about high school classes meeting baccalaureate admission requirements resolved?

School districts and high schools are encouraged to contact the institution directly. If this question applies to more than one Washington baccalaureate institution, school districts and high schools are encouraged to reach out to the Council of Presidents to coordinate a collective response.