



Washington Guaranteed Admissions Program

WAGAP FAQ for School District and High School Partners

What is the Washington Guaranteed Admission Program (WAGAP)?

WAGAP is designed to promote college access by making sure students know the answer to the “will I get in?” question is yes. WAGAP is a partnership between participating Washington public universities, WAGAP partners (e.g., partnering Washington school districts and high schools) and is coordinated through the Council of Presidents.

Who is responsible for WAGAP?

WAGAP is coordinated by the [Council of Presidents](#) on behalf of the participating Washington public universities. WAGAP is a partnership between the participating Washington public universities, WAGAP partners and the Council of Presidents.

What is the goal of WAGAP?

WAGAP begins with the belief that all students are “college material”. WAGAP supports a college-going culture across the state by letting Washington high school students know there is a place for them at a Washington public university.

What Washington universities participate in WAGAP?

WAGAP supports guaranteed admissions efforts at [Central Washington University](#), [Eastern Washington University](#), [The Evergreen State College](#), [University of Washington Tacoma](#), [Washington State University](#) and [Western Washington University](#).

What are the benefits for school districts, schools, families and students?

WAGAP takes the guesswork out for students and families around the question “Will I get in?”. This allows for the opportunity to focus on other key aspects of going to university including experience and atmosphere of a campus, degree offerings, high impact programs and other amenities. For school districts and schools WAGAP offers collaboration to build a culture of hope, inclusivity, and confidence among high school students in Washington, cultivate a college-going mindset among high school students in Washington and build enduring and influential partnerships between Washington’s public universities and Washington’s school districts and schools to enhance educational continuity and support.

Is there a fee to be a WAGAP partner?

No. There is no fee charged to be a WAGAP partner.

Are other school districts and high schools participating in this program?

Yes, currently [nearly 150 districts and schools participate in WAGAP](#). WAGAP partners currently include 134 public school districts and 15 public, tribal, charter and private high schools. WAGAP currently represents over 50% of all public school districts with a high school.

How does a district or school know they are a WAGAP partner?

A district or school must complete a signed data sharing agreement and a letter of support from leadership to be a WAGAP partner. Once the materials are submitted and identified as received by the Council of Presidents, a communication to the district or partner will be shared confirming the district or school as a WAGAP partner.

To be listed as a WAGAP partner on the WAGAP website and in communications, a WAGAP partner must submit data through the data sharing process.

How does guaranteed admissions differ from general admissions?

Guaranteed admissions offers admission to a student and then requires the student to apply to the institution. General admissions require a student to first apply to institution(s), and then a student may be offered admission. Both are considered equal paths to admissions; universities do not give preference for one path over another. Upon applying, WAGAP students then move through the same holistic admissions review, enrollment, financial aid, and orientation processes as any other students at the university of their choice.

What is a student guaranteed through WAGAP?

The offer of guaranteed admissions ensures acceptance to the participating universities. The guarantee is predicated on a student maintaining their GPA and course requirements required for WAGAP eligibility. Guaranteed admission does not guarantee enrollment in a specific degree.

Upon application students complete the holistic admissions review to verify eligibility. All admission decisions are at the discretion of each institution. Students should be aware of additional requirements and considerations to the university or college.

- Students are expected to maintain their approximate academic performance level during their senior year.
- Students are expected to graduate high school and enroll in the fall term immediately following high school graduation.
- Students must complete admission applications and submit any requested additional materials for universities they are interested in according to the university's application deadlines. WAGAP lets a student know participating Washington public universities are committed to admitting students through guaranteed admissions. The application provides critical information for WAGAP higher education institutions to support students, allow for further financial aid questions and to meet required student information elements.
- Students are strongly encouraged to complete the FAFSA or WASFA application for financial aid consideration.

How is student data shared with WAGAP participating universities?

Participating high schools complete the necessary data sharing agreements to ensure compliance with all applicable data privacy and security regulations.

How will individual students find out about Guaranteed Admissions?

Students will receive the official WAGAP communication when their data is provided through WAGAP. An email letter is shared with students with grade level appropriate information depending on if the student is in 11th or 12th grade.

Are there financial aid, scholarships, or grants associated with Direct Admissions?

No, there are no scholarships or grants associated with WAGAP. All students are encouraged to complete the FAFSA or WASFA as part of their college search process.

What are the requirements to be guaranteed admissions?

A student is eligible for guaranteed admissions if the student:

- Earns a cumulative, unweighted grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher **AND**
- Complete **ALL** CADR requirements by the fall term immediately following high school graduation.

CADR/High School Course Requirements	
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. It is encouraged that students take math all four years.
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 Sciences – 3 Credits	Includes history, social sciences and humanities coursework.
World Languages – 2 Credits	Credits are required to be in the same world language, Native American language, or ASL.
Art – 1 Credit	One credit in 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.

Does it matter that I am an undocumented student?

No. Your citizenship status has no bearing on whether you can participate in WAGAP.

What if I am a non-resident or international student?

If you are an international student or a non-resident student, including an out-of-state student who may graduate from a private Washington high school, you should apply to the university of interest through the general admissions process.

Are students with IEP and 504 plans eligible for WAGAP?

Washington's public universities and universities do not discriminate in admissions decisions. Discrimination is prohibited by Presidential Executive Order 11246 as amended; Washington State Gubernatorial Executive Orders 89-01 and 93-07; Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Washington State Law Against Discrimination RCW 49.60; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; State of Washington Gender Equity in Higher Education Act of 1989; Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 as amended; Age Discrimination Act of 1975; Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1972 as amended; other federal and state statutes, regulations, and institutional policies.

IEPs are not considered for admission purposes, including general admissions and guaranteed admissions. Students with IEP are held to the same standards for academic performance.

We would recommend students connect with access services at whichever campus they attend to receive accommodation. Students strongly encouraged to please reach out early to the [contacts](#) for each participating institution. Participating institutions welcome questions and are here to provide further information to students and families.

In addition, the [Washington Association on Postsecondary Education and Disability](#), an organization that provides professional development for disability service providers in higher education has developed materials for [students](#) and [parents](#).

Are Running Start Students Eligible for WAGAP

Yes. Running Start students are eligible to participate in WAGAP. For the purposes of admissions, either guaranteed or general admissions, Running Start students are [defined as first-year students](#).

How does this process work for students transferring in as a junior after Running Start in high school?

Students who have earned an associates degree through Running Start and will enter college as a junior will apply as a first-year student. The Running Start student is a transfer student in credit terms but considered a first-year student for orientation, first-year student programming and institutional scholarships.

First year student programs support students who are living on their own for the first time and managing traditional college life. Research has shown first-year programming to be positively associated with student success in the transition from high school to university.

Are students who attend a school that does not award, record or report grades or GPA eligible for guaranteed admissions?

WAGAP is designed to create clear expectations for students, families and WAGAP partners. The opportunity for WAGAP participating universities to guarantee a student admission is tightly related to the eligibility criteria established. To be eligible for guaranteed admissions a student must have evidence of completion of all CADR course requirements and a 3.0 GPA or higher. Without evidence of both it is challenging to guarantee admissions. Students or schools who are not able to provide this evidence are not eligible for WAGAP.

Washington's public universities support mastery-based learning. Students who earn a mastery-based transcript are strongly encouraged to apply through the general admissions process and [will not be disadvantaged in the general admissions process](#).

How do school districts, schools, students and families engage if they have specific circumstances that are unique to a student and admissions?

Admissions is as much a standardized practice as it is influenced by the diverse range of student experience and education. It is challenging to capture the nuance of every application into a single statement for all students and institutions; students and families are strongly encouraged to [reach out](#) and discuss concerns with universities. We invite students and families into conversation with Washington's public universities.

What is the role and responsibility of school districts and schools as participants in WAGAP?

WAGAP partners are responsible for:

- Confirming student consent to share student data for WAGAP purposes.
- Serve as the local high school/school district point of contact for students and families.
- Determine student eligibility for WAGAP including CADR completion.
- Provide the data identified through the DSA to the participating institution(s) as outlined in the data sharing agreement and within the guidelines shared through the upload instruction, data FAQ, data guide and templates.

WAGAP partners are encouraged to:

- Participate in informational sessions and joint meetings with participating Washington public universities.
- Engage throughout the school year with the participating institutions to build and strengthen long-term relationships between the district or school and participating institutions

What can school districts and schools expect from the participating institutions?

Participating WAGAP Washington public universities, as appropriate, the Council of Presidents will:

- Coordinate and provide communications of expectations and address emerging issues.
- Upon receipt of the data identified in the DSA from the district(s) or school(s), the Council of Presidents and participating Washington public universities will directly communicate with students and families.
- Host and collaborate with WAGAP partners in joint meetings and other information sessions throughout the academic year.
- Engage throughout the school year with the WAGAP partners to build and strengthen long-term relationships between the district(s) or school(s) and Washington public universities.

Are school districts and schools responsible for identifying CADR completion?

Yes. School districts and schools are responsible for identifying if students have completed or are on track to complete CADR courses by the fall term immediately following high school graduation. Each school district determines which of its courses align with university admissions guidelines. Washington's public universities determine the courses for admissions purposes. Because high school graduation requirements may differ from university admissions requirements, students should work with their guidance counselors and universities to ensure their coursework satisfies both—and keeps them on track to graduate and qualify for admission.

What courses meet CADRs?

CADRs requires the completion of 17 credits of high school courses. School districts and schools are strongly encouraged to please reach out to the [contacts](#) for each participating institution. Participating institutions welcome questions and are here to provide further information about CADRs and admissions.

CADR/High School Course Requirements	
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. It is encouraged that students take math all four years.
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 Sciences – 3 Credits	Includes history, social sciences and humanities coursework.
World Languages – 2 Credits	Credits are required to be in the same world language, Native American language, or ASL.
Art – 1 Credit	One credit in 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.

Can CADR course credits be waived for WAGAP?

No. To be eligible for WAGAP, students must meet **all** CADR course requirements by the fall term immediately following high school graduation.

What is considered “on track” or “in progress” for CADRs?

For 12th grade eligible students only.

- On Track and In Progress: To be on track or in progress identifies a student who may not have completed all CADR courses but is expected to complete all CADR courses upon high school graduation
- Completed: A student who has completed all CADR courses and the courses are transcribed with the appropriate “B” designator and meet CADR guideline

Who is responsible for sending the letters? Are they physical letters?

All WAGAP letters are sent via email to the email address provided through the data sharing process. Participating WAGAP Washington public universities will follow with additional communications that may come in multiple modalities (e.g., email, text, physical mailings).

What is the anticipated timeline for messages to start going out to students and families?

The Council of Presidents will send letters to students and families as data is uploaded by WAGAP partners. Emails provided for families will receive a letter approximately one week in advance of the student email letter. The intent is to provide a conversation among families and students so the student is better prepared for the letter and information when it is sent to the student via email.

What will communications to students and families include?

An emailed letter will be sent to families and students. All emails provided will receive a copy of the letters. Family and student letters can be viewed on the [WAGAP practitioner webpage](#).

Do students still need to complete an admissions application?

Yes. WAGAP lets students know participating Washington public universities are committed to admitting the student through guaranteed admissions. The application provides critical information for WAGAP higher education institutions to support students, allow for further financial aid questions and to meet required student information elements.

If a student is eligible for guaranteed admission are there any additional requirements for admissions to the university or college?

Yes. Once a student has been determined to meet the guaranteed admission criteria and are notified, they are eligible for guaranteed admissions at one or more participating WAGAP universities.

- Students are expected to maintain their approximate academic performance level during their senior year.
- Students are expected to graduate high school and enroll in the fall term immediately following high school graduation.
- Students must complete admission applications and submit any requested additional materials for universities they are interested in according to the university's application deadlines. WAGAP lets a student know participating Washington public universities are committed to admitting students through guaranteed admissions. The application provides critical information for WAGAP higher education institutions to support students, allow for further financial aid questions and to meet required student information elements.
- Students are strongly encouraged to complete the FAFSA or WASFA application for financial aid consideration.

How does a student apply for admissions through WAGAP?

.Students may complete the Common App (multiple institutions) **or** an institutional application (single institution)

Will students pay the application fee?

Yes. Students must pay the application fee. Students [may qualify for an admissions application waiver](#). If the application fee is a barrier, students should reach out to the universities to discuss further options.

What happens after the student applies for admissions?

Students can anticipate further communications about the admissions process from each participating WAGAP university they apply to. Once admitted, the rest of the admissions process (orientation, enrollment, financial aid) happens at the same time as for all students.

Are students required to apply to university if they are eligible for WAGAP?

Students are not required to apply to any of the universities listed on their WAGAP letter, nor are students limited to applying to just those universities they qualify for through WAGAP. Students may opt out at anytime.

Can students opt out of this program?

Yes, families and students can let their high school know they wish to opt-out of sharing data for WAGAP and let participating WAGAP universities know that they wish to opt-out of further communications.

Where do I go for more information about WAGAP?

Check out the [Washington Guaranteed Admissions Program website](#) for more information.