



THE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS PROCESS

Where to Begin?

The earlier you start, the better!

Determine your priorities—use a check-list. Remember parents may have different priorities from students. 😊

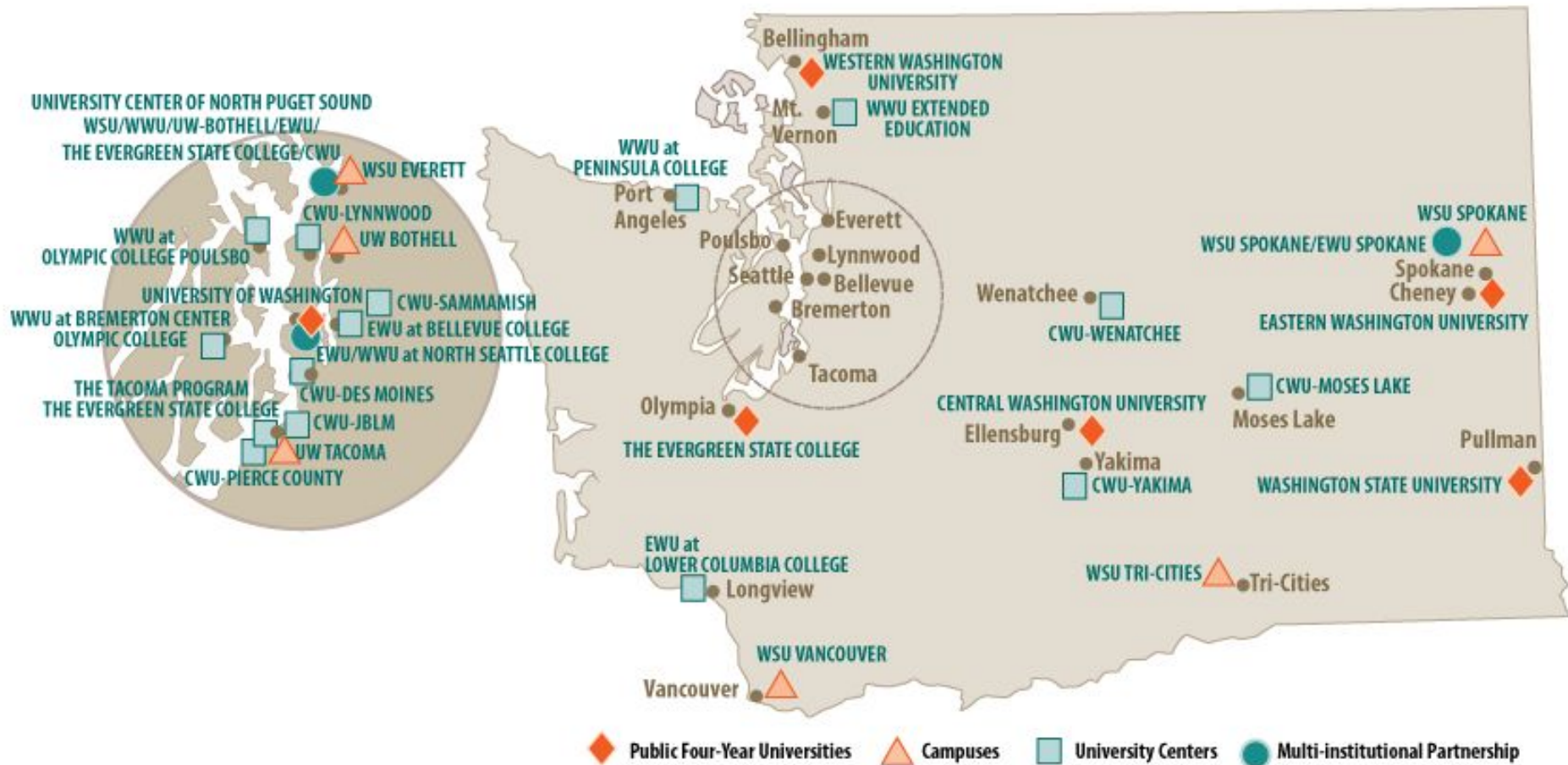
Things to consider:

- *Cost *Size *Majors *Location *Selectivity
- *Public/Private *Religious Affiliation *Social Life
- *Residential vs. Commuter Campus *Fraternities and Sororities
- *Diversity of student body *% that graduate in 5 years
- *Scholarship opportunities

Compile a list of the colleges/programs that interest you using Collegeboard or mycollegeoptions.org

Visit campuses





What are Colleges Looking For?

- ❑ Academic Record – CADR, GPA, rigor, grade trends
- ❑ Testing – ACT or SAT
- ❑ Essay /Personal Statement
- ❑ Extracurricular Activities
 - ❑ Athletics
 - ❑ Clubs
 - ❑ Work
 - ❑ Community service
 - ❑ Leadership
- ❑ Letters of Recommendation
- ❑ Interview



Admission Officers want to know: "How have you taken advantage of your opportunities and what will you bring to our campus?"

Comparing Your Profile

→ G.P.A., Class Rigor, Class Rank, ACT or SAT Test Scores ←

- ❑ **Safety** – (realistic) Your profile is significantly stronger than the typical freshman – little chance of rejection. Most important school selection—will you be happy if it is your only choice?
- ❑ **Match/Fit** – (reasonable) Your profile is similar to the typical freshman. Competitive admission.
- ❑ **Reach** – (reach) Your profile is not as strong as the typical freshman. Highly competitive admission – less likely to be admitted.

**Have a “financially safe” school on your list--a school you can get into
AND afford!**

*Utilize Collegeboard or mycollegeoptions.org to find
school profile information for comparison*

School	GPA	ACT	SAT	Admission Deadline	Applied	Admitted	Enrolled	Tuition 2019-20
CWU	3.09	21	1063	February 1	9,757	7,693	2,066	\$8,195
EWU	3.17	21	1043	February 1	8,799	5,302	1,758	\$7,323
ESC	2.65-3.49	20-27	1000-1220	PD: Dec 1	1,194	1,137	309	\$6,810
UW	3.71-3.95 (wa)	26-32 (wa)	1210-1410 (wa)	November 15	45,911	22,351	7,141	\$11,207
UW-B	3.40	19-26	1030-1250	EA: Nov 15 January 15	3,022	2,398	781	\$11,390
UW (T)	3.09-3.72	19-25	990-1220	January 15	1,980	16,85	652	\$11,261
WSU	3.18-3.77	21-28	1050-1250	January 31	20,714	16,301	4,543	\$11,584
WWU	3.29-3.83	23-29	1100-1300	EA: Nov 1 Reg. Jan 31	11,124	9,751	3,117	\$8,121

2019 STATE SCHOOL SNAPSHOT

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL SNAPSHOT

School	GPA	ACT	SAT	Admission Deadline	Applied	Admitted	Enrolled	Tuition 2019-20
Gonzaga	3.50-3.88	26-30	1190-1330	December 1 Late: Feb 1	8,402	5,510	1,196	\$42,370
PLU	3.48-4.0	22-28*	1060-1270*	Priority: Monthly by 15th January 15	3,740	2,984	649	\$42,066
SMU	3.11-3.79	19-25	1340	Rolling by April 1	1437	870	241	\$33,950
SPU	3.33-3.88	23-28	1110-1300	EA: Nov 1 January 15	3,688	2,876	788	\$42,939
SU	3.4-3.9	24-30	1150-1310	EA: Nov 15 January 15	8,640	6,536	1,083	\$45,765
UPS	3.21-3.81	25-31	1160-1343	EA: Nov 15 January 15	2,667	2,363	302	\$49,510
WWU SDA	3.55	20-27	1000-1280	Rolling	1,803	1,295	404	\$28,035
WC	3.75	31	1370	EA: Nov 15 January 15	4,081	2,111	389	\$49,780
WU	3.49-4.02	21-28*	1070-1280*	EA: Nov 15 March 1	4,634	3,478	685	\$44,940

Admission Options

- ❑ Regular Decision – specified date for submission (fall/winter) and decision (spring) Ex: UW
- ❑ Rolling Admissions - reviewed as submitted and admissions rendered throughout admission cycle until deadline Ex: CWU
- ❑ Early Action – apply early/notified early with set dates
Ex: Private Schools
- ❑ Early Decision – apply early with commitment to institution to enroll if admitted/early notification Ex: Highly competitive schools

APPLY EARLY REGARDLESS OF DUE DATE!



Where do I find applications?

- ❑ College websites - Apply online
- ❑ Look for these words to find link to application:
 - ❑ *Prospective Students *Future Students *Admissions
 - ❑ *Undergraduate *Freshmen *APPLY NOW!
- ❑ Common & Coalition Applications
 - ❑ Streamlined applications to make applying to multiple colleges easier
 - ❑ Advantage—finish all work and save it to the same location
 - ❑ Only way to apply for some schools (i.e. UW-Coalition)
 - ❑ Many schools do require supplemental materials
 - ❑ Not all schools use these apps – check websites for participating schools

www.commonapp.org or www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org

Washington Community & Technical Colleges: www.public.ctc.edu



Components of Application

- Application Form
- List of Activities
- Essay/Personal Statement
- Recommendation Form or Letter(s)
- Transcript
- Test Scores
- Fee (or Fee Waiver Request)
- Program-specific requirements: auditions,
- Interview



Application Form

- ❑ General Information
 - ❑ Applicant Data/Demographics
 - ❑ Family Education
 - ❑ Academics – GPA, Rank, Test Scores, Current Schedule
 - ❑ Extracurricular Activities

Create a Resume!



Include Academic and Extracurricular Information – GPA, advanced classes, achievements and accolades, sports, clubs, leadership positions, work and community service. Resume can also be used for requesting letters of recommendation and scholarship applications.

Essays/Personal Statement

- ❑ Demonstrate writing skills (grammar, sentence structure, spelling) as well as content (opportunity to separate yourself from other applicants)
- ❑ Convey what they wouldn't glean from your application alone - don't repeat something already stated in your application
- ❑ Take your time and get feedback from others – use multiple proofreaders
- ❑ Be yourself and use your voice – be authentic, genuine & original!
- ❑ Grab the reader's attention right away

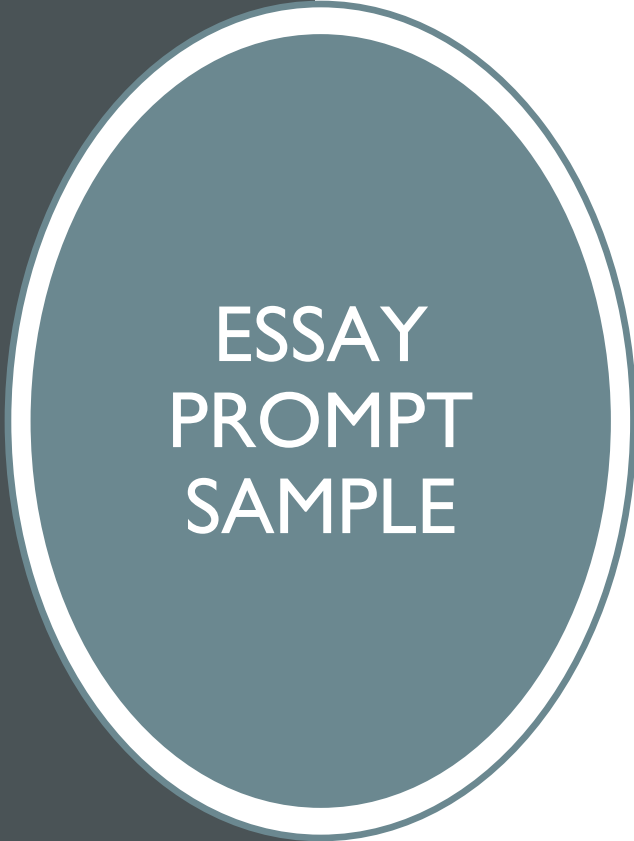
**Ask
yourself...**

Does it answer the prompt?

Does it sound like me?

Is my intended message coming through?

Does it distinguish me from other applicants?



ESSAY
PROMPT
SAMPLE

Tell a story from your life, describing an experience that either demonstrates your character or helped to shape it.

SHORT ANSWER PROMPT SAMPLE

Our families and communities often define us and our individual worlds. Community might refer to your cultural group, extended family, religious group, neighborhood or school, sports team or club, co-workers, etc. Describe the world you come from and how you, as a product of it, might add to the diversity of our campus.

Recommendations

- ❑ Check applications carefully to see if you need one
- ❑ Secondary school report (Common App) requires recommendation from counselor so you will need to let them know if you are applying via Common App
- ❑ Choose recommenders who know you well
- ❑ Request letters **2 - 3 weeks** prior to when you need them
- ❑ Provide recommender with resume, recommendation request form and a complete list of schools to which you are applying and deadlines



Follow up with a thank you note!

Transcripts & Test Scores

- ❑ Some colleges will accept unofficial copies of transcripts (WWU) and some do not want a transcript submitted with the application (UW), while others require an official transcript.
- ❑ Official transcripts must be requested through the Registrar's office by completing the Transcript Request Form and can be sent directly to the college on your behalf.
- ❑ Test scores must be submitted directly from the testing agency (SAT/CollegeBoard or ACT).
- ❑ Students can have 4 free score reports sent to schools if they designate the schools at the time they register for the test. Otherwise, they must send score reports separately at a cost of \$12 per report.

Request transcripts & test scores early in order for them to be submitted by the deadline !

When the Application is Complete...

- ❑ Print out application prior to submitting it and keep a copy
- ❑ Check email frequently for updates or requested information from schools
- ❑ Create account on college website portal to track your application and documentation received
- ❑ Call or email admissions office if you have questions; it's their job to help you!
- ❑ Keep all correspondence from schools



Take a breath and get ready for scholarship applications!

Additional Resources

- ❑ OHHS Career Center (Mrs. Kellison – Career Counselor)
 - ❑ Post-secondary specific questions
 - ❑ Individual college rep visits
 - ❑ College admissions information
 - ❑ Financial aid breakout session at FOTF as well as scholarship workshop in late January

- ❑ Counselors – Ms. Hilberdink, Mrs. Chargualaf, Mrs. Mahoney or Mrs. Waller

- ❑ Online resources – OHHS Website (Learning – Counseling Resources), Collegeboard, mycollegeoptions.org & others



FAFSA.ED.GOV

Opens: October 1, 2019

Federal Student Aid
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

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▶ **2020 – 2021 FAFSA/WASFA**
We will help you get it done!

▶ **Financial aid is first come, first served. Don't wait to apply!**

▶ **This event is open to all college and high school students, and their families.**

▶ **Students and parents please bring your 2018 tax return and W-2s.**



**You can't get
FINANCIAL AID
if you don't
APPLY**

**Skagit Valley College
Whidbey Island Campus**

**College Goal
Washington**

**Wednesday
October 23, 2019
3:00 pm to 6:00pm**