

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON | TACOMA

Next Step Scholarship 2024/2025

BE BOUNDLESS



Next Step Scholarship President Letter

University of Washington Tacoma
Office of Student Financial Aid
Campus Box 358400
1900 Commerce Street
Tacoma, WA 98402

Dear President:

The University of Washington Tacoma's Next Step Scholars Endowment recognizes and rewards exceptional scholarly achievement at the community college level. The fund was, specifically created to motivate top students at seven South Puget Sound community colleges to enroll at UW Tacoma. One scholarship is available for each community college, in the amount of, \$4,000 for one academic year.

To qualify for consideration, the student should:

- Be a current student or recent graduate from your institution
- Be a Washington resident
- Currently post a 3.5 or higher cumulative grade-point average (GPA)
- Be pursuing their first baccalaureate degree, having obtained a high school diploma (or equivalent) and subsequently enrolled in community college
- Submit a complete application for admission to the University of Washington Tacoma by March 15, 2024 in order to guarantee consideration for admission and this award.

Additionally, participating colleges should provide the following materials (and only these materials) to the University of Washington Tacoma's Office of Student Financial Aid by **April 14, 2024** for each nominee:

- A nomination by their community college president (the nomination form is enclosed for your information; an electronic version will be provided to the person copied below as your school's Next Step contact person);
- One letter of recommendation from their faculty;
- Official student transcripts
- University of Washington Tacoma Next Step Scholarship student application (enclosed and available at www.tacoma.uw.edu/nextstep)

Please submit a **minimum of two and no more than three** nominees. **The University will select and notify 2024-2025 Next Step Scholars by May 15, 2024.** Please encourage your nominees and any transfer applicants to apply to the University and submit a FAFSA or WASFA in order to take full advantage of financial aid. The University of Washington's priority date for receiving a student's 2024-2025 financial aid application is February 28th, 2024. Students are encouraged to meet this date to maximize opportunity for grants and aid including Husky Promise. UW Tacoma offers a limited number of merit scholarships for transfer students who apply for autumn quarter 2024 by March 15, 2024.

As usual, a set of publicity posters for the Next Step will be provided to the contact person to distribute and display at your school. These will be delivered to your campus in March. Each community college sets its own student application deadlines in advance of our nomination deadline.

Also, we'd like to take this opportunity to again reference our guaranteed admissions policy for residents who earn an approved transfer degree at a Washington state community college. Students who apply for admission on time with at least a 2.75 GPA (cumulative of all transferable academic coursework) and have met intermediate algebra proficiency will receive general admission to the University of Washington Tacoma. More information, including additional requirements is available at: www.tacoma.uw.edu/admissions/transfer-students

We look forward to the selection of the 2024-2025 Next Step Scholar from your institution. If we can be of any assistance to you in this process, please contact us at 253.692.4374.

Sincerely,

UW Tacoma Office of Student Financial Aid
MAT 206 | Box 358400
1900 Commerce Street Tacoma, WA 98402
tel: 253.692.4819 | fax: 253.692.4877

W UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON | TACOMA

Next Steps Application 2024/2025

- Improve the quality of the South Puget Sound regional workforce
- Strengthen the bonds between UW Tacoma and its primary transfer institutions
- Improve the classroom experience for all UW Tacoma students

Seven scholarships are available, one for each community college. The scholarship is primarily intended to help students pursue their degrees as full-time students. Part-time students may use their scholarship award over at most a three-year period.

Deadline

Check with your community college advisor for your school's application deadline.

Eligibility

Students currently enrolled at the following community colleges are eligible to be considered for a UW Tacoma Next Step Scholars award:

- Green River Community College
- Highline Community College
- Olympic College
- Pierce College Fort Steilacoom
- Pierce College Puyallup
- South Puget Sound Community College
- Tacoma Community College

Recent graduates from these institutions may also be eligible; however, they must have completed their coursework no earlier than September 1, 2023. Recent graduates who are already attending other four-year institutions are not eligible for the award. One student from each institution will be offered a Next Step Scholarship each year.

Students must be permanent Washington residents; international students are not eligible for this scholarship.

There is a strong expectation that the student will have completed the necessary credits and other requirements, to be admitted to, UW Tacoma for autumn quarter 2024 to complete their baccalaureate degree. Should a prospective student accept the scholarship and then not qualify for transfer or enrollment, the award will be withdrawn and may go unfilled that year. **The student should also currently post a**

cummulative grade-point average (GPA) of no less than 3.5 (rare exceptions may be made for students who can show exceptional improvement over their last 45 credits).

To be eligible, students must be pursuing their first baccalaureate degree, having earned a high school diploma (or equivalent) and subsequently enrolled in community college. **Those who have already have earned a bachelor's degree, or are pursuing graduate study, will not be considered for this scholarship.**

If a student is selected, he or she has three weeks to decide whether to accept the award. UW Tacoma reserves the right to offer the scholarship to other nominees should the first winner decline.

Nomination and Application Procedures/Selection Criteria

Part I: Presidential Nomination

Community college presidents (or their official designees) are encouraged to submit at least two but no more than three nominations from their campus. In selecting the nominees, presidents should consider the following criteria in making final selections. Criteria will include: GPA, strength of coursework, writing ability/ participation in honors programs, academic enrichment, demonstrated leadership and community service, and faculty recommendations.

As part of the nomination procedure, community college presidents must sign the nomination and eligibility form. Because GPA and strength of coursework will be given exceptional weight, careful review of student transcripts is highly recommended.

Part II: Letters of Recommendation from Faculty

One letter of recommendation is required. **Faculty members** with whom the student has had direct academic contact should complete the letters. **Letters should focus on academic merit** detailing classroom experience or other activities that illustrate academic accomplishments. Letters may also discuss leadership, service or personal integrity. Students are responsible for securing letters of recommendation.

Part III: Student Application Materials

Students must complete the biographical information and release authorization form and the honors, awards, memberships, enrichment activities, leadership, and community service form (if applicable), and secure one letter of recommendation from faculty (see above). Students will need to submit official transcripts from their nominating community colleges, along with the other application materials, if these transcripts have not been previously obtained by the nominating institution.

Part IV: Personal Interview

Finalists may be interviewed by the UW Tacoma Next Step Scholars Selection Committee.

Award Acceptance Policy

The participating community colleges will each forward up to **three** nominees to UW Tacoma by April 14, 2024. UW Tacoma will notify the recipient(s) by May 15, 2024.

Winners of Next Step Scholars awards must inform UW Tacoma of their intention to accept or decline the award in writing by returning a Next Step Scholars Award Acceptance Form within three weeks of being notified. Should a student decline the award, UW Tacoma reserves the right to offer the award to another nominee from the institution's pool. In the event that a student formally accepts the award and then elects not

to enroll at UW Tacoma in autumn quarter 2024, the scholarship may go unfilled for that academic year. Exceptions may be made for students who can show that non-enrollment results from hardship or other circumstances beyond their control. Hardship exceptions will normally be granted for one quarter only.

Next Step recipients must also agree to have their names released publicly and to participate willingly in academic ceremonies such as commencement and in donor stewardship activities, which may involve writing letters, attending events, etc.

Scholarship Renewal Criteria

The Next Step Scholarship for the 2024-25 academic year is a one-year scholarship. **If additional funds are available** students may qualify for the second year of the scholarship, students must show satisfactory progress toward a degree by meeting the following minimum requirements:

- Maintain a cumulative UW Tacoma GPA of at least 3.00
- Be consecutively enrolled each quarter
(not including summer quarter)

Nomination Materials

All nomination materials are to be assembled by the president (or designee) at the participating community college and complete packets sent to the UW Tacoma Next Step Scholars Selection Committee.

Nomination materials include:

From the president

1. Institutional nomination form (president's signature required)
2. Official student transcripts from the nominating college.

From the applicant

1. Biographical information form
2. Release authorization and statement of candidacy form
3. Honors, awards, memberships, enrichment activities, leadership, and community service form (if applicable)
4. One letters of recommendation (faculty signatures required)

Incomplete nomination packets will result in disqualification.

NEXT STEP SCHOLARSHIP | UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA
BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

To be completed by the nominee.

Name: _____

Student ID number (current institution): _____ Last 4 digits of SSN: xxx-xx- _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone (day): _____ (Evening): _____

Nominating Institution: _____

Number of community college credits **completed** through January 15, 2023: _____

Have you submitted a complete transfer application to UW Tacoma for autumn quarter 2024?

☐ YES ☐ NO

If NO, will you meet all UW Tacoma requirements in time to enroll for autumn quarter 2024, to the best of your knowledge? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Academic program in which I plan to enroll at UW Tacoma: _____

NEXT STEP SCHOLARSHIP | UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA
RELEASE AUTHORIZATION AND STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

I, _____, wish to be considered as a

candidate for the UW Tacoma Next Step Scholars award. I understand that this scholarship is primarily intended to support full-time study. Permission is hereby granted to officials of my nominating institution to release transcripts of my academic record to date and other information requested as part of the scholarship application form. I understand that any portion of this application may be released to the public should I be offered and accept the award and that participation in donor stewardship activities and academic ceremonies as outlined in the award acceptance agreement will be mandatory.

Nominee's signature: _____ Date: _____

NEXT STEP SCHOLARSHIP | UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA
HONORS, AWARDS, MEMBERSHIPS, ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES, LEADERSHIP, AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

To be completed by the nominee.

Name of Nominee: _____

- I. Honors Program Participation/Academic Awards/Memberships, Enrichment Activities, Leadership, and Community Service** (if applicable): Please describe your participation in any programs or activities that are relevant. Include dates of participation.

Activity	Description	Dates Participated	Hours Per Week (if applicable)