



FIRST GENERATION FAMILY FORUM

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

During the holiday season, **the act of receiving help represents the true spirit of compassion and community.** Whether it comes in the form of a warm meal from a neighbor, a thoughtful gesture from a friend, or the support of charitable organizations, the generosity that permeates this time of year **serves as a reminder of the interconnectedness of humanity.** Receiving help during the holidays not only meets immediate needs but also **fosters a sense of belonging and shared responsibility.** If you find yourself in need of assistance at any time please visit the links below.

Links to local resources

Asia Pacific Cultural Center: Mission based to bridge communities and generations through art, culture, education, and business.

Food is Free Tacoma: Provides and enhances equitable access to healthy, locally produced food at no cost to those who need it in the state of Washington.

Mi Centro: Community-based non-profit that works with Latino and Indigenous Native families.

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI): Community-based non-profit organization whose services focus on the concerns of all those affected by mental illness.

Oasis Youth Center: Oasis Youth Center transforms the lives of queer youth by creating a safe place to learn, connect, and thrive.

Tacoma Urban League: Tacoma's home for Black empowerment provides services, training, and advocacy to build social and economic equality.

Tahoma Indian Center: Providing for the physical, mental, spiritual, and cultural well-being of the Urban Native population through social and cultural activities in East Tacoma



PATHWAYS *to* PROMISE
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON TACOMA



PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE
RESOURCES REGARDING PLANNING FOR
POSTSECONDARY PATHWAYS:

<https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/pre-collegiate>

FIRST GEN STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



“I came to America about nine years ago, and there were many times I wanted to go back home because there was no support for me in here. But I pushed myself hard, not just for me but for my mom who worked hard to get me here. She’s the main reason that I am a leader on campus and in my community”

Ahmed Wafai

Finance
with a Computing minor

Middle school is a great place to start exploring options for postsecondary educational pathways. It is important to be aware of your choices! This month we will explore **enrollment at 2 year technical and community colleges.**



WHAT IS YOUR 'E'?

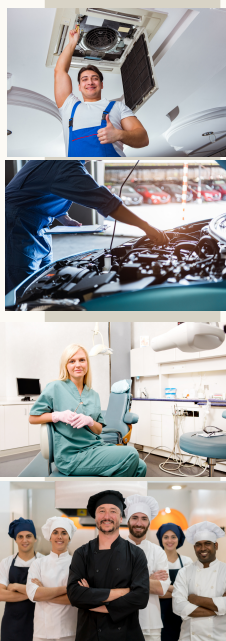


ENROLLMENT



PROS OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- Lower cost of attendance than a 4 year college
- Flexibility in the forms of night classes, asynchronous coursework and dual-enrollment programs
- When you get an Associate’s Degree at a community college, you start as a junior when you transfer to a 4 year university
- 49% of students enrolled in traditional 4 year colleges transferred from a community college.



PROS OF TECHNICAL COLLEGE

- Provides practical, specific skills that can offer the necessary education to begin a career upon completion of program / certification
- Hands-on programming taught by instructors who are often industry professionals
- Usually does not require general education classes
- Focuses on skills and knowledge needed for certification exams
- Programs are typically shorter which allow for the possibility of entering the workforce sooner

Explore local community and technical colleges [here!](#)

ARE YOU READY FOR IT?

Financial Aid Applications are opening soon! The FAFSA and WASFA are expected to open **December 31** so now is the time to prepare.



The first step to financial aid is to create your account. Use the link below to begin.

[START HERE](#)

FINANCIAL A I D

Not sure which form to fill out? Check out the short video and infographic below to help you decide.

[VIDEO](#)
[INFOGRAPHIC](#)

WHICH FORM?

FAFSA

Free Application for Federal Student Aid

WASFA

Washington Application for State Financial Aid

Gather the following information:

- Student driver's license or state ID
- Student income information : bank statement, W2, pay stub, and a past tax return
- Parent or Guardian financial information
- Additional information such as child support statements, TANF or welfare information, real estate investments, family business or farm info.

