

# Partnering for Student Transfer Success

Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges • Council of Presidents



Washington's community and technical colleges, private non-profit baccalaureate, and public baccalaureate colleges and universities have a proud history of partnering to serve students. Nowhere is our cooperation more evident than in the smooth transfer process from community and technical colleges into the four-year colleges and universities.

## National research cites four factors that lead to efficient transfer <sup>1,2</sup>

**1. FOLLOW A CLEAR PATHWAY.** Statewide transfer agreements in Washington allow students to transfer to universities with two years of college-level coursework with general education requirements already completed (for DTA).

**Direct Transfer Agreement associate degree (also called "the DTA")** with clear pathways – Major Related Programs in:

- ◆ Biology
- ◆ Business
- ◆ Construction Management
- ◆ Nursing
- ◆ Pre-Nursing
- ◆ Technology

**Associate of Science – Transfer (AS-T)** — with Major Related Programs in:

- ◆ Bioengineering and Chemical Engineering
- ◆ Computer and Electrical Engineering
- ◆ Mechanical/Civil/Aeronautical/Industrial/ Material Engineering
- ◆ Engineering Technology
- ◆ Coming soon: Computer Science

**2. COMPLETE AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE BEFORE TRANSFER.** Washington students transfer with an associate degree and earn bachelor's degrees at much higher rates than students nationally.

	Washington <sup>3</sup>	Nationally
% transferring with AA degree	67% <sup>3</sup>	20% <sup>2</sup>
BA within 3 years post-transfer ◆ <b>Transferred with AA</b>	71% <sup>4</sup>	N/A
BA within 3 years post-transfer ◆ <b>No AA</b>	62% <sup>4</sup>	N/A
BA within 6 years post-transfer ◆ <b>Transferred with AA</b>	82% <sup>4</sup>	41% <sup>5</sup>

**Transfer degrees are honored by all Washington's public and most private colleges and universities.**

## Key Facts

- ◆ **17,105** Washington students transferred from community and technical colleges to four-year institutions in 2013-2014.<sup>3</sup>
- ◆ Transfer students earned **40%** of all bachelor's degrees at Washington public colleges and universities, including:<sup>8</sup>
  - ✓ 47% of business graduates
  - ✓ 46% of health field graduates
  - ✓ 35% of STEM majors graduates
- ◆ Two basic **associate degrees smooth the process** for the majority of Washington transfer students:
  - ✓ DTA for social sciences, humanities and some sciences
  - ✓ AS-T for engineering, physics, chemistry
- ◆ **98% of AS-T** graduates who earn a bachelor's degree do so in a STEM-related field.<sup>6</sup>

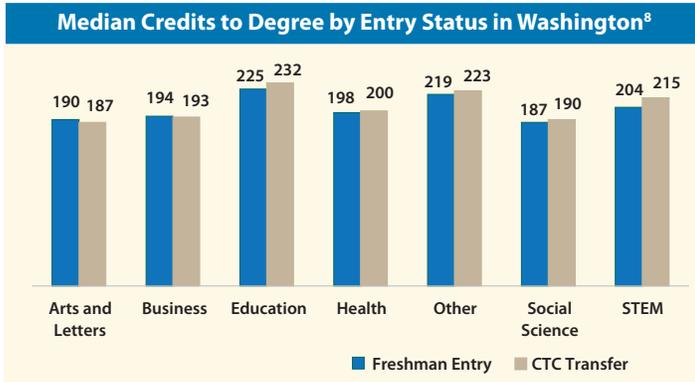


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## 3. MAKE SURE ALL ACADEMIC CREDITS TRANSFER.

In Washington, transfer students graduate with a bachelor's degree with a similar number of total credits as those who start at four-year universities as freshmen. This is not true nationally, where "lost" credits result in far more total credits for the average transfer student.

*"Students who transferred almost all of their community college credits were 2.5 times more likely to earn a bachelor's degree than students who transferred fewer than half of their credits."*<sup>7</sup>



## 4. UTILIZE A MULTI-SECTOR GROUP TO SOLVE EMERGING ISSUES. The JOINT TRANSFER COUNCIL

is a collaboration that includes the community and technical colleges and public and private baccalaureate institutions that guides college-transfer policy across the state. It is involved in the development of new transfer pathways and new multi-institution agreements. Its members continually look at emerging issues and opportunities to make the transfer experience better.

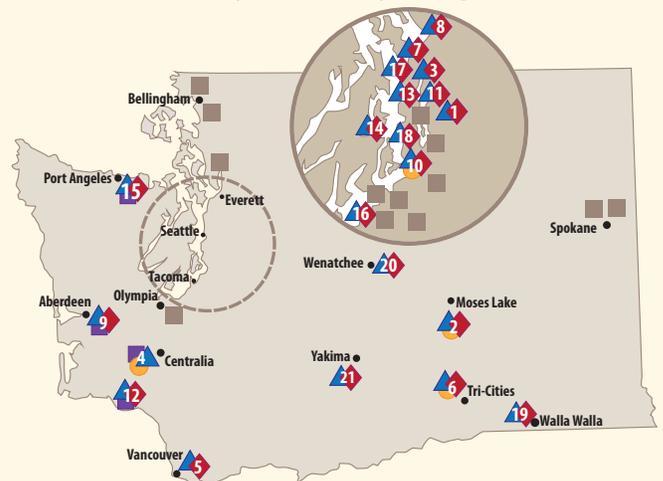
*"Washington state is fortunate to have a 40-year history of public two- and four-year institutions working together to facilitate the transfer process for students."*

Community College Research Center,  
Columbia University Teachers College,  
July 2014<sup>9</sup>

University bachelor's degrees are also available at most of Washington's 34 community and technical colleges.

### Campus-based partnerships (degrees vary by location)

1. Bellevue College – EWU
2. Big Bend Community College – CWU/Heritage University
3. Cascadia College – UW
4. Centralia College – City U/Saint Martin's University
5. Clark College/EWU
6. Columbia Basin College – WSU/Heritage University
7. Edmonds Community College – CWU
8. Everett Community College – CWU/EWU/WWU/Evergreen/UW/WSU
9. Grays Harbor College – CWU/Evergreen/City U
10. Highline College – CWU /Heritage University
11. Lake Washington Institute of Technology – CWU
12. Lower Columbia College – EWU /WSU /City U
13. North Seattle College – EWU and WWU
14. Olympic College – WSU/WWU
15. Peninsula College – CWU/WWU/Evergreen/ City U
16. Pierce College Fort Steilacoom – CWU
17. Shoreline Community College – UW-Bothell
18. South Seattle College – EWU
19. Walla Walla Community College – WSU
20. Wenatchee Valley College – CWU
21. Yakima Valley Community College – CWU/WSU



Partnership Locations

1. Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), (2014). *Successful Student Transfer: A Key Building Block of the Completion Agenda*.
2. Jenkins, D., & Fink, J. (2015). *What we know about transfer*. New York, NY: Columbia University, Teachers College, Community College Research Center.
3. SBCTC (2014). *Academic Year Report 2013-2014*.
4. Education Research & Data Center, *Statewide Public Four-Year Dashboard*, (2015). <http://www.ofm.wa.gov/hied/dashboard/index.html>.
5. Crosta, P.M. and Kopko, E.M. (2014). *Should Community College Students Earn Associate Degree Before Transferring to a Four-Year Institution?* New York, NY: Columbia University, Teachers College, Community College Research Center.
6. SBCTC (2014). *Associate of Science Transfer and STEM Focused Direct Transfer Agreement- Associate of Arts (Research Report 14-3)*.
7. Jenkins, D., & Fink, J. (2015). *What we know about transfer*. New York, NY: Columbia University, Teachers College, Community College Research Center.
8. SBCTC, (August 2013). *The Role of Transfer in the Attainment of Bachelor's Degrees at WA Public Baccalaureate Institutions Class of 2011*.
9. Jenkins, D., Kadlec, A., & Votruba, J (2014). *Maximizing Resources For Student Success: The Business Case for Regional Public Universities to Strengthen Community College Transfer Pathways (with Guidance on Leading the Process)*. New York, NY: Columbia University, Teachers College, Community College Research Center.