

KEY TALKING POINTS

JUNE 2021



CAREER PATH OPTIONS

- With **34 colleges** and **80+ programs** leading to **hundreds of career paths**, Washington's community and technical colleges are the perfect places to jumpstart a new career or take your current job to the next level.
- You have options: our colleges offer industry-standard certificates so you can go out and earn a good living right away and return to school while you work to keep increasing your skills and your pay rate.
- You can build up to an associate degree and even find an apprenticeship so you can earn while you learn.
- What you learn in classes leads straight to in-demand job skills. We work hand-in-hand with our industry partners to make sure our students become top job candidates.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

At Washington's community and technical colleges, choose from many career paths that lead to higher paychecks. Below are just a few examples:

HEALTH

- **Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians** secure a yearly average of \$66,920. Plus, demand is soaring in the state at 20%.
- **Registered Nurses** command \$91,310, and this recession-proof career is growing at a staggering 20%.

STEM

- **Industrial Engineering Technicians** earn an average of \$71,920. And in Washington State, demand is surging at double the national average!

LOGISTICS

- **Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers** command a sizable \$54,320 a year, and demand in the state is moving at more than double the national average.

MANUFACTURING

- **Machinists** manufacture a respectable \$55,930 a year. Plus, the need for these skilled workers is booming at 8% in the state, double the national average.

AUTOMOTIVE

- **Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics** gear up at \$54,320 a year, and the trade is growing steadily at 2%.

*For a complete list of programs, visit [\[insert state landing page\]](#)



SUPPORT PROGRAMS

- **Worker Retraining Program:** For those on unemployment, students are eligible for tuition assistance, job search assistance, and other benefits.
- **Basic Food Employment and Training (BFET) Program:** Students who receive food assistance/food stamps may be eligible for help with job training. The program offers tuition assistance, career counseling, childcare support, job search help, and much more.

FINANCIAL AID

- You won't know until you apply: In the 2019-20 academic year alone, 39% of Washington's community and technical college students received need-based financial aid.
- **The FAFSA** (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) determines students' eligibility for federal funding. For U.S. citizens or eligible non-citizens.
- **The WASFA** (Washington Application for State Financial Aid) is an alternative to the FAFSA for those who are not eligible for federal funding, such as undocumented students, DREAMers, and those who have defaulted on a federal loan. It is free, confidential, and private.
- **The Ability to Benefit (ATB)** provision of the FAFSA allows those enrolled in Title IV eligible programs who do not have a high school diploma or equivalent to still qualify for federal aid while pursuing high school and college degrees.
- **The Washington College Grant** can help students of all ages earn certificates, degrees, or even land paying apprenticeships. As of 2020-21, more low- and middle-income families now qualify. For full- and part-time students.
- **The Opportunity Grant** helps low-income students complete up to one year of college and a certificate in a high-wage, high-demand career. They can get help with tuition, fees, and books, plus be eligible to receive emergency childcare, work with an industry mentor, and more.

SUPPORT PROGRAMS

- Find the college nearest to you to find out more, talk to admissions, and even schedule a tour: <https://www.sbctc.edu/our-colleges/explore-colleges/default.aspx>
- Explore our 80+ programs to find the college that's right for you: [\[insert statewide landing page\]](#)
- We offer a ton of financial aid to learners of all backgrounds: [\[insert statewide landing page\]](#)
- Need to finish up your high school diploma or take the GED®? Start here to open the door to college and a better job: [\[insert statewide landing page\]](#)
- More than 15 of our colleges have on-campus housing: <https://www.sbctc.edu/our-colleges/student-life/student-housing.aspx>