



WSU 2021 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Established in 1890 as the state’s land-grant research university, WSU’s priorities around sustaining health and resources, advancing opportunity and equity, and improving quality of life through smart systems reflect Washington state’s economy.

WSU enrolls over 30,000 students, producing degrees at campuses in Pullman, Vancouver, Spokane, Tri-Cities and Everett and at satellite programs in Walla Walla, Yakima and Bremerton. As the state’s land-grant, WSU has Extension offices in all 39 counties and Research and Extension Centers in Puyallup, Mount Vernon, Prosser and Wenatchee. And, as pioneers in online education, WSU’s Global Campus serves students worldwide.

2021 Biennial Budget Priorities

OPERATING BUDGET: Promoting Social Mobility and Our Economic Future

Since the Great Recession WSU has added a new campus in Everett, a medical school with a statewide footprint, new satellite programs in Bremerton and Yakima, and 5,000 more students including more students of color, veterans and students with disabilities. WSU achieved this on a state appropriation that only in 2020 reached and exceeded WSU’s FY2008 appropriation. Great Recession-era reductions and the COVID-19 pandemic have left higher education uniquely vulnerable even as WSU works to meet educational attainment goals, provide recession-proof careers for more students and promote social mobility. **The university requests best efforts to preserve higher education budgets and avoid the lasting perils of the Great Recession.**

Agriculture: Innovation, Research, Sustainable Food Systems

- WSU requests \$8 million in the 2021-23 capital budget to demolish 60-year-old Johnson Hall to leverage \$104.9 million in federal funds to build a new United States Department of Agriculture Plant BioSciences Building. This will co-locate USDA and university scientists researching wheat, potatoes, tree fruit, grapes and other minor commodity crops.
- WSU supports the State Department of Agriculture’s Farm and Food System Resiliency request to strengthen Washington’s food systems whose weaknesses are being uncovered by the COVID-19 pandemic. New investments will fill gaps in federal efforts to stabilize and improve food system capacity, reduce waste of farm products, reduce pressure on emergency food operations and support innovative responses to improved access to healthy food. WSDA is an important collaborator with WSU’s Food Systems program.

WSU Health: Improving access to Health Care

WSU requests \$3.6 million in the 2021-23 operating budget, for a four-year impact of \$8.4 million, in continuation funding to support the third and fourth-year component of the 20-seat expansion of the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine funded in 2019. This would complete core funding for the college, which has drawn a diverse student body from 97 Washington communities, is scheduled to graduate its first class in 2021, and has announced the development of its first residency program.

CAPITAL BUDGET: Creating Jobs by Preserving the Core, Accommodating Growth

WSU’s capital budget request includes minor works and other projects that would reduce deferred maintenance backlogs and facilitate academic and research growth in STEM disciplines through **construction of the Life Sciences Building in Vancouver and the renovation of the Phase One Building in Spokane.**

WSU BY THE NUMBERS

Enrollment: **28,025** full-time equivalents

Tuition and fees: **\$12,170** for resident undergrads

Average undergrad debt for those with debt: **\$26,576**

56 percent of undergrads graduate with debt

29 percent of undergrads pay no tuition

29 percent of undergrads pay full tuition

81.3 percent of undergrads are Washington residents

31.5 percent are students of color including **36.5 percent** of freshmen

28.3 percent of undergrads are Pell Grant eligible

36.6 percent of freshmen are first generation students

76.1 percent of transfer applicants are offered admission

Average time to degree: **4.2 years** for first-time full-time freshmen

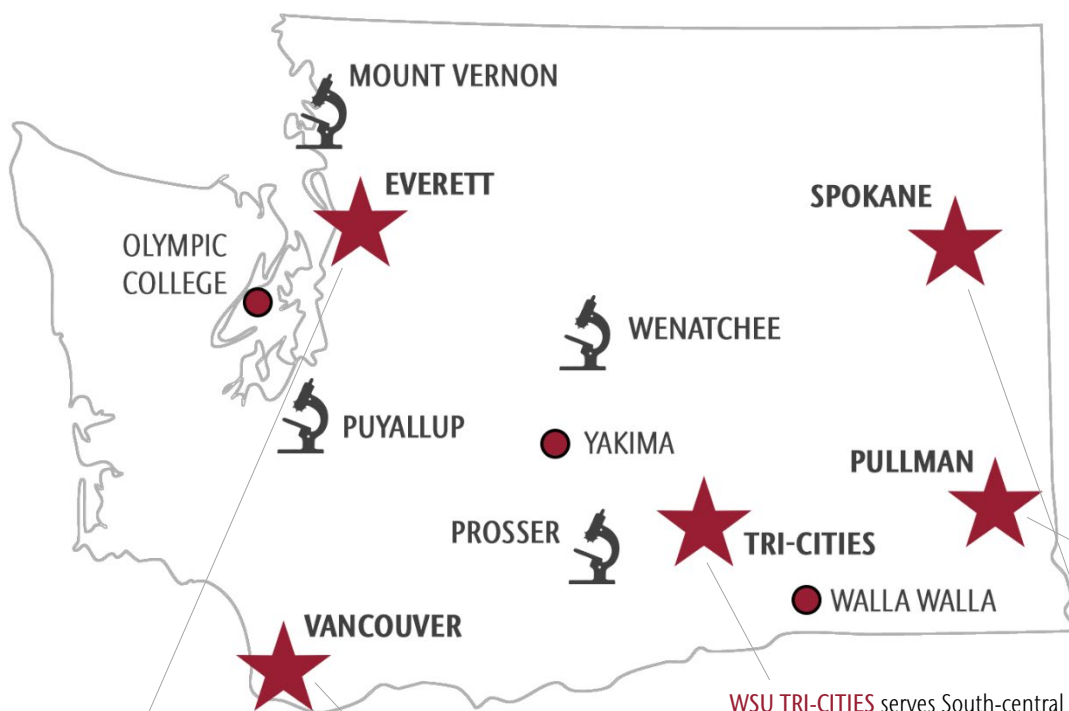


DRIVE TO 25: WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY'S HIGHEST STRATEGIC PRIORITY

The Drive to 25 is Washington State University's goal of becoming one of the nation's top 25 public research universities by 2030. Its objectives guide decisions about institutional goals, priorities, and financial investments affecting WSU's teaching, research, and service mission. Achieving top 25 status will: boost student enrollment; attract additional external funding; create new public and private partnerships; provide students with a transformational educational experience; and, help the state reach its educational attainment goal of 70 percent of adults aged 25-44 having a postsecondary credential by 2023.

WSU: SERVICE TO THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

WSU's assets enable the university to provide quality education, deliver research, and extend knowledge and expertise to support the state's major industries and its communities. WSU's legislative agenda supports the educational, research and service needs of WSU's major campuses located in Pullman, Spokane, Vancouver, Tri-Cities, and Everett and the students enrolled through the Global Campus.



Northwestern Washington is served by **WSU EVERETT** and the engineering program located at Olympic College. These programs are expanding access to four-year degrees in high demand STEM-based fields of study. The primary areas of focus are educational and research programs that support advanced manufacturing, medical education, and agriculture.

WSU VANCOUVER serves Southwestern Washington, a rapidly growing and important region to the state's overall economy. WSU Vancouver's educational and research focus serves the high-tech sector and growing biotech and life sciences industries, helping to keep the region competitive through workforce development and translational research. The campus offers degrees in arts and sciences, education, business, engineering, neurosciences, and nursing.

WSU TRI-CITIES serves South-central Washington and offers degrees in arts and sciences, business, education, engineering & applied sciences, nursing, and wine science. The campus supports workforce training and collaborative research that feeds the economic strengths of the region including R&D, technology, advanced manufacturing, agriculture, and healthcare. In addition, the region is served by the WSU College of Nursing with degree programs offered in Walla Walla and Yakima. The WSU Irrigated Agriculture Research & Extension Center, located in Prosser, serves one of the most productive agricultural regions in the nation for wine grapes, tree fruit, and other commercial crops.

WSU EXTENSION broadens the reach of the university into every county in Washington including four research and extension centers located in Mount Vernon, Puyallup, Prosser, and Wenatchee. Integral to WSU's mission as a land grant university, Extension advances the knowledge, economic development, and quality of life of Washington residents by developing and delivering programs through learner-centered, research-based education.

WSU PULLMAN is the main campus and home to eight colleges serving the university system. The largest campus, WSU Pullman has an enrollment of over 20,000 students.

WSU SPOKANE is home to the WSU Health Sciences campus and the colleges of medicine, nursing, and pharmacy. The campus offers degrees in nursing, medicine, pharmacy, speech & hearing, health policy & administration, nutrition/exercise, criminal justice, and education. The Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine and the Spokane Teaching Health Center support Spokane's regional role in providing health care services and research for much of Eastern Washington.