



WSU 2023 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

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

WSU produces degrees at campuses in Pullman, Vancouver, Spokane, Tri-Cities and Everett, at satellite programs in Yakima and Bremerton, and online through the Global Campus. WSU also has Extension offices in all 39 counties and Research and Extension Centers in Puyallup, Mount Vernon, Prosser and Wenatchee.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

PEOPLE: Investing in Human Capital

WSU requests **\$34.5 million** in the state's 2023-25 operating budget to fund a 4 percent cost of living adjustment for faculty, professional staff and graduate students in FY2024 and an additional 3 percent for FY2025. Identical enhancements are requested for civil service employees. Improvements to the state's tuition-driven funding formula are needed to make these enhancements implementable. In addition, WSU requests \$4.4 million to fund salary and equipment enhancements in the College of Nursing to support its reaccreditation effort. Human capital remains one of WSU's greatest assets and yet the university's ability to effectively recruit and retain personnel has been compromised by inflation. Nursing has been hardest hit, with half the faculty having turned over in a two-year period and concerns having been raised during the past two accreditation cycles. New citations could force limits on enrollment.

LESSONS FROM THE PANDEMIC:

A Commitment to Public Health

WSU requests **\$1.6 million** in the operating budget to establish new bachelors and masters degrees in Social Work at WSU Tri-Cities **\$2.5 million** to develop a bachelor's degree in Public Health, with specialties in infectious disease delivered in Pullman and behavioral health delivered in Spokane and Vancouver. Collectively, these degrees will enhance public health by bolstering the supply of social workers, case workers, mental health assistants, rehabilitation specialists, family service workers, public health officers, diagnostic lab technicians, food safety specialists and more. This reflects WSU's pandemic response efforts in rural, remote and underserved Washington.

INFRASTRUCTURE:

Building our Future

WSU's capital budget request is centered around efforts to reduce deferred maintenance backlogs by prioritizing minor works funds, building a new engineering building to replace an aging one, and a series of renovations to bring new life to older facilities. Also requested are design funds for a new health sciences simulation building in Spokane. The university also is requesting funds in the operating budget to provide ongoing maintenance and operations funding for the Vancouver Life Sciences Building now under construction.

WSU BY THE NUMBERS

Enrollment: **27,539** headcount

Tuition and fees: **\$12,701** for resident undergraduates

Average undergraduate debt for those with debt: **\$25,559**

50 percent of students graduate with loan debt

32 percent of undergraduates pay no tuition

31 percent of undergraduates pay full tuition

82.7 percent of undergraduates are Washington residents

33.1 percent are students of color including **38.6 percent** of freshmen

25.7 percent of undergraduates are Pell Grant eligible

34.6 percent of freshmen are first generation students

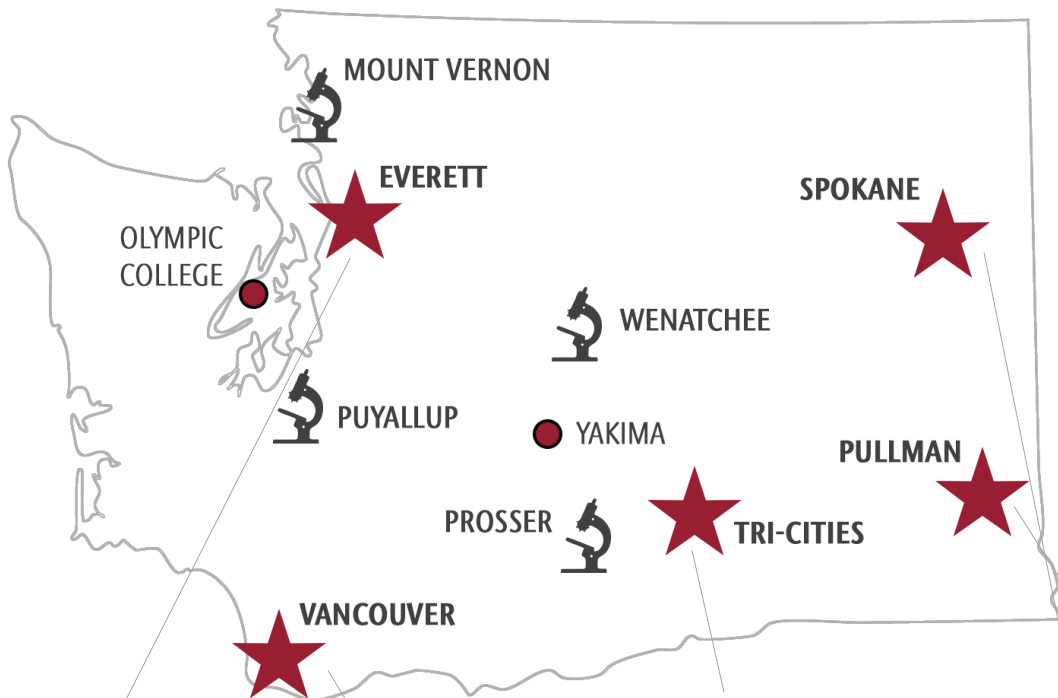
72.7 percent of transfer applicants are offered admission

Average time to degree: **4.1 years** for first-time full-time freshmen



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 communities and major industries. WSU's legislative agenda supports the educational, research and service needs of WSU campuses in Pullman, Spokane, Vancouver, Tri-Cities, and Everett and the students enrolled through the Global Campus. WSU is also committed to partnering with tribal communities, whose presence on Washington's land is since time immemorial, led by the Office of Tribal Relations under leadership from Zoe Higheagle Strong, WSU Vice Provost for Native American Relations & Programs (zoe.strong@wsu.edu).



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 university's oldest and largest campus with an enrollment of more than 17,000 students.

WSU SPOKANE is home to the WSU Health Sciences campus and the colleges of Medicine, Nursing and Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. 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.

WSU EVERETT serves Northwest Washington, expanding access to four-year degrees in high-demand fields. Key focus areas are STEM, aerospace, advanced manufacturing, research, innovation, global interconnectivity, and sustainable growth. The campus offers a diverse range of industry-aligned programs, including engineering, data analytics, cybersecurity, business, communication, 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 further served by the College of Nursing degrees also offered in 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.