Western Washington University’s mission is to serve the people of the state of Washington, the nation and the world by bringing together individuals of diverse backgrounds and perspectives in an inclusive, student-centered university that develops the potential of learners and the well-being of communities.

Our vision is to build a stronger Washington by being an international leader in active learning, critical thinking and societal problem-solving.

Our Strategic Goals:

• **Building upon Western’s strengths** to address critical needs in the state of Washington.

• **Expanding student access** to rigorous and engaging baccalaureate and graduate education.

• **Fostering and promoting life-long learning** and success in an ever-changing world.

• **Applying Western’s expertise and collaborative approach** to scholarship, creativity and research in ways that strengthen communities beyond the campus.

• **Serving as a model** for institutional effectiveness, innovation, diversity and sustainability.
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WWU Institutional Profile

AT A GLANCE

• One of Washington’s six state-funded, four-year institutions of higher education.
  • The state’s third-largest higher education institution.
  • Operates on the quarter system.
  • Seven academic divisions: College of Science and Engineering, Huxley College of the Environment, College of Business and Economics, Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies, College of Fine and Performing Arts, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Woodring College of Education, and the Graduate School.
  • Dr. Bruce Shepard is WWU’s 13th president.

CAMPUS

• Perched on a hillside in Bellingham, between Seattle and Vancouver, B.C., walking distance to Bellingham Bay and a short drive to Mount Baker.
  • A quarter of Western students live on the wooded 212-acre campus, which includes part of the 180-acre Sehome Arboretum.
  • Campus also includes the Shannon Point Marine Center in Anacortes, and a recreational complex at Lake Whatcom.
  • Also offers classes in Anacortes, Bremerton, Everett, Mount Vernon, Port Angeles, Poulsbo, Seattle, Tacoma and online.
  • Work is under way to include Western in Bellingham’s waterfront redevelopment.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

• Consistently ranked the top master’s-granting public university in the Pacific Northwest by U.S. News & World Report.
  • Faculty in fall 2015: 928.
  • Full-time faculty: 598, 79 percent with terminal degrees.
  • Student-faculty ratio: 18.4 to 1.

STUDENTS

• Fall 2015 enrollment: 15,332 full- and part-time students.
  • Students of color: 25 percent.
  • First-year students: 2,809 freshmen and 1,161 transfers.
  • 2014 freshmen returning: 82 percent.
  • Six-year graduation rate: 71 percent.
  • Average time to degree: 4.2 years.
  • In-state students: 88 percent, with top counties being King, Snohomish, Whatcom and Pierce.
  • Undergraduates eligible for Pell grants: 27 percent
  • First-generation undergraduates: 1 in 3.

ALUMNI

• More than 112,000 graduates live in Washington and around the world.
  • Top employers of alumni include Boeing, Microsoft, Amazon, Google, school districts and small and large businesses throughout the state.
  • Graduates include leaders in business, public service, education, the sciences, the arts, and academia.
  • Western ranks first in the nation among medium-sized schools for alumni serving in the Peace Corps.

SUSTAINABILITY

• Purchases 100 percent of its electrical energy from green sources via renewable energy credits.
  • One of the nation’s top purchasers of green energy in higher education, according to the EPA.

FINANCES

• Resident undergraduate tuition and fees are $8,610 for three academic quarters.
  • State operating budget in 2015-16 is $152 million, including state appropriations and tuition revenue.
  • State appropriation funds approximately 43 percent of the operating budget. Tuition is approximately 57 percent.
Western in Washington

**WWU Students**

Total students: **15,332**  
From Washington: 13,521 (88 percent)

**WWU Alumni**

Total alumni: **112,533**  
Living in Washington: 88,368 (79 percent)
Ensuring Student Success

$2.4 million: Western has a proven track record in the retention and graduation of our students and is well-positioned to serve the first generation, low income and traditionally underserved students who are the state’s future college graduates.

The demographics of Washington are changing with the rapid growth of K-12 students within groups who have not typically enrolled in higher education, meaning it is more important now than ever to ensure that students have access to quality support services. Significant increases in student demand – coupled with decreased funding – have limited Western’s ability to offer key support services such as academic advising, tutoring and retention services to our students.

Western is requesting an investment in:

- **Student Advising, Outreach and Mentoring.** Students whose families have no experience with higher education often need support to stay on track to graduation. Western wants to provide adequate support for students to navigate college and will use data analytics to focus advising and support services to best serve students most at risk of not completing a degree. On-site residential advising will also deliver services to first generation students in residence halls after hours.

- **Academic Tutoring Support.** Demand for Tutoring Center services has nearly tripled over the past six years, but resources have not kept pace. Meanwhile, data analysis shows first-year students who visit the Tutoring Center are more likely to continue toward graduation.

- **Mental Health Support.** According to the National College Health Assessment survey, Western students report that stress, anxiety and depression are a major interference with academic success. The number of clients at the Counseling Center has doubled during the past five years while mental health needs are becoming more severe.

- **disAbility Support for Students.** Since 2009, disAbility Resources for Students has seen a 77-percent growth in the number of students who qualify for services, but the staffing level has not kept pace.

- **Destination Graduation – College Completion for Returning Adults.** A one-year grant from the College Spark Foundation in 2007 launched the program, which invites students to re-enroll if they had left Western in good academic standing close to graduation. During the grant, 229 students re-enrolled and 181 graduated. With ongoing state support, the program could be re-introduced with the potential for replication at all of the state’s baccalaureate institutions.
Wireless Network Upgrades

$4 million: Western’s data network and wireless access infrastructure is outdated and fails to meet the basic needs of the university’s core academic functions. The university’s core IT equipment is nearing the end of its functional life and wireless functionality meets only 20 percent of the campus’s actual need.

Western’s data network is crucial to the university’s academic and administrative functions. In seven years, the campus’s bandwidth has grown nine-fold, jeopardizing response times and reliability. These technological trends are expected to continue, and this investment will better serve the academic needs of students, help mitigate bottlenecks and provide better data security.

In order to gain a 21st century education, students need to have reliable access to 21st century technology.

• **Limited wireless capacity and an aging IT infrastructure disrupt student, faculty and staff work on a daily basis.** These limitations increase Western’s vulnerability to data security breaches and network outages while jeopardizing wireless connectivity for emergency responders.

• **Reliable wireless coverage is crucial for emergency responders** who depend on sending and receiving information as fast as possible using portable devices to communicate with the public and each other in case of fires, active shooter scenarios, seismic events and emergency traffic incidents.

• **While Western’s external broadband connectivity has room to grow, internal connectivity is limited.** As campus continues to move more software services to the cloud, such as Office 365 and the Canvas learning management system, the university’s bandwidth uses will increase at an insufficient and unpredictable rate.

• **Replacement equipment for the IT network is currently funded out of cash reserves, and most wireless capacity is funded through a limited student fee.** This decision package provides an ongoing source for maintaining and improving the campus’s IT foundation – even as technology advances – to ensure a world class education for students and to support a workplace of choice for faculty and staff.

• **A permanent allocation** would allow Western to update and improve our data network with the help of a certificate of participation of approximately $9 million. After the initial debt service is paid off in five to six years, the ongoing funds would enable Western to fund additional IT strategic initiatives.
Campus Security Upgrades

$4.8 million: Active shooter incidents are increasing at an alarming rate, and university and college campuses are among the most vulnerable locations for such tragedies.

Western requests funding to ensure that exterior doors of all academic buildings are equipped with electronically controlled hardware and remotely triggered lockdown capabilities. Western’s Emergency Response Preparedness Team recently determined that the highest return on investment for protecting more than 15,000 students, faculty and staff during an active shooter incident is to have the ability to electronically lock down all buildings on campus as quickly as possible.

Western has financed many emergency response improvements with existing resources, but current funding is insufficient to address this critical need. Specific changes that would result from this investment include:

- **Emergency Response times in lockdown scenarios will be much faster** and general security on campus will be enhanced by the ability to remotely lock down buildings.

- **About two-thirds of campus exterior doors currently have no electronic access functionality.** This investment will ensure that all buildings on campus are equipped with the same safety standards.

- **The vast majority of exterior doors on campus are traditional brass keying systems** without remote access capabilities, leaving students and faculty at risk should Western experience an active shooter emergency on campus.

- **This investment is cost-effective and will increase efficiencies** at the university. When brass keys are lost, stolen or simply not returned, the most effective security response is to replace all locks that can be opened with that key – a very costly solution in both materials and labor.

State Colleges and Universities

Western Washington University is proud to be a member of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), an organization made up of more than 400 public colleges, universities and systems across the nation.

Like all State Colleges and Universities, Western’s culture is focused on students and centered on learning and teaching. Western and other SCU’s share a historical commitment to underserved student populations and a dedication to research and creativity that set SCU’s apart from land-grant or research universities and community and technical colleges. Western advances the economic progress and cultural development in the state of Washington, as do SCU’s in their home states across the country.

SCU’s embrace three core values: Quality, Accessibility and Responsibility.

**High Quality:** Western embraces a student-centered focus that emphasizes learning and teaching. Western students are taught and mentored by a faculty of scholars in smaller class sizes. Western supports a broad range of different learning styles and opportunities – from its Honors Program to hands-on applied research with faculty, both in the lab and in the field.

**Accessible:** As a state university, Western provides a high-quality educational experience to a diverse cross-section of the region’s residents, including students and groups that have been traditionally underserved in higher education. Western strives to foster campus diversity, build inclusiveness, and enable partnerships to help students succeed. For more information about these efforts, go to our Diversity at Western site: www.wwu.edu/diversity.

**Responsible:** SCUs like Western create the skilled workforce to support the state’s businesses while advancing economic progress and cultural development. As a place of public purpose, Western prepares its students for a life of leadership and service and enhances their abilities to attain financial independence after graduation.
The Legislature’s investment in Western Washington University has begun to address a long-standing issue: Western receives less funding per student FTE than all of the state’s other four-year universities.

### State Funding per Budgeted FTE Enrollments

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<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>FY 2016</th>
<th>FY 2017</th>
<th>2015-17</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of Washington</td>
<td>$11,350</td>
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<td>Washington State University</td>
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<td>The Evergreen State College</td>
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<td>Western Washington University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community and Technical Colleges</td>
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<th>FY 2016</th>
<th>FY 2017</th>
<th>2015-17</th>
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<tr>
<td>Average (TESC, EWU and CWU)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western Washington University</td>
<td>$5,266</td>
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<td>Per FTE State Funding Gap</td>
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<td>Per FTE Percent Gap</td>
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<td>State Funds Shortfall</td>
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Active Minds Changing Lives