

# Western Washington University

## 2021 OPERATING BUDGET PRIORITIES



### PROTECTING INVESTMENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

WWU's top operating budget priority is to protect the state's current investments in Western and access to public higher education, including the Washington College Grant. Reductions in baseline funding for Western, including mandated furloughs for faculty and staff, will result in fewer course offerings, less advising and decreased student support services, funding reductions that will disproportionately impact low income and first generation students.

### DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

Western is partnering with the state's other public four-year comprehensive universities (CWU, EWU and Evergreen) on a \$10 million joint proposal related to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiatives aimed at improving the access and success of traditionally underserved students in postsecondary education.

WWU's portion of the request is \$3.44 million in state investments to:

- ✓ Expand recruitment and outreach efforts to underserved Washington students;
- ✓ Address urgent needs in mental health counseling, sexual violence support, and other critical student services; and
- ✓ Create a new academic curriculum in Ethnic Studies.

## WWU Quick Facts 2020-21

### STUDENTS

15,197 Students

89% Washington residents

29% Students of Color

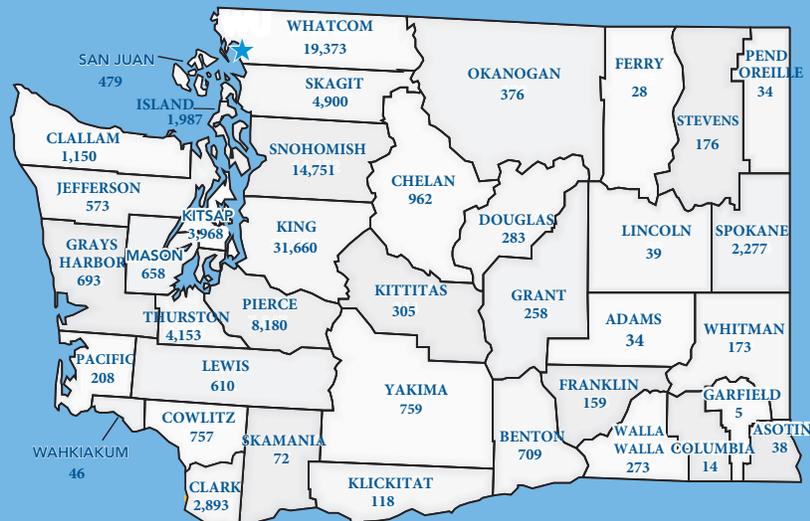
33% First Generation Students

### NATIONAL RECOGNITION

- ✓ Ranked the best public master's-granting institution in the Pacific Northwest, and second in the West, by U.S. News and World Report.
- ✓ Ranked by Kiplinger's among top 100 Best Values in Public Colleges
- ✓ 2nd in the nation for sending graduates to the Peace Corps among mid-sized universities
- ✓ Third in the nation among master's-granting institutions producing Fulbright student award winners.
- ✓ Top 10 among the nation's public and private master's-granting schools for graduates who go on to earn doctorates.

### WWU ALUMNI

Western has produced more than 132,000 graduates, with over 78 percent of alumni living throughout Washington. Top employers of alumni include Boeing, Microsoft, Amazon, Google and three-fourths of Washington's school districts.



## Electrical Engineering/Computer Science Building (\$51 million)

Western's electrical engineering and computer science programs are the University's fastest growing majors, but capacity constraints are significantly limiting the number of students WWU is able to accept into these programs each year. The 60,000 square foot EE/CS building will help graduate more majors with hands-on and applied experience to fill vacancies in these high demand fields. The increased capacity will support a 150% expansion in engineering and a 50% increase in computer science graduates per year, as well as shortening students' time to degree by alleviating current course bottlenecks.



WWU's Foundation is on-track to secure \$15 million in private donations for the building to support and leverage the state's investment, including funding to ensure the EE/CS building is a net-zero carbon building.

## Coast Salish-style Longhouse (\$4.95 million)

In partnership and close collaboration with Coast Salish tribal nations and the WWU Native American Student Union, WWU seeks to build a traditional Coast Salish style longhouse to increase representation of Native students and enhance their recruitment, retention and graduation. The Coast Salish longhouse at Western will support American Indian/Alaska Native and First Nation students in academics by providing a sense of place through a dedicated space on the university campus for students to gather, build community and support each other.



The longhouse will include a gathering hall that will support educational, community, and cultural functions, a teaching/warming kitchen, student lounges and other support services. The outdoor spaces will include gathering areas, cooking space, and educational gardens with native plantings that may be used in teaching indigenous science, art, and medicine.

## Minor Works (\$22 million)

This omnibus minor works category represents Western's highest priority needs for facility renewal, health, safety and code compliance, and infrastructure renewal.

## 2021-23 Classroom & Lab Upgrades (\$9 million)

The 2021-23 Classroom and Lab Upgrades would renovate and repurpose approximately 56 individual classrooms and labs throughout campus, extending the useful life of these spaces by approximately 25 years.

## Student Development and Success Center (\$225,000 for pre-design)

This pre-design request would create a consolidated space dedicated to front-line student support services. The current proposal is to build a 40,000 square foot building that will co-locate student advising, financial aid, counseling, and career development into one collaborative facility.

## Environmental Studies Center Renovation (\$500,000 for pre-design)

This pre-design request would renovate the 46-year-old Environmental Studies Center that is woefully outdated, with most internal building systems at the end of their useful life. This building is in a prime location on Western's campus that has the potential to be an energizing center for STEM activities with adequate modernization and renovation.

## Critical Safety, Access Control, and Fiber Optics Upgrades (\$7 million)

The project will install new hardware on classroom doors to enable locking from the inside in the case of an active shooter emergency and replace the existing damaged and undersized fiber optic communications system between and within buildings.

## Elevator Preservation Safety and ADA Upgrades (\$4 million)

This project will modernize 13 elevators in academic facilities that currently do not conform to current codes and are in need of modernization and repair. These elevators are at risk of unplanned service interruptions, cutting off ADA access to educational resources for unpredictable periods of time and causing difficulties for all building users.