



Key Facts about Higher Education in Washington

Fall 2008

WASHINGTON
HIGHER
EDUCATION
COORDINATING BOARD

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Available on the Web at: www.hecb.wa.gov/reports

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Introduction

This publication, *Key Facts About Higher Education in Washington* brings together much of the information one might need to develop a broad understanding of how public and private higher education institutions serve the people of our state and about the important role higher education plays in developing our society, our economy, and our future.

Key Facts highlights the most often-asked questions about institutions, faculty, students, costs, budgets, financial aid, and other topics.

Key Facts also provides links to helpful Web sites throughout its pages for those who want to examine specific issues in greater detail.

First published in 2002, *Key Facts* is updated annually by the Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB). Additional information about higher education is available through the agency's Web site at: www.hecb.wa.gov

HECB responsibilities

The Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board is a state agency governed by a 10-member citizen board appointed by the Governor to provide vision and leadership for public higher education in Washington.

The Board advocates for students and the overall system of higher education to the Governor, the Legislature, and the public.

The Board collaborates with the two- and four-year institutions, other state governing boards, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction to create a seamless system of public education geared toward student success.

Created by the Legislature in 1985, the HECB was formally established in January 1986 as the successor to the Council for Postsecondary Education. Board members are appointed to four-year terms by the Governor and confirmed by the state Senate. The student member serves for one year. In January 2006, the members of the board began selecting the chair. The agency's executive director serves at the pleasure of the board.

**Key Responsibilities of the
Higher Education Coordinating Board**

- 1) Develops a statewide strategic master plan for higher education.
- 2) Administers state and federal financial aid and other education services programs.
- 3) Reviews, evaluates, prioritizes, and recommends the operating and capital budget requests of the two- and four-year public institutions.
- 4) Establishes an accountability monitoring and reporting system to achieve long-term performance goals in higher education.
- 5) Administers the Guaranteed Education Tuition (GET) college savings program.
- 6) Adopts policies that ensure efficient transfer of credits and courses throughout public higher education.
- 7) Approves all new academic degree programs offered by the public four-year colleges and universities.
- 8) Establishes minimum admissions standards for the state's public baccalaureate institutions.
- 9) Conducts statewide needs assessment for new degrees and programs; off-campus centers and locations; and consolidation or elimination of programs.
- 10) Provides degree authorization for out-of-state colleges and universities and some in-state private colleges and universities.