

HECB identifies and recommends institutional budget priorities

State law directs the Higher Education Coordinating Board to collaborate with the public two- and four-year institutions to recommend budget priorities and levels of funding for higher education, including state financial aid programs.

The HECB's Policy, Planning and Research division works collaboratively with the following stakeholders to support this effort:

- Council of Presidents (COP)
- State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC)
- Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (WTECB)
- Independent Colleges of Washington (ICW)
- K-12 System

Recommendations from the HECB are meant to reflect not merely the sum of budget requests from multiple institutions, but prioritized funding needs for the overall system of higher education.

Operating expenses for the state's six public baccalaureate institutions and 34 community & technical colleges total about 10% of state general fund revenue.

Policy development

The HECB conducts research and analysis to inform policy development related to:

- Tuition Trends and Policy
- Strategic Master Plan implementation
- Benefits of Higher Education
- Student Transitions through College and Work
- Higher Education Accountability
- Proposed Higher Education Legislation
- Educational Cost Analysis and Studies
- National Trends in Higher Education

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Washington higher education budgets and tuition

- State institutions receive a percentage of their operating costs from the state based on the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) students they serve.
- Tuition and fees make up the remainder of instructional costs.
- FTE funding varies among the six four-year institutions. It does not vary among the 34 community and technical colleges.
- In 2009-11, the state will spend an average of \$8,196 per FTE at the research universities, \$4,793 at the regional institutions, and \$4,829 at the CTCs.
- State funding for the community and technical colleges covers 72% of operating costs compared with 74% prior to 2009-11.
- In 2009-11, state support dropped to less than 50% of instructional costs at four of the six baccalaureate institutions.
- Prior to the 2009-11 budget, annual state instructional support had averaged about 65% at the baccalaureate institutions.
- Tuition at the baccalaureate institutions was allowed to increase 14% in each year of the 2009-11 biennium to compensate for the loss of state support.
- In 2010-11, a full-time resident, undergraduate student could expect to pay tuition of \$3,135 for three quarters of instruction at a community and technical college.
- That same student would pay about \$8,600 at the two research institutions and about \$6,200 at the comprehensive institutions.
- The total share of the State General Fund assigned to higher education has been reduced from more than 12 percent in 2007 to about 10 percent in 2011. It is expected to be reduced further in the 2011-13 budget.

HECB studies and reports on higher education costs and needs

Numerous higher education reports and studies required by state law and used to provide key information for budget preparation, fiscal, and facility planning are produced by the HECB.

National Tuition and Fee Rates Report

An annual compilation of institutional tuition and fee data from throughout the country, this report is used by governing and coordinating boards, institutions, state budget offices, and national educational organizations such as the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO).

Education Cost Study

Provides per-student cost amounts by discipline and educational level for each type of institution. Used by many state agencies nationwide for budgeting and planning.

Disclosure Report (or “Silver Bill”)

Provides per-student state support for each institution. Colleges are required to make this information available to their students.

Capital Facility Inventory

Uses national benchmarks to uniformly establish current conditions of buildings at all state institutions. Monitors building preservation; provides cost estimates for future preservation efforts.

Cost of Degrees

Reported every four years using transcript data and cost per student credit hour by discipline.

Other key HECB research and analysis activities

Key Facts about higher education in Washington

A broad reference data resource on higher education in Washington. Includes student demographics, participation levels, tuition and fees, time to degree, student achievement, and state capital and operating information.

Data Analysis to Inform Strategic Plan

Fiscal policy staff provide data analysis and research to inform the strategic master planning process Washington.

Comparative Research

HECB staff access and research major higher education databases to respond to ad hoc requests for information from other state agencies, the Governor’s office, the Legislature, and the public.

The work focuses on ways to increase the number of K-12 students who graduate and continue to postsecondary education, and other key challenges.

Fiscal Notes

The HECB prepares fiscal notes on the impact of proposed legislation to the Governor’s Office and Legislature during the Legislative session.

