

Summary of 2013-14

- Washington community and technical colleges enrolled the equivalent of 182,677 full-time students (annual FTES) during academic year 2013-14, a decrease of two percent from the previous year's level. Of the total, 142,460 FTES — 78 percent — were in state-funded courses. State-funded FTES are supported by student tuition and state funding.
- Community and technical colleges served over a third of a million people — 388,082 students in 2013-14. This unduplicated headcount represents each student counted only once, even if the student enrolled for more than one quarter or at more than one college during the year.
- A total of 67,924 (48 percent) state-supported FTES were generated by students enrolled for workforce education (upgrading job skills or preparing to enter a new job field). Workforce FTES declined three percent from the previous year and 13 percent from the record high enrollment in 2010-11.
- In 2013-14, community and technical colleges served 12,690 Worker Retraining students (8,245 FTES). This represents a 13 percent decrease in students from the prior year, largely a result of the slowly recovering economy.
- Students who were preparing to transfer to four-year institutions accounted for 56,695 FTES (40 percent). 13,757 FTES (almost 10 percent) were generated by students enrolled with an immediate goal of basic education: Adult Basic Education (ABE), English as a Second Language (ESL), High School Equivalency preparation, or high school completion.
- Colleges enrolled 42,032 FTES in eLearning instruction, an increase of nine percent from 2012-13. Online learning comprises 63 percent of eLearning and increased by six percent. Hybrid, which combines online with some face-to-face, was 35 percent of all eLearning. Colleges enrolled 14,724 FTES as hybrid, an increase of 14 percent from the prior year.
- In 2013-14, 20,100 Running Start students — high school students earning high school and college credit simultaneously — accounted for 14,699 FTES. Another 3,998 high school students enrolled in college classes offered at their high school — (College in the High School) and 3,908 high school students enrolled in alternative high school programs offered at the colleges. Additionally, 744 students received their high school diploma as part of earning their associate degree.
- Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (I-BEST) pairs ABE or ESL with workforce training. In 2013-14, 3,861 students were enrolled for 2,034 FTES in programs in fields such as allied health, welding, automotive, and early childhood education.
- Ten colleges offered upper division course work for the applied bachelor's degrees (649 FTES).
- In 2013-14, 17,724 individuals were employed in state-supported positions in Washington community and technical colleges. This included faculty, classified staff, administrative, and other professionals, and equaled 13,665 full-time equivalents and 53 percent faculty positions.
- System expenditures totaled more than \$1.31 billion. Forty-six percent came from general and special state funds.
- Capital appropriations for the 2013-15 biennium totaled \$302.5 million. The 30 college districts own just over 19 million square feet of facilities and 2,976 acres of land.

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Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
SUMMARY OF 2013-14	i
TABLE OF CONTENTS	iii
I. INTRODUCTION	v
II. ENROLLMENTS	
Factors Impacting Enrollments	1
Full-Time Equivalent Students (FTES) by Funding Source	2
Student Headcount by Funding Source	5
FTES by Student Purpose for Attending, State-Supported	8
Student Headcount by Purpose for Attending, State-Supported	11
FTES by Course Intent, State-Supported	14
Contract Funded FTES by Course Content	17
State-Supported FTES versus College District Allocation	20
III. SELECTED PROGRAMS	
Enrollments in Selected Programs	21
Students by Dual Credit and High School Enrollment Programs	32
eLearning FTES	35
Students Receiving Need-Based Financial Aid	38
Students with a Job-Related Intent by College	41
FTES by Course by Location and Time	43
IV. STUDENT PROGRESS AND SUCCESS	
Student Achievement Initiative	46
Degrees and Certificates Awarded	49
Academic Transfer Degrees	54
Workforce Degrees and Awards	56
Selected Characteristics of Students Receiving Degrees or Certificates	60
After College Status – Transfer	61
After College Status – Job Preparatory, Placement, and Wages	66
V. STAFF	
Introduction to Staff	71
Staff FTE by Category of Employee	72
Classified Support Staff Annual FTE	75
Administrative Staff FTE	78
Professional/Technical Staff FTE	81
Teaching Faculty FTE-F by Employment Status	84
Full-Time Faculty Salaries	86
Number of Employees by Category of Employee	88
Staff FTE by Category of Employee	92

	<u>Page</u>
VI. FACILITIES	
Facilities and Capital Funding	94
Appropriations of Capital Funds	95
Facilities Inventory Summary	96
Owned Gross Square Footage by Date of Construction	97
Campus Size in Acres	99

VII. EXPENDITURES	
Introduction to Expenditures	100
Expenditure Categories.....	101
Expenditures by Source of Funds.....	102
Expenditures by Program	106
Costs per State-Funded FTES – State General Funds and Operating Fees.....	110
Expenditures by Object.....	111
Federal Workforce Education Funds.....	113
Federal and Special State Basic Skills Funds.....	115
State WorkFirst Grant.....	117

APPENDICES

- A Full-Time Undergraduate Student Tuition and Fees
- B Definitions

Introduction

The Report

The *Academic Year Report 2013-14* provides a snapshot of funding, facilities, staffing, and enrollments in Washington's community and technical colleges for the past academic year. The report also describes key measures of student outcomes and addresses the most frequently asked questions related to expenditures, personnel, and students. Additional demographic information regarding community and technical college students is available in the AYR 2013-14's companion publication: *Fall 2013 Enrollment and Staffing Report*.

The primary source of information for this document is the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges' (SBCTC) Data Warehouse, which is derived from the common management information systems used by all community and technical colleges in the state.

The Washington Community and Technical College System

Washington's Community and Technical College Act of 1991 provides for a state system of community and technical colleges separate from public secondary schools and four-year institutions. The act requires community colleges "offer an open door to every citizen, regardless of his or her academic background or experiences, at a cost normally within his or her economic means" (RCW 28B.50.020(1)).

Each college district is required to "offer thoroughly comprehensive educational, training and service programs to meet the needs of both the communities and students served by combining high standards of excellence in academic transfer courses; realistic and practical courses in occupational education, both graded and ungraded; community services of an educational, cultural, and recreational nature; and adult education" (RCW 28B.50.020(2)). Technical colleges are exempt from the requirement to offer academic transfer courses. Each district is governed by a board of five trustees appointed to five-year terms by the Governor with the consent of the senate.

Washington's first junior college was founded in 1915 in Everett when 42 students started a one-year college program on the top floor of Everett High School. It closed in 1923 because of a lack of students. Centralia College, the state's oldest continuously operating community college, opened in 1925. It was followed by Skagit Valley College in 1926, Yakima Valley College in 1928, and Grays Harbor College in 1930. Between 1933 and 1941 four more community colleges began operation in Washington: Clark College in 1933, Lower Columbia in 1934, Wenatchee Valley in 1939, and Everett in 1941. All locally administered and funded, the colleges' combined enrollment was approximately 1,000 students.

The Seattle School District opened Edison Vocational School in 1930, the state's first true, public vocational school. The Spokane School District followed suit in 1939 by establishing the Spokane Trade School. Both schools eventually became community colleges. The oldest existing vocational technical institute (VTI), Tacoma's Bates VTI, opened in 1940. VTIs subsequently opened in Lakewood (Clover Park), Pasco (Columbia Basin), Renton, Vancouver (Clark), Kirkland (Lake Washington), Olympia (South Puget Sound), and Bellingham. The VTIs in Pasco, Vancouver, and Olympia became community colleges.

Between 1925 and 1941, Washington State made three attempts to provide public support for junior colleges. State support was provided for the first time by the 1941 Legislature; however, that act restricted the number and location of junior colleges, prohibiting their establishment in counties having either a public or private four-year institution. In 1945, junior colleges were made a part of their local school districts and supported through their funding, as was the case with vocational technical institutes until 1991.

In 1961, the restrictions against expansion of community colleges were removed by the Legislature and junior colleges were designated as "community" colleges.

Community colleges' financing was separated from that of local school districts in 1963. In 1965, the Legislature declared its intention to establish a separate, independent community college system. Based on the recommendations of the Arthur D. Little Company, the 1967 Legislature adopted the Community College Act of 1967, which the Governor signed on April 3 of that year.

The structure of the community college system remained largely intact until 1991 when, as part of the Workforce Training and Education Act, the Legislature amended the Community College Act of 1967 and redesignated it as the Community and Technical College Act of 1991.

The state's five remaining public vocational technical institutes were designated as "technical colleges," removing them from the jurisdiction of their local school districts, and merging them with the community college system. Each technical college was provided with its own college district and a board of trustees. Each technical college district overlaps the districts of neighboring community colleges. The State Board for Community College Education was renamed the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges by the 1991 act.

The Community and Technical College Act of 1991 also brought the Seattle Vocational Institute (SVI) into the Seattle Community College District. SVI, known as the Washington Institute of Applied Technology since its establishment by the Legislature in 1987, was housed in a facility previously occupied by the Seattle Occupational Industrialization Center before it closed. SVI serves economically disadvantaged people in Seattle's Central district, providing job-related training for adults and contract training for local businesses.

In 1994, the Legislature approved the establishment of the 30th college district, Cascadia Community College. The new district began enrolling state-supported students in fall 2000.

Pierce College Puyallup became the system's 34th college when the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges granted it college status as part of the Pierce District in June 1999.

In 2005, the Legislature gave the State Board authority to offer applied baccalaureate programs in a pilot program at selected community and technical colleges. The 2010 Legislature removed the pilot status and gave the State Board authority to approve community and technical college applied baccalaureate degree programs.

In 2009, the Legislature allowed the five technical colleges to offer transfer degrees that prepare students for professional bachelor's degrees in addition to offering technical degrees. The 2010 Legislature removed the pilot status; and in 2012 the Legislature gave the State Board authority to approve community and technical college applied baccalaureate degree programs.

Washington Community and Technical Colleges

