

Next Step Scholarship Application 2023-2024

Seven scholarships are available, one for each community college listed below. The scholarship is primarily intended to help students pursue their degrees as full-time students. Part-time students may use their scholarship award over at most a three-year period.

Deadline

Check with your community college advisor for your school's application deadline.

Eligibility

Students currently enrolled at the following community colleges are eligible to be considered for a UW Tacoma Next Step Scholars award:

- Green River College
- Highline College
- Olympic College
- Pierce College Fort Steilacoom
- Pierce College Puyallup
- South Puget Sound Community College
- Tacoma Community College

Recent graduates from these institutions may also be eligible; however, they must have completed their coursework no earlier than September 1, 2022. Recent graduates who are already attending other four-year institutions are not eligible for the award. One student from each institution will be offered a Next Step Scholarship each year.

Students must be permanent Washington residents; international students are not eligible for this scholarship.

There is a strong expectation that the student will have completed the necessary credits and other requirements, to be admitted to, UW Tacoma for autumn quarter 2023 to complete their baccalaureate degree. Should a prospective student accept the scholarship and then not qualify for transfer or enrollment, the award will be withdrawn and may go unfilled that year.

The student should also currently post a cumulative grade-point average (GPA) of no less than 3.5 (rare exceptions may be made for students who can show exceptional improvement over their last 45 credits).

To be eligible, students must be pursuing their first baccalaureate degree, having earned a high school diploma (or equivalent) and subsequently enrolled in community college. **Those who have already have earned a bachelor's degree, or are pursuing graduate study, will not be considered for this scholarship.**

If a student is selected, they have three weeks to decide whether to accept the award. UW Tacoma reserves the right to offer the scholarship to other nominees should the first winner decline.

Part I: Presidential Nomination

Community college presidents (or their official designees) are encouraged to submit at least two but no more than three nominations from their campus. In selecting the nominees, presidents should consider the following criteria in making final selections. Criteria will include: GPA, strength of coursework, writing ability/ participation in honors programs, academic enrichment, demonstrated leadership and community service, and faculty recommendations.

As part of the nomination procedure, community college presidents must sign the nomination and eligibility form. Because GPA and strength of coursework will be given exceptional weight, careful review of student transcripts is highly recommended.

Part II: Letters of Recommendation from Faculty

One letter of recommendation is required. **Faculty members** with whom the student has had direct academic contact should complete the letters. **Letters should focus on academic merit** detailing classroom experience or other activities that illustrate academic accomplishments. Letters may also discuss leadership, service or personal integrity. Students are responsible for securing letters of recommendation.

Part III: Student Application Materials

Students must complete the biographical information and release authorization form and the honors, awards, memberships, enrichment activities, leadership, and community service form (if applicable), and secure one letter of recommendation from faculty (see above). Students will need to submit official transcripts from their nominating community colleges, along with the other application materials, if these transcripts have not been previously obtained by the nominating institution.

Part IV: Personal Interview

Finalists may be interviewed by the UW Tacoma Next Step Scholars Selection Committee.

Award Acceptance Policy

The participating community colleges will each forward up to **three** nominees to UW Tacoma by April 14, 2023. UW Tacoma will notify the recipient(s) by May 15, 2023.

Winners of Next Step Scholars awards must inform UW Tacoma of their intention to accept or decline the award in writing by returning a Next Step Scholars Award Acceptance Form within three weeks of being notified. Should a student decline the award, UW Tacoma reserves the right to offer the award to another nominee from the institution's pool. In the event that a student formally accepts the award and then elects not

to enroll at UW Tacoma in Autumn Quarter 2023, the scholarship may go unfilled for that academic year. Exceptions may be made for students who can show that non-enrollment results from hardship or other circumstances beyond their control. Hardship exceptions will normally be granted for one quarter only.

Next Step recipients must also agree to have their names released publicly and to participate willingly in academic ceremonies such as commencement and in donor stewardship activities, which may involve writing letters, attending events, etc.

The Next Step Scholarship for the 2023-2024 academic year is a two-year scholarship. Students must also show satisfactory progress toward a degree by meeting the following minimum requirements:

Maintain a cumulative UW Tacoma GPA of at least 3.00

Be consecutively enrolled each quarter (not including summer quarter)

Nomination Materials:

All nomination materials are to be assembled by the president (or designee) at the participating community college and complete packets sent to the UW Tacoma Next Step Scholars Selection Committee.

Nomination materials include:

From the president

Institutional nomination form (president's signature required)

Official student transcripts from the nominating college.

From the applicant

Biographical information form

Release authorization and statement of candidacy form

Honors, awards, memberships, enrichment activities, leadership, and community service form (if applicable)

One letters of recommendation (faculty signatures required)

Incomplete nomination packets will result in disqualification.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

To be completed by the nominee.

Name: _____

Student ID number (current institution): _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone Number: _____

Nominating Institution: _____

Number of community college credits **completed** through January 15, 2023: _____

Have you submitted a complete transfer application to UW Tacoma for autumn quarter 2023?

☐ YES ☐ NO

If NO, will you meet all UW Tacoma requirements in time to enroll for autumn quarter 2023, to the best of your knowledge? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Academic program in which I plan to enroll at UW Tacoma: _____

RELEASE AUTHORIZATION AND STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

To be completed by the nominee.

I, _____, wish to be considered as a candidate for the UW Tacoma Next Step Scholars award. I understand that this scholarship is primarily intended to support full-time study. Permission is hereby granted to officials of my nominating institution to release transcripts of my academic record to date and other information requested as part of the scholarship application form. I understand that any portion of this application may be released to the public should I be offered and accept the award and that participation in donor stewardship activities and academic ceremonies as outlined in the award acceptance agreement will be mandatory.

Nominee's signature: _____ Date: _____

HONORS, AWARDS, MEMBERSHIPS, ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES, LEADERSHIP, AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

To be completed by the nominee.

I. Honors Program Participation/Academic Awards/Memberships, Enrichment Activities, Leadership, and Community Service (if applicable): Please describe your participation in any programs or activities that are relevant. Include dates of participation.

Activity	Description	Dates Participated	Hours Per Week (if applicable)