Admissions Guide UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON





STRONG STUDENT SUPPORTS





29
AVERAGE
CLASS SIZE

100%

FACULTY
TAUGHT









JOB OUTCOMES





DEGREE



Picture this: one university, three awesome campuses. Sounds pretty cool, right?

But let's dive deeper into what it truly means for you. First things first, when you rock that cap and gown, your degree will proudly bear the name University of Washington. And trust us, that's a big deal. UW is a powerhouse known for groundbreaking research, academic excellence, and producing grads who are out there changing the world!

Bottom line: UW Tacoma grads are UW grads, part of an incredible legacy that stretches far and wide.



YOU ARE MORE THAN A CHECKBOX.

At UW Tacoma, we believe in celebrating the richness of human diversity. Our inclusive community embraces students from all walks of life, backgrounds, and experiences. We don't just talk about diversity, we live it. Your unique perspectives, lived experiences, and cultural identities are not only respected but valued here. Together, we will break down barriers, foster understanding, and build bridges of empathy that transcend differences. Your voice matters, and we are committed to empowering you to thrive academically, personally and socially.

UW TACOMA STUDENT POPULATION

4,980

Don't let the term "small classroom" mislead you into picturing miniature desks. At UW Tacoma, small means a personalized learning experience where you engage one-on-one with professors who know your name and are genuinely invested in your success. You'll build lasting friendships with professors and classmates that extend well beyond the academic term.



We love to brag.

UW TACOMA IS RANKED



BEST COLLEGE IN WASHINGTON The Wall St. Journal/College Pulse, 2024



"2024 BEST BANG FOR THE BUCK" IN WASHINGTON Washington Monthly, 2024



TOP PERFORMER ON SOCIAL MOBILITY IN WASHINGTON U.S. News & World Report, 2025



TOP PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES IN THE WEST U.S. News & World Report, 2025













ACADEMICS tacoma.uw.edu/majors

Whether you see yourself exploring the mysteries of science, diving deep into the wonders of humanities, sharpening your business skills, or making a positive impact through the social sciences, we've got the perfect academic pathway to ignite your curiosity and nurture your intellectual growth.

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

■ Education BA

Prepare justice-oriented K-12 teachers. Students earn an endorsement in Elementary Education and English Language Learners or Special Education.

SCHOOL OF

ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY

■ Civil Engineering BS

Design and construct public works, such as dams, bridges and other large infrastructure projects.

■ Computer Engineering BS

Design, construct and implement hardware/software elements at the forefront of modern circuit and microprocessor design, software engineering and embedded systems.

■ Computer Science and Systems BS

Direct application of computer science theories and principles to design software that meets current industry needs.

■ Computer Science and Systems BA

Pair computer science coursework with a minor of your choice to create an interdisciplinary major.

Electrical Engineering BS

Design circuits, algorithms and devices to collect, store, transfer and display electronic information for various applications.

■ Information Technology BS

Theoretical and practical approach to analyzing, designing, integrating and managing information systems to meet the needs of end users.

■ Mechanical Engineering BS

Application of engineering principles to model, analyze and design systems in aerospace, robotics, healthcare, energy and manufacturing.

SCHOOL OF

INTERDISCIPLINARY ARTS & SCIENCES

Arts, Media and Culture BA

Focus on how art and media impact and transform culture.

Biomedical Sciences BS

Examine life sciences and prepare for employment in healthcare and biology related fields.

Communication BA

Theoretical and practical examination of mass media through an interdisciplinary curriculum.

Economics and Policy Analysis BA

Use economic reasoning to engage critically with policy in various public service fields.

Environmental Science BS

Science focused on understanding and solving environmental issues.

Environmental Sustainability BA

Understand, analyze and solve environmental and sustainability challenges.

Ethnic, Gender and Labor Studies BA

Examine how communities form and are transformed, with a focus on the relationship between social class, race and ethnicity, and gender.

Global Studies Concentration BA

Explore artistic, cultural, political and economic patterns in an international context. Advanced language study is an integral component.

History BA

Analyze roots and causes of contemporary issues in society, politics and culture.

Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences BA

A broad exposure to key areas of knowledge within the arts and sciences.

Law and Policy BA

Develop theoretical reasoning and analytical skills for assessing current topics in law and policy.

Mathematics BS

Explore a broad range of ideas in mathematics and its applications with a strong theoretical and practical basis.







Politics, Philosophy & Economics BA

An interdisciplinary approach to study social phenomena through the analysis of the institutions, values, and markets that shape them.

Psychology BA

Examine the psychological, biological, and contextual determinants of human behavior.

Spanish Language and Cultures BA

Develop Spanish language skills, intercultural competence, and historical and political contexts of Spain, and the Americas.

Writing Studies BA

Focus on writing dynamically across genres for diverse audiences.

MILGARD SCHOOL OF

BUSINESS

■ Accounting BA

Focus on recording and reporting financial transactions and the use of that data in fiscal decision-making in public and private accounting.

■ Finance BA

Study financial markets, portfolio management, financial planning, investing, banking and how financial services function in a global economy.

■ General Business BA

Explore a wide range of business disciplines, including data analytics, entrepreneurship, finance, international business, management and marketing.

■ Management BA

Develop the ability to get work done with and through other people in a variety of organizations and in rapidly changing environments.

■ Marketing BA

Study consumer behavior, product development, advertising, retailing, sales management, distribution and social media to develop competitive marketing strategies.

SCHOOL OF

NURSING & HEALTHCARE LEADERSHIP

Healthcare Leadership BA

Prepare for leadership roles in a variety of healthcare organizations with a focus on equity, information technology and budgeting.

■ Nursing RN to BSN*

An efficient path for Registered Nurses (RN) to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. Emphasizes communication, critical thinking, cultural sensitivity, policy and quality management. *Must be a Washington-licensed RN before starting this program.

SCHOOL OF

SOCIAL WORK & CRIMINAL JUSTICE

■ Criminal Justice BA

A multidisciplinary understanding of crime and justice from a social justice perspective. On site or Online.

■ Social Welfare BA

Prepare competent, ethical and culturally-responsive social workers committed to social justice and evidence-based practice with an emphasis on poor and underserved populations.

SCHOOL OF

URBAN STUDIES

Sustainable Urban Development BA

Study the global movement for significant "greening" of urban development through environmental quality, economic prosperity and social equality.

■ Urban Design BS

Create and improve livability in our cities. Using community engagement and digital skills to produce design solutions.

Urban Studies BA

Study cities and how they function, how people interact, the role of government, and how growth and development are planned.

[■] Some majors require an additional secondary application separate from the UW Tacoma application. Contact an Admissions Counselor for details.

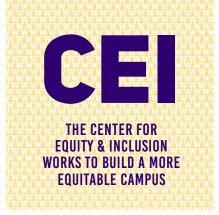
STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

Associated Students of UW Tacoma

Registered Student Organizations

Service & Leadership

Student Publications





LEARN WITH THE BEST

At UW Tacoma, brilliance knows no bounds. Many of our students have faced adversity in their lives, yet their resilience and determination shine through. Social mobility is at the heart of our mission, as over half of our students are the first in their family to pursue higher education. Their passion for learning is matched only by their commitment to creating positive change for their families and the world.

FUTURE-FOCUSED PROGRAMS

Career Development

Use our resources to develop, evaluate, and implement career and post-education decisions.

tacoma.uw.edu/career

Legal Pathways

Interested in becoming a lawyer? We will help you with your LSAT preparation, mentorship, and law school application.

tacoma.uw.edu/legal-pathways

Global Honors

Add to your major, combining research, travel, and seminar learning for highly-motivated students.

tacoma.uw.edu/global-honors

NextGen Civic Leader Corps

Join a tri-campus and national community of peers interested in careers in public service.

tacoma.uw.edu/iige/nextgen



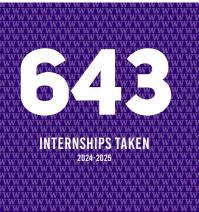
FIRST GEN FELLOWS

SUPPORT STUDENTS WHO ARE THE FIRST IN THEIR FAMILY TO ATTEND COLLEGE









THE POWER OF INTERNSHIPS

An academic internship is one of the most rewarding things you can do while you are a UW Tacoma student. Apply your learning in the real world, gain industry experience and make important professional connections.

8,958

COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS DONATED BY STUDENTS DURING 2024-25





LEARN FROM THE BEST

This isn't just about learning—it's about doing. Our faculty bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise from diverse backgrounds. Our faculty understands that to make a real impact on the world, you must start in your own backyard. This philosophy extends to the deep care faculty have for their students and to the community-engaged research that focuses on issues impacting the city, state and region.



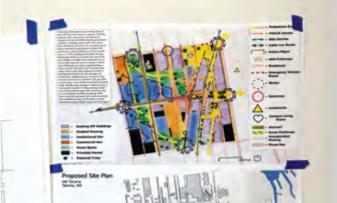
STUDENT-FACULTY RATIO

UW YACOMA, AUTUMN 2024

Dr. Robin Evans-Agnew is the kind of educator who blends warmth and humor with fierce advocacy for environmental justice. Originally a school nurse, he was struck by how deeply asthma affected students—especially in underserved communities—and how little he had been taught about its real-world complexity. This sparked a journey into public health research, where he now uses creative tools like "Photovoice," empowering students to document their experiences with asthma and environmental hazards through photography. His work has helped shape legislation, uncover healthcare biases, and highlight how issues like poor housing and air pollution disproportionately affect low-income and minority communities. He also partners with students to collect air samples and document indoor pollution, turning research into a tool for empowerment. His message to students is clear: your voice matters, and you can use it to challenge injustice and create change.









Dr. Luna Zhang's recognition as a Reign FC and Starbucks Legend is a powerful reminder of how one person's dedication can ripple through a community. Honored before a packed stadium, Dr. Zhang was celebrated not only for her award-winning research in business analytics and operations but also for her deep commitment to mentoring students—an impact that earned her the Outstanding Faculty Award from the student body. That kind of influence doesn't just shape careers—it transforms lives. Dr. Zhang has shown that success is about more than personal achievement—it's about lifting others as you climb. Whether you're dreaming of a future in business, tech, or any other field, Dr. Zhang's unwavering support for her students proves that with passion, perseverance, and a little courage, you can make a difference—and be recognized for it.

Imagine walking into your engineering class and instead of just solving textbook problems, you're diving into real-world research that could shape the future of transportation. That's exactly what's happening in Dr. Angela Kitali's civil engineering class, where a bold new approach called CURE-Course-based Undergraduate Research Experience—is transforming engineering education. CUREs are giving students handson experience with real data, real problems, and real impact. Students investigated micromobility in Tacoma—think scooters and skateboards-and how they might complement public transit. They analyzed usage patterns, safety concerns, and even the effects of rising gas prices, all while collaborating with city officials and private companies. Students walk away with something powerful: curiosity, creativity, and a standout experience for their resumes. CUREs aren't just about solving problems—they're about opening doors.



Eric Barone graduated from UW Tacoma in 2011 with a computer science degree and then did something amazing. With no job lined up, he started building a video game by himself to improve his skills. That game became Stardew Valley, a farming and life simulator that millions of people around the world now love. Eric didn't just code it-he also created the art, music, and story, all on his own over four years. When it launched in 2016, it became a massive hit and proved that one person with passion and persistence can make something incredible. His journey shows that even if your path isn't clear after college, you can still create your own success.

BETHE BEST

Our alumni are game changers. They've got big hearts and even bigger minds that they use in their respective fields and communities. They came to campus with dreams and we helped make them reality.

This place is more than 46 acres of brick, it's a culture, a mindset, one that cares about transformation and lifting people up so they can lift up others.

Christian "CJ" James graduated in 2024 with a degree in biomedical sciences and is now an M.D. candidate at the UW School of Medicine. His journey began at Pierce College through the Running Start program, and he chose UW Tacoma to stay close to home and support his dad, who needed medical care. While in college, CJ volunteered at MultiCare Allenmore Hospital and worked in a campus research lab, gaining real-world experience that fueled his passion for medicine. As a UW Tacoma Dressel Scholar, he connected with mentors who helped him stay focused and reach his goal of becoming a family doctor dedicated to serving underrepresented communities. Now, he's chasing that dream—follow his med school journey at #HealWithCJ.





Roxy Magno graduated from UW Tacoma in 2015 with a degree in Social Welfare—and found her calling in helping others. She later earned her Master of Social Work from UW Seattle and now works at the Multicultural Child and Family Hope Center, supporting families in need. But Roxy's impact doesn't stop there. She co-founded Krownless Kings, a youth arts and mentorship program in Tacoma that helps kids see creativity in everything—from sports to science to music. Her goal? To make sure every child feels like an artist, no matter their background. Roxy stayed in Tacoma to give back to the community that shaped her, proving that leadership, heart, and creativity can change lives.

WHERE HUSKIES WORK



































































LIVE HERE

Oops! Overslept again? Don't worry, you've got this! Good thing you live on campus. Quick, freshen up with a splash of water, throw on some decent clothes, and off to class you go. Living on campus offers countless perks—like making lifelong friends, diving into exciting events, and living in the heart of the city. Plus, why not join a themed Living Learning Community that aligns perfectly with your interests? The best of urban and campus living is right at your doorstep.

AMENITIES

SPACIOUS STUDIO, 1- AND 2- BR UNITS (SHARED)	PRIVATE BATHROOMS	UTILITIES AND WIFI	FURNITURE ESSENTIALS PROVIDED	FULL KITCHEN
WASHER/DRYER IN UNIT	COMMUNITY ROOM	SECURED GARAGE WITH PAID PERMIT	LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITIES	NEARBY TO BUS, TRAIN AND LIGHTRAIL

CHECK OUT FLOOR PLANS AND PRICING.

tacoma.uw.edu/housing





registered student organizations

PLAY HERE

Get ready to unleash the fun at the Y-M-C-A! Our campus is home to our very own YMCA. Step inside and explore our cutting-edge gym, equipped with top-of-the-line cardio gear, weights, and an adrenaline-pumping rock-climbing wall. The University Y Student Center is more than a fitness center, it's the vibrant heartbeat of our campus. Engage in intramural sports, student government, and clubs that ignite your passions. And here's the best part: as a UW Tacoma student, you enjoy exclusive access to YMCA facilities nationwide.

ENGAGE. LEAD. PLAY.

tacoma.uw.edu/student-life

GROW HERE

From academic advising and tutoring to mental health support and food resources, we've got your back. Whether you're navigating your class schedule, adjusting to campus life, or just need someone to talk to, our dedicated staff and centers—like the Teaching & Learning Center, Psychological and Wellness Services, and Student Pack Advisors—are here to help you thrive. Whatever life throws your way, we're here to support your journey.



STUDENT SUPPORTS

Advocacy & Support

Need help with housing, food, or academics? OSAS connects you to campus and community resources so you can focus on your goals.

Campus Safety & Security

Feel safe 24/7 with campus safety officers and the SafeCampus hotline. Report concerns, get help, and stay protected-your wellbeing matters.

Career Development

From resumes to job fairs, Career Development helps you land internships, explore careers, and connect with employers.

Center for Equity & Inclusion

Celebrate your identity and build community through events, mentoring, and creative programs that make everyone feel at home.

Childcare & Family Support

Balancing school and family? Get help with childcare costs, parenting resources, and support spaces on campus.

Disability Resources

DRS ensures equal access with personalized accommodations and support for students with disabilities.

First-Generation Students

First in your family to go to college? Get mentorship, community, and guidance to thrive.

Husky Post Prison Pathways

If you've been incarcerated, this program offers advising. resources, and support to help you succeed in college.

International Student & Scholar Services

New to the U.S.? ISSS helps with visas, health insurance, and adjusting to life at UW Tacoma.

Passport Champions

If you've experienced foster care or homelessness, Passport Champions offers financial aid, housing help, and academic support.

Psychological & Wellness Services (PAWS)

Free counseling and wellness support to help you manage stress, emotions, and mental health during college.

Student Health

Get 24/7 virtual healthcare, wellness items, and health education—all free and student-focused.

Scholarships & Fellowships

Earn recognition and financial support through scholarships and fellowships for your achievements and leadership.

Teaching & Learning Center

Need a study boost? Get tutoring, workshops, and 1:1 help to sharpen your academic skills.

Academic Advising

Plan your classes, track your degree, and stay on course to graduate with help from academic advisors.

UW Libraries

Access millions of resources, study spaces, and expert help for research and assignments—online and on campus.

Veteran & Military Resource Center

Military-affiliated? Get support with G.I. benefits, transitions, and campus life through this dedicated center.









FIRST-YEAR ADMISSION

GUARANTEED ADMISSION

Did you know you could have guaranteed admissions to UW Tacoma? See if you qualify:



tacoma.uw.edu/admissions/ guaranteed-admission

tacoma.uw.edu/firstyear

We believe in your unique potential. While grades play a part in our application review, they are just one piece of the puzzle. We're interested in the full story—the challenges you've overcome, the passions that drive you, and the leadership qualities you possess. Share your journey with us, from extracurricular activities to personal growth. We take everything into account, ensuring we recognize the individual you are.

REQUIRED HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES

- English (4 years)
- Math (3 years) Algebra, Geometry, Algebra II
- Social Sciences (3 years)
- Science (3 years) Including 2 years of labs and 1 algebra-based
- World Language (2 years)
- Sr. Quantitative Course (1 year)
 Intermediate algebra or higher, stats, chemistry or physics, etc.
- Fine, Visual or Performing Arts (½ year)
- Academic Elective (1/2 year)

COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION

- Create a Common App account
- Self-reported transcripts and a personal statement
- \$60 application fee (waivers are available)

RUNNING START STUDENTS

- Apply as a first-year student
- Send your **official** community college transcripts after completion of your Running Start experience. A complete evaluation will be done upon receipt.







TRANSFER ADMISSION

tacoma.uw.edu/transfer

Ooh, looks like you're out of high school and have some college credits under your belt. Now you're ready to take the next step! Check out the transfer admission criteria below and be sure to check out those helpful links on the right-hand side of the page.

MORE THAN >40 TRANSFERABLE CREDITS

- Minimum 2.0 GPA in transferable courses
- Official college transcripts Official high school transcripts may be needed
- \$60 application fee (waivers available)

LESS THAN < 40 TRANSFERABLE CREDITS

- Minimum 2.0 GPA in transferable courses
- Completed required high school classes
- Official college AND high school transcripts
- (Optional) SAT or ACT test score, submitted directly from the testing agency. Use school code: 4445 (SAT) or 4493 (ACT)
- Submit official AP, IB, or CLEP scores (if applicable)
- \$60 application fee (waivers available)

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

tacoma.uw.edu/admissions/international-students

- Submit transcripts. Foreign college transcripts must be submitted WITH official English translations.
- Proof of English proficiency. Can be fulfilled through accepted coursework at a U.S. college or by submitting official test scores directly from the testing agencies:

tacoma.uw.edu/admissions/english-language-proficiency

- \$75 international application fee

OUESTIONS?

tacoma.uw.edu/meet-your-counselor



TRANSFER GUARANTEED

Washington residents who have completed an approved transfer degree (DTA) at a Washington community college with a minimum cumulative 2.75 GPA, and have applied by the due date are guaranteed general admission to UW Tacoma.

TRANSFER TUESDAY SESSIONS

Learn about the transfer admissions process, degrees and majors offered, and general campus information. Some sessions will host academic programs. Register on-line:

tacoma.uw.edu/transfertuesdays

TRANSFER TOOLS

Transfer Planning Worksheets include major prerequisites, application details, UW Areas of Inquiry and transfer equivalency tools.

tacoma.uw.edu/admissions/ planning-your-transfer

MyPlan is the UW's online academic planning tool, enabling you to search courses, check course equivalencies, create academic plans, build multi-quarter schedules and share your plans with your admissions counselor. You do not have to be enrolled to use MyPlan. myplan.uw.edu

Check the **UW Equivalency Guide** for Washington state community and technical colleges:

admit.washington.edu/apply/ transfer/equivalency-guide



PAYING FOR COLLEGE

UW Tacoma's Office of Student Financial Aid & Scholarships provides education, guidance, and support to individuals and families in the financial aid process. Here are some resources to start:

studentaid.gov

Complete the FAFSA to be eligible for federal and state grants, loans and/or work study. **UW Tacoma code: 003798**

wsac.wa.gov/wasfa

 $\label{lem:complete} \mbox{Complete the WASFA if you're a DREAMer or undocumented resident.}$

UW Tacoma code: 003798

tacoma.uw.edu/netpricecalculator

Our online tool is designed to help you and your family's estimated financial aid and cost to attend UW Tacoma.

tacoma.uw.edu/scholarships

We offer a variety of scholarships for students. Some are based on merit; others require applicants to demonstrate financial need.

ESTIMATED DIRECT COSTS

IN-STATE RESIDENTS

Tuition + fees: \$13,577

NON-RESIDENTS

Tuition + fees: **\$44,811**Housing* \$16,371

ESTIMATED INDIRECT COSTS

Housing* \$16,371 Living with family \$5,844 Personal: \$2,508 Transportation: \$1,074 Books and supplies: \$900

* On-campus housing is optional and rates vary per room type and length of stay.

QUESTIONS? THE ANSWERS YOU SEEK ARE HERE.

tacoma.uw.edu/ finaid/getting-started

UW HUSKY PROMISE

It's our promise to Washington residents that we will not let financial challenges stand in the way. Full tuition and standard fees will be covered by grants or scholarship support for eligible students. *Guaranteed.* **huskypromise.uw.edu**







GET MORE INFO

CONTACT YOUR ADMISSIONS COUNSELOR

We are available for one-on-one consultations to answer your questions and help you navigate the admissions process. Call, email or live chat. 253-692-4742 or 800-736-7750 or **uwtinfo@uw.edu**









including American Sign Language interpretation, contact the Office of

Admissions at 253-692-4742 or uwtinfo@ uw.edu. UW Tacoma makes every effort to honor disability accommodation requests. Requests can be responded to most effectively

if received as far in advance of the event as possible, preferably at least 10 days.

TITLOW

POINT DEFIANCE



VISIT US



Like what you see? Well, there's a lot more we can show you. Stop by our new Welcome Center on campus or connect with our office to plan the visit experience that works best for you:

tacoma.uw.edu/visit or email UWTwelcomecenter@uw.edu



1900 COMMERCE STREET TACOMA WA 98402-3100 TACOMA.UW.EDU









The University of Washington Tacoma is accredited as a part of the University of Washington by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. Individual academic programs may have additional accreditations. The University of Washington prohibits discrimination, harassment and sexual misconduct in any education program or activity that it operates. Individuals may report concerns, make complaints, or direct inquiries to the Civil Rights Compliance Office. The notice of nondiscrimination is located at: