



UW TACOMA

ROOTED IN PURPOSE. POWERED BY COMMUNITY.
2026 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



A SHARED COMMITMENT TO ACCESSIBLE HIGHER EDUCATION

Despite a challenging state budget environment, **UW Tacoma continues to grow**, with **rising enrollment** and **strong demand for our academic programs** — clear evidence of the university's value to Washington's students, employers, and communities.

At the same time, in the 2025 session, the state reduced its share of required employee compensation costs — from **60% to 42%** — resulting in a **\$3 million reduction** to UW Tacoma's operating budget. Because **nearly all (90%) of UW Tacoma's operating budget is state-supported**, there is little flexibility to absorb further cuts without affecting students and core programs.

Amid these pressures, we remain committed to partnering with the Legislature to **stabilize funding for core operations** and **advance our shared goals for access, workforce development, and economic vitality**.

A UNIVERSITY BUILT WITH AND FOR THE SOUTH SOUND

Over three decades ago, South Sound leaders laid the groundwork for a bold idea: establishing a public university in the heart of downtown Tacoma to expand local access to higher education and strengthen the region's economy.

That vision became UW Tacoma — a campus created with and for the community.



A rendering of what UW Tacoma's Mount Rainer vista could look like as part of the vision outlined in the new campus master plan. | For illustrative purposes only.

35 YEARS STRONG. A BOLD JOURNEY AHEAD.

Imagine UW Tacoma 35 years from now. Our vision for the future will fuel opportunity, spark innovation, and strengthen our region and state for generations to come.

- To transform from a commuter-focused campus into a **dynamic, more residential institution**.
- To expand access to higher education by **doubling our enrollment from 5,000 students to 10,000**.
- To **develop our campus footprint** and ensure UW Tacoma continues to evolve as a leading urban-serving university.



UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON | TACOMA

The University of Washington Tacoma is an urban-serving institution committed to expanding access to higher education and driving positive change across the South Sound and beyond.

Sheila Edwards Lange, Ph.D.
Chancellor, UW Tacoma

5,059

Student Headcount

+2% growth over previous year

Unless otherwise noted, all information shown is current as of Autumn quarter 2025.



35,424

Degrees/Certificates Awarded since 1990



19%

Military-affiliated students



93%

of our students are from **Washington**

76% Come from Pierce, Thurston, or South King County
As determined by application address



60%

Students of color (undergraduate)
35% Underserved students of color



47%

Eligible for Pell grants
\$67.5M in financial aid was disbursed in the 2024-25 academic year



8/10

Alumni stay in Washington



52%

of undergraduate students are **First to College or First to Degree**



UW Tacoma is Washington's only FirstGen Forward Network Champion



15:1

Student-faculty ratio

\$359M

UW Tacoma's annual **economic impact to Washington**
Parker Strategy Group, 2024

#1

TOP PERFORMER FOR SOCIAL MOBILITY IN WASHINGTON (#19 OVERALL)

U.S. News & World Report, 2026

#1

BEST BANG FOR THE BUCK IN WASHINGTON (#19 OVERALL)

Washington Monthly, 2025

#1

BEST FOR VETS COLLEGE IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Military Times, 2026

UW Tacoma offers more than **60 undergraduate** majors, minors and study options, **15 graduate programs** and a variety of professional development courses and certificates.

MOST POPULAR MAJORS

1. Computer Science
2. Biomedical Sciences
3. Information Technology
4. Psychology
5. Accounting
6. Finance
7. Social Welfare
8. Nursing (*tie*)
8. Electrical Engineering (*tie*)
9. Business (General)

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UW TACOMA'S STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-27

tacoma.uw.edu/chancellor/strategic-planning

