

Next Step Scholarship

The University of Washington Tacoma Next Step Scholars Endowment recognizes and rewards exceptional scholarly achievement at the community college level. The fund was specifically created to motivate top students at seven South Puget Sound community colleges to enroll at UW Tacoma. In bringing top community college scholars to UW Tacoma each year, the endowment hopes to achieve the following objectives:

- Improve the quality of the South Puget Sound regional workforce
- Strengthen the bonds between UW Tacoma and its primary transfer institutions
- Improve the classroom experience for all UW Tacoma students

Seven scholarships are available, one for each community college. 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 Community College
- Highline Community 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, 2018. 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 2019 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Should a prospective student accept the scholarship and then not qualify for transfer or enrollment, the award will be withdrawn and may go unfilled that year.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 already have earned a bachelor's degree, or are pursuing graduate study, will not be considered for this scholarship.

If a student is selected, he or she has 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.

Nomination and Application Procedures/Selection Criteria

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/personal statement, 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

Two letters of recommendation are 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, provide a personal statement, and secure two letters of recommendation from faculty (see above). If the student has attended any other colleges/universities, then the student will need to submit official transcripts from all previous institutions attended in the last five years, 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 12, 2019. UW Tacoma will notify the recipient(s) by May 10, 2019.

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 2019, 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.

Scholarship Renewal Criteria

To qualify for the second year of the scholarship, students must 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

1. Institutional nomination form (president's signature required)
2. Official student transcripts from all colleges/universities attended in the last five years

From the applicant

1. Biographical information form
2. Release authorization and statement of candidacy form (student signature required)
2. Honors, awards, memberships, enrichment activities, leadership, and community service form
3. Personal statement
4. Two letters of recommendation (faculty signatures required)
5. Official student transcripts from all previous colleges/universities attended in the last five years (if applicable)

If additional forms are needed, please call 253-692-4374.

Each application must be neatly typed. The forms are provided in Acrobat PDF files that allow you to fill in the fields on your computer. Personal statements must have one-inch margins on all sides and be no less than 12-point type.

Incomplete nomination packets will result in disqualification.

Biographical Information

To be completed by the nominee.

Name: _____

Student ID number (current institution): _____ Last 4 digits of SSN: xxx-xx-_____

Street Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone (day): _____ (evening): _____

Nominating Institution: _____

Number of community college credits **completed** through January 15, 2019: _____

Have you submitted a complete transfer application to UW Tacoma for autumn quarter 2019?

YES NO

If NO, will you meet all UW Tacoma requirements in time to enroll for autumn quarter 2019, to the best of your knowledge? YES NO

List all colleges and universities you have attended in the last five years or will attend before enrolling at the UW.

Do not exclude or omit any institutions, regardless of how many credits you earn(ed) there or the nature of the program in which you were/are enrolled. Failure to disclose all colleges and universities may result in ineligibility for the Next Step Scholarship. Attach an additional page if necessary.

Name of College/University *Location (City/State/Country, if outside U.S.)* *Dates Attended (From/To)*

Cumulative college grade-point average based on **all** institutions listed above: _____

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

Release Authorization and Statement of Candidacy

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: _____

Personal Statement

Name of Nominee: _____

Each nominee is required to submit a personal essay of no more than 1,500 words. The essay should address an outstanding educational experience you have had and its impact on developing personal, academic and professional goals. Essays must be typed on sheets attached to this form. They should be double-spaced with one-inch margins and 12-point type.

Letter of Recommendation No. 1

*To be completed by a **faculty member**.*

Please discuss your experience with the nominee's academic scholarship, intellectual capacity, personal integrity, analytical skills, communications skills, and any other characteristics you believe will result in continued academic success.

The nominee is urged to provide a copy of her or his biographical information sheet to the individual making this recommendation. The recommendation should be completed on a separate sheet and attached to this form.

Name of Nominee: _____

Your Name: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

How long have you known the nominee? _____

In what capacity? _____

Letter of Recommendation No. 2

*To be completed by a **faculty member**.*

Please discuss your experience with the nominee's academic scholarship, intellectual capacity, personal integrity, analytical skills, communications skills, and any other characteristics you believe will result in continued academic success.

The nominee is urged to provide a copy of her or his biographical information sheet to the individual making this recommendation. The recommendation should be completed on a separate sheet and attached to this form.

Name of Nominee: _____

Your Name: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

How long have you known the nominee? _____

In what capacity? _____