



Supporting the next generation of STEM & health care leaders

WASHINGTON STATE OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP OVERVIEW

The Washington State Opportunity Scholarship (WSOS) investment provides college scholarship awards and career-building programs to low- and middle-income students pursuing eligible, high-demand majors and health care in Washington State. If you are curious, innovative, analytical, and/or resourceful this is an incredible opportunity to join a community committed to you and the economic development of our state.

WSOS Award Structure: WSOS is renewable for up to five years of full-time college attendance at a 2- or 4- year public or private Washington state college or university. First- and second- year Scholars receive up to \$2,500 per academic year. When a recipient has attained junior-class standing and been admitted into one of the eligible and approved high-demand majors (e.g., science, technology, engineering and mathematics or specific health care disciplines), the Scholarship is increased up to \$5,000. Fourth-year Scholars, who have achieved senior class standing receive up to \$7,500; and a fifth year of up to \$5,000 support is available.

To Apply: The WSOS application will be available through the WSOS website starting in January 2017. *Applicants must:*

- Have earned or will earn a high school diploma or GED from a Washington State high school or institution by June 2017. You are not eligible if you graduated from a high school outside of Washington State.
- Must be a high school senior or a college freshman or sophomore (as determined by total college credits earned) at the time of application. Visit the WSOS website to see how we determine eligibility with regards to AP, IB, college and transfer credits.
- Have a total annual individual or family income less than or equal to 125% of median Washington State family income (available at www.ofm.wa.gov/economy/hhinc/).
- Have a high school or college cumulative GPA of 2.75 or higher at the time of application.
- Be enrolling in an eligible, Washington state college or university fall term 2017. *Please note:* If you will be attending a public community or technical college in fall of 2017 that does not offer a four-year degree in your eligible high-demand major, you must be planning to transfer to one of the four-year colleges/universities referenced above by the time you have earned 90 quarter credits.
- Apply for the Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.gov -or- the Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA) at www.readysetgrad.org/wasfa. Students need not qualify for aid but must apply to one of these applications by the deadline stated in 2017.
- Complete the online application – including submitting required information and completing a 150-300 word essay before **February 28, 2017**.

WSOS will award 1,850 new scholarships next year! We are excited to receive completed online applications from Washington State high school seniors, and graduates that are newly enrolled in college and/or have not yet been formally accepted into their college major. Our application period this year is **January 3rd – February 28th, 2017**. Visit <http://www.waopportunitiescholarship.org> today to learn more about the scholarship, related deadlines, and associated student opportunities.

USEFUL INFORMATION FOR THE 2017 APPLICATION

Total Family Income (adjusted gross income plus all untaxed income) cannot exceed this amount:

# in Household	Maximum Income
Family of 1	\$56,500
Family of 2	\$73,500
Family of 3	\$91,000
Family of 4	\$108,500
Family of 5	\$126,000
Family of 6	\$143,000
Family of 7	\$146,500
Family of 8	\$149,500

2016-2017 | ESSAY PROMPT

A minimum of 150 and a maximum of 300 words are required for the essay question before the application can be submitted. Please answer one of the following:

1. Washington state is a global leader in many industries such as computer science, engineering, health care, and agriculture. The success of these industries can be attributed to inspirational individuals and leaders. *Please tell us why* one of these individuals or companies inspires your pursuit of a science, technology, engineering, math (STEM) or health care major at a Washington state college or university. Or,
2. Describe a personal experience that has kindled your interest in the pursuit of a STEM or health care degree.