



# University of Washington



## FRESHMAN ADMISSION TIP SHEET AND CHECK LIST

### HOW DOES THE UW SELECT THE FRESHMAN CLASS?

The University of Washington seeks students who can benefit from its wealth of academic and cultural opportunities and contribute to its amazing energy and rich diversity of experience. Choosing students from a very able group of applicants requires a selection process that looks beyond grades and standardized tests. While the UW looks at many factors in reviewing applications for admission, academic preparation and performance are still primary. Indicators of preparation and performance include:

- Academic performance: curriculum through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, course grades and test scores.
- Completion of academic courses beyond the required minimum.
- Enrollment in Honors, Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate courses.
- Enrollment in college and university courses while in high school.
- Academic awards.
- School and community activities, including evidence of exceptional artistic talent.
- Educational and economic disadvantage, cultural awareness, and personal adversity.

The University of Washington annually receives approximately 16,000 freshman applications and makes approximately 11,000 offers of acceptance, with approximately 5,000 students enrolling full time.

### CHECK LIST

The following is a checklist for applicants to use in completing the UW Freshman Admission Application. This tip sheet and check list are not intended to replace the application directions published by the Admissions Department. For more information go to:

<http://admit.washington.edu/>

- Educational Background/Test Scores. You must have your SAT/ACT scores sent to the UW from the testing agency. The UW will **ONLY** accept test scores sent directly from the testing agency and that include a writing segment on the test. Also, be sure to indicate if you have taken Running Start and/or Advanced Placement (AP) courses. [Note: If you intend to be a student-athlete your test scores must also be sent to the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse will **ONLY** accept test scores sent directly from the testing agency.]
  - SAT: [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)
  - ACT: [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)
  - When ordering scores from the testing agency you will need the following institutional codes:
    - 4854 – University of Washington
    - 9999 – NCAA Clearinghouse

- Core Subjects. It is important that you are accurate and include all college preparatory courses that you have completed and those that you will be taking your senior year.
- College Courses. If you have taken or are taking any college courses be sure to list them on the application.
- Writing Section. If you are going to be a student-athlete you are **REQUIRED** to write the Personal Statement, Short Response, Activities Log, **AND** the Additional Essay.

*Tips for the Personal Statement, Short Response and Additional Essay:*

- Do not rehash something apparent in your transcript or list of activities.
- Think of this as a creative writing essay about yourself; write about who you are.
- Don't be embarrassed to include personal information. Admissions does not share your information.
- If you discuss a personal hardship or barrier be sure to include how you've overcome/are overcoming it and how it has affected your education.
- When writing about cultural awareness, describe your understanding of cultural awareness and explain how this awareness was acquired and how it has affected you.
- Give specific examples of things that have happened to you.
- Before submitting your essays, have them reviewed by your guidance counselor or English teacher.

**Personal Statement (500-600 words):**

Write about an aspect of your life that is not apparent from your academic record. Possible topics include:

- An event in your life that either demonstrates your character or helped to shape it.
- Any personal hardships or barriers you've overcome and explain how they affected your education.
- Think of something you have experienced and describe your understanding of cultural awareness, how this awareness was acquired, and how it has affected you.

**Short Response (maximum length 250 words):**

Describe an experience of cultural difference, positive or negative, you have had or seen. What did you learn?

**Activities Log**

Using short paragraphs, list activities, leadership positions, achievements, and community service, and employment opportunities you have participated in.

**Additional Comments Essay (Maximum length 250 words):**

This is an additional essay where you can write about something describing you that you haven't already shared. You may write about personal hardships you have experienced, how your education has been limited by family obligations, goals you want to achieve, or any other topic that is of interest.

- Application Fee. Have a check or money order for \$50 made out to: University of Washington

- If you are unable to pay the fee, request a waiver from your high school guidance counselor verifying that the SAT or ACT fee was waived and submit the verification with your application.
- Official Transcripts. Have an official SEALED transcript from EVERY high school and college you have attended sent to the UW Admissions Department. In addition, you must have an official SEALED transcript from EVERY high school you attended sent to the NCAA Clearinghouse by the high school. No one is permitted to open the sealed transcripts except the UW Admissions Department or the NCAA Clearinghouse.

### **ITEMS TO SEND TO THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON**

- Completed application with \$50 check made out to: University of Washington.
- Three essays and Activities Log (personal statement & the two supplemental essays).
- Official sealed transcripts from all high schools and colleges attended.
- Official test scores sent from testing agency.