

News Releases

WGU Washington Offers \$40,000 in Scholarships to Current and Aspiring Teachers

*The nonprofit university’s teacher education program is top-ranked nationally*

SEATTLE — [WGU Washington](#) is offering \$40,000 to students interested in pursuing a degree in teaching through its new [Excellence in Education Scholarship](#). WGU Washington, the state-based affiliate of [Western Governors University \(WGU\)](#), boasts one of the nation’s top-ranked teacher education programs, according to the National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ). The Excellence in Education Scholarship is intended for current and aspiring teachers seeking a bachelor’s degree, master’s degree, or teaching certificate through the online university.

“Teachers help strengthen the foundation of our state, yet many communities in Washington are experiencing a shortage of qualified educators,” said Jean Floten, chancellor of WGU Washington. “Our university, with its low-cost, competency-based model, is well-suited to give hardworking men and women the skills and knowledge needed to fill that skills gap and begin enjoyable and rewarding careers as teachers.”

With more than 1,900 students across the state enrolled in its Teachers College, WGU Washington’s competency-based, online model allows students to study and learn on their own time and at their own pace. The university’s unique model is a modern and effective option for students looking to earn a high-quality degree in a career-focused field.

My daughter was born in the middle of my school term, but I was able to stop and be there for my family. That’s not something I could have done at another school,” said Mike Johnson, a graduate of WGU Washington’s Teachers College. “Because of WGU Washington, I’m going to be a math teacher. It’s opened so many doors; I wasn’t expecting to get a job before I graduated.”

WGU is the largest producer of math and science teachers in the country. In 2014, the university’s secondary math education program earned a number one ranking from the NCTQ. WGU was also the first exclusively online university to earn accreditation from the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

WGU Washington will award ten Excellence in Education Scholarships, each valued at up to \$4,000 (\$1,000 per six-month term, renewable for up to four terms). That money will be applied toward WGU Washington’s already-low tuition of less than \$6,000 per year for all Teachers College programs. Applications are currently being accepted at [washington.wgu.edu/excellence](#).

To be eligible for this scholarship, applicants must be newly enrolling students who have been officially admitted to the university. Applicants will be required to submit an essay and participate in an interview with a scholarship counselor. This is a competitive program, and scholarships will be awarded based on the student’s academic record, readiness for online study, and current competency, as well as other considerations. The application deadline is June 30, 2015. For more information about the Excellence in Education Scholarship, visit [washington.wgu.edu/excellence](#).

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