

# 2021 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



The University of Washington greatly appreciates the historic reinvestment in public higher education that occurred in the 2019–21 biennium, especially the 2019 Workforce Education Investment Act (HB 2158). After a decade of collective effort following the unprecedented cuts of the Great Recession era, these recent investments have only now returned the UW to original 2007–08 funding levels.

This progress is at risk due to the effects of COVID-19 on state revenue collections and University operations. Unlike in the previous recession, the UW cannot offset state funding cuts through steep tuition increases. Only modest increases to resident undergraduate tuition are allowed by the state's current tuition policy, but it would also not be feasible for students and families to bear significant increased costs at this time, because of the negative economic effects of COVID-19. For context, in order to generate sufficient incremental tuition revenue to offset a 15% state funding reduction, the University would need to increase resident undergraduate tuition by approximately 23.5% in just a single year.

It is imperative that the state design and implement creative budget solutions to protect current funding levels, including within the Workforce Education Investment Account. A significant reduction to the University's current level of funding, through cuts or reliance on large tuition increases, would have devastating effects resulting in reductions to student financial aid, staff positions and salaries, and the essential academic and administrative units that serve our students, build our state's workforce and generate billions of dollars in annual research and economic activity.

The events of 2020 also shine a spotlight on the essential role of the UW and UW Medicine in our state. We are serving Washingtonians through front-line mobilization against COVID-19, combating misinformation by promoting an educated and informed public, and recommitting to the ongoing pursuit of ending racism in our institution and throughout society.

## 2021-23 OPERATING BUDGET PRIORITIES

### Avoid cuts that would be detrimental to students, staff and faculty

While we recognize the budget pressures facing our state, it is crucial to consider the innumerable ways in which budget cuts to the UW would be harmful to the residents of Washington:

- **Support for underrepresented students:** State funding reductions will unavoidably impact financial aid, student support services, and accessibility and retention rates — especially for the low income, first-generation and BIPOC students who use these critical programs.
- **Pandemic response efforts:** The UW and UW Medicine have demonstrated their importance to front-line mobilization against COVID-19 through leadership in testing, research and treatment. Reductions to the University will impede our ability to continue fighting the virus with the urgency and efficacy that are desperately needed.
- **Economic impact:** The UW is the fifth-largest employer in the state and generates \$15.7 billion for the state economy annually. Cuts to faculty and staff, research and community service efforts would be detrimental to our robust and irreplaceable economic impact and would diminish the state's exponential return on investment.



### Preserve and expand state support for the UW's safety-net clinical care

In the 2019–21 biennium, the Legislature appropriated one-time funding of \$5 million per year for UW Medical Center and Harborview Medical Center and \$1 million per year for UW Dentistry clinics to support their roles as critical safety-net care providers in the state. UW Medicine and UW Dentistry are the leading providers of quality care to Medicaid, Medicare and uninsured patients across the state. Ensuring that this state funding is ongoing is critical for the continued care of our state's most vulnerable patient populations as well as for teaching and training our future and current health-care professionals. We are also asking the state to reimagine its support for a state hospital system that serves as an anchor in Washington's safety net and public health infrastructure. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted that UW Medical Center and Harborview provide critical support to statewide public health and special populations and that these unreimbursed services leave UW Medicine hospitals financially unstable.

### Support medical students in Spokane and eastern Washington

The UW School of Medicine is seeking \$2.3 million in annual funding, beginning in FY23, for rent and for facilities, fixture and equipment costs for the SIERR and 840 buildings in Spokane, which will provide new, state-of-the-art space for our medical school partnership with Gonzaga University. The new classroom and lab space will meet essential medical education program accreditation requirements. These facilities, which will be operational at the beginning of FY23, are being financed in a public-private partnership with Gonzaga and McKinstry and will not require any state capital support.



### Reform the One Washington central services funding formula

In the 2020 supplemental budget, the state added significant new charges for OFM Central Services related to the One Washington project. The UW is currently expected to cover 20% of the statewide cost of this program, with only one-third of the UW's costs covered by increased state appropriations. Because the current formula is based on total FTEs, regardless of fund source, the program is expected to require over \$12 million in UW student tuition dollars in FY22 alone. This formula is unsustainable and takes critical funding away from the UW's academic and student support mission in the midst of unprecedented campus challenges related to COVID-19.

### Provide maintenance and operations support for new state-funded health sciences teaching facility

The UW requests \$1.7 million in annual M&O funding, beginning in FY23, for the Health Sciences Education Building on its Seattle campus. This building recently received significant funding from the state capital budget and is almost entirely dedicated to teaching space for UW health sciences programs. Occupancy is expected on July 1, 2022.

### Support continued investments in the behavioral-health workforce

The UW requests \$2.4 million to continue planned funding ramp-ups of two psychiatry training investments funded in the 2019–21 biennial budget. Without increased state appropriations, these programs would not be able to continue as intended by the 2019 Legislature.

- **Child psychiatry fellowships:** Funding provided for the UW Medicine Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences to create two new child and adolescent psychiatry fellowships.
- **Psychiatry residencies:** Funding provided for the psychiatry residency program to offer four additional residency positions.



## 2021-23 CAPITAL BUDGET PRIORITIES

### **\$45.4M to construct a new interdisciplinary teaching and research facility for the College of Engineering in Seattle**

This 75,000-square-foot building will accommodate the past decade's significant growth in the UW College of Engineering. With support from the Legislature, the college has increased degree production by 83% since 2009. The new facility will serve over 7,000 students and will help accommodate future program growth supported by the Legislature in the FY19-21 biennium.

### **\$36M to construct a new business and engineering building at UW Tacoma**

This 50,000-square-foot building will house the fast-growing Milgard School of Business and high-demand new programs in mechanical and civil engineering supported by state operating funds. The main structure will be constructed using cross-laminated timber (CLT).



### **\$5M in design funding for phase 2 of the Magnuson Health Sciences Center renovation and replacement**

Current facilities were constructed in the 1970s and have mostly original infrastructure and an inflexible learning environment. This is the primary teaching space for the UW's six health sciences schools (Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Public Health and Social Work), which are ranked among the highest in the nation. The new facilities will serve 8,000 students, with 17% projected enrollment growth, in addition to continuing education for current health-care professionals across the state.

### **\$3M in design funding to plan renovation needs for Anderson Hall in Seattle**

The 36,000-square-foot building houses the UW's School of Environmental and Forest Sciences. The school serves over 650 students, postdoctoral fellows and faculty and has seen undergraduate enrollment double in the last 10 years. The building was constructed in 1925 and has an outdated and inflexible learning environment.

### **\$191.25M to build a new state-of-the-art Behavioral Health Teaching Facility**

Located on the campus of UW Medical Center-Northwest, the new six-story building, which is a critical component of the Legislature's historic commitment to expand behavioral-health services in our state, will have 150 beds serving adults on long-term civil commitment, older adults requiring geropsychiatry, adults on short-term voluntary commitment and behavioral-health patients with comorbidities and significant medical or surgical needs. The facility will house a statewide telepsychiatry consultation program and modern neuromodulation program. It will also provide multidisciplinary training and workforce development opportunities to the state's health-care professionals.



# UW FAST FACTS

## A NATIONAL LEADER IN AFFORDABILITY + ACCESS



The UW's 2019–20 tuition and fees for resident undergraduates is **\$11,745\*** — less than the average and median of our peers in U.S. News & World Report's Top 25 Public Research Universities.

\*Approved total. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some student fees have been temporarily suspended on a case-by-case basis.



About **60%** of UW undergraduate students graduate with no known debt, and those who borrow graduate with less debt than the national average.



In 2020–21, over **29%** of all first-year domestic UW students are the first generation in their families to earn a bachelor's degree.



In 2020–21, the UW is awarding approximately **\$102 million** in institutional grants and scholarships to Washington residents.

## ECONOMIC IMPACT BASED ON 2019 UW ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT

**\$15.7B+**

in total economic impact generated by the UW in Washington state.

**\$752.7M**

in tax revenue to state and local governments (including sales, property and business taxes) generated from UW-related activities.

The UW is one of Washington state's 5 largest employers, supporting

**100,520**

direct and indirect jobs.

## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS FROM ACROSS THE STATE

**74%**

of undergraduate students are residents of Washington state.

(Fall 2020)

### FALL 2020 TOTAL ENROLLMENT

	SEATTLE	BOTHELL	TACOMA	ALL UW
UNDERGRAD	32,827	5,664	4,578	43,069
GRAD./PROF.	15,907	662	802	17,349
TOTAL	48,734	6,326	5,380	60,418

**7,982**

undergraduate students (19%) across the three UW campuses transferred from the WA community college system (fall 2020).

**All 39**

counties in Washington state are represented by students at the UW.  
[Learn more about how the UW is making a difference in your community.](#)

The **2020–21** incoming freshman class is the largest and most racially and ethnically diverse UW class ever, with a higher number and proportion of students from underrepresented minority groups.