

Why Pursue Higher Education in the field of Early Childhood Education?

- Provides career growth and development
- Increases professional and business operating fundamentals
- Increases job satisfaction
- Acquire new ways to assist young children with preparing for a strong start in learning
- Enhances program quality
- Provides access to a diverse network of child care providers
- Develop skills to assist parents with understanding their child's development

Application Deadlines

Applications will be accepted year around, although scholarships will be awarded on a quarterly basis.

Application deadlines are as follows:

Winter ----- December 15

Spring ----- March 15

Summer ----- June 15

Fall ----- September 15

WA Scholarships for Child Care Professionals is made possible through generous contributions by:

The Bamford Foundation
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
Child Care Resource
First 5 Fundamentals
Thrive by Five Washington
WA State Department of Early Learning



Washington Scholarships for Child Care Professionals

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Program Objective

Washington Scholarships for Child Care Professionals (WA Scholarships) is a statewide program that provides scholarships to licensed child care center staff and family child care providers (FCC).

WA Scholarships covers between 75-90% of the scholars expenses. The scholars and sponsoring centers cover the remaining costs.

WA Scholarships links **compensation, education, and commitment** to enhancing the quality of Family Child Care, Child Care Centers and After-School Programs.

Who is Eligible?

In order to qualify for the WA Scholarship program, applicants must meet **all** of the following criteria:

- You have been employed at your current program for a minimum of 6 months
- You are employed Full-Time
 - Licensed child care center and FCC providers must work 30+ hours a week
 - School-age providers must work 15-29 hours per week
- You must earn less than \$14.45 per hour

Scholarships are awarded based on financial need, commitment to child development, and availability of funding in each county.

Scholarship Coverage

The scholarship coverage differs based upon if you are a center staff or a family child care provider.

For Center Staff WA Scholarships Provides:

- 75% of the costs for tuition and books
Sponsoring center covers 15% and the scholar 10%
- \$50 travel stipend per quarter
- Paid release-time to center
Maximum of 3 hours per week

For FCC Providers WA Scholarships Provides:

- 90% of the costs for tuition and books
Scholar covers remaining 10%
- \$50 travel stipend per quarter
- Paid release-time to provider

“Support from the WA Scholarships program has given me the opportunity to learn more about children’s social emotional development. Applying this knowledge in teaching and caring for young children, I can offer a more caring relationship and environment for them.”

- Anita Martinez

Program Completion Incentives

WA Scholars are awarded a \$300 bonus upon the completion of their first 12 college credits (payable in two installments).

Additionally, center staff are eligible for a bonus or raise from their sponsoring center upon completion of their coursework.

“The Special Education classes really help me to understand specialized disabilities, learning styles and even more common learning disabilities associated with the average child.”

- Tamra Dschaak, FCC (featured in photo)

Program Participation Requirements

In order to remain in good standing with the WA Scholarship Program scholars need to fulfill certain requirements.

WA Scholars agree to:

- Attend classes at an affiliated community or technical college in Washington State
- Complete 12 credits per contract year
Note: WA Scholars will fund up to 20 credits per contract year.
- Contribute 10% of the cost for tuition & books
- Agree to remain with their sponsoring center or as a FCC business for one year following the completion of their academic program
- Submit all required program paperwork
- Notify WA Scholarships of any class schedule or employment changes

Sponsoring Child Care Programs

In order to create sustainability in the child care field we require WA Scholars to gain the support of their centers.

Sponsoring centers agree to:

- Cover 15% of the costs for tuition & books
- Provide WA Scholar adequate release time
- Award WA Scholar a bonus or raise upon successful completion of their contract year
- Provide the WA Scholar with a flexible schedule to attend classes

