

WA529

WASHINGTON COLLEGE SAVINGS PLANS

Washington state offers two 529 college savings plans that help families plan ahead for future college costs. The Guaranteed Education Tuition (GET) Program and the DreamAhead College Investment Plan offer federal tax benefits and support families in reducing future college debt. The plans benefit the state by improving access to higher education, leading to a better-educated and more financially secure workforce.

Key Benefits of Both Programs

Choice of colleges: Use your savings at nearly any public or private university, college, technical school, or registered apprenticeship in the U.S. and other countries.

Tax-free growth and withdrawals: Get tax-free growth and withdrawals when you use your savings for qualified higher education expenses.

Control: You, as the account owner, always keep control of the account, even after the student turns 18.

Flexibility: If future plans change, GET and DreamAhead make it easy for savers to make adjustments:

- If your student receives a scholarship, you can use your savings for other qualified expenses or save them for future education such as graduate school.
- Students who decide not to go to college have time to change their mind (up to 10 years for GET and no time limit for DreamAhead).
- You can transfer the account or change the student beneficiary to a family member of the original student.
- If no one in your family can use the funds for college, you can take a refund or non-qualified withdrawal (earnings may be subject to taxes/penalties).

Favorable financial aid treatment: Generally, 529 plan savings are considered parental assets and have a relatively small impact on the financial aid formula.

Multiple ways to contribute: Add funds whenever you can or set up monthly payments and choose from several payments methods including automatic bank withdrawals, payroll deduction, one-time electronic payments, or paper checks. Get others involved – friends and family can help through gift contributions.

Unique Plan Features



How it works: Pay a set price today with the guarantee that 100 GET units will equal one year of resident undergraduate tuition and state-mandated fees at the most expensive public university in Washington (typically UW or WSU), no matter how much it changes in the future.

Eligibility: Open to Washington residents (at the time of enrollment).

Annual enrollment period: November 1 to May 31 (year-round for newborns).

Minimum contribution: One unit (current price \$116.63 through June 24, 2023).

Maximum contribution: 800 units per student (use up to 200 units per academic year once your student reaches their benefit use year).

Enrollment fee: No online enrollment fee (\$50 fee for paper enrollments).

Other fees: The 2022-2023 unit price does not include a premium over current tuition rates. Historically there has been a premium included and may again in future years. No annual or asset based fees.



How it works: There are a wide range of flexible investment choices based on your student's age and your risk tolerance. Choose from portfolios made up of stock, bond and/or cash preservation funds and build a savings strategy that fits your needs.

Eligibility: Open to all U.S. citizens or legal U.S. residents.

Annual enrollment period: Year-round

Minimum contribution: \$25

Maximum contribution: \$500,000 per student (minus any contributions made to a GET account for the same student).

Enrollment Fee: No enrollment fee.

Other fees: Annual account maintenance fee of \$30 and annual asset-based fees of 0.254% to 0.330%.