



STATE OF WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

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October 1, 2024

TO: Ana Mari Cauce, President, University of Washington
Kirk Schulz, President, Washington State University
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John Carmichael, President, The Evergreen State College
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Paul Francis, Executive Director, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges

FROM: Pat Sullivan
Director [Handwritten signature]

SUBJECT: COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY PLAN TUITION GROWTH RATE FOR 2025-26 ACADEMIC YEAR

RCW 28B.15.067(2) directs the Office of Financial Management to calculate the maximum increase in tuition operating fees for resident undergraduates at public institutions of higher education. The statute mandates that these fees may increase by no more than the average annual percentage growth rate in the median hourly wage for Washington, as the wage is determined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) based on the previous 14 years.

Pursuant to Chapter 9, Laws of 2023, OFM must provide the average annual percentage growth rate for the following academic year by October 1 of each year. Based on the May 2023 data released by BLS, the percentage growth rate for the median hourly wage for Washington for the previous 14 years is 3.3 percent. Therefore, the tuition operating fee for the public community and technical colleges and the public four-year institutions may increase by no more than 3.3 percent in the 2025-26 academic year.

Table with 3 columns: Year, Median Hourly Wage, Percent Change in Annual Growth. Rows include years from 2017 to 2023 with corresponding wage and growth rate data.

2016	\$21.24	1.3%
2015	\$20.97	6.1%
2014	\$19.76	0.5%
2013	\$19.67	1.0%
2012	\$19.47	0.9%
2011	\$19.30	2.9%
2010	\$18.76	2.1%
2009	\$18.37	
<b>Average Annual Growth</b>		<b>3.3%</b>

If you have any questions, please contact Ramona Nabors, Budget Advisor for Higher Education, at [ramona.nabors@ofm.wa.gov](mailto:ramona.nabors@ofm.wa.gov).

- cc: Higher Education Agency Budget Officers  
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