

Path to UW Annual Fact Sheet

Program Description

The Path to UW program is a partnership between the University of Washington Seattle and [Seattle Promise](#), a college tuition and success program that guides students on a direct path from high school to college to earn a degree or certificate and enter the workforce, or transfer to a four-year college or university. The Path to UW aims to bolster Promise scholar pathways to 4-year degree completion through two primary strategies:

Transfer Support: Investment in dedicated Path to UW advisors and staff who provide year-round outreach and advising to Promise students through various modalities, and support students along their transfer pathway to UW-Seattle.

Summer Seminar Experiences: Tuition free credit bearing summer seminar courses to Seattle Promise intended to increase familiarity with the UW campus, faculty, and advisors, and provide additional supports for transfer and enrollment at UW.

History

The Path to UW program began in Winter 2021. UW-Seattle hired dedicated advisors who are responsible for outreach, advising, and providing transfer support to Seattle Promise students at the Seattle Colleges. In summer 2022, the Path to UW program developed and launched the first summer Introduction and Transition seminar courses. Since the start of the Path to UW, the program has benefited from strong partnership with UW leadership, high quality advising from UW, and a collaboration to continue growing and improving the program to best support students in transferring.

Budget

The most recent contract and amendment for the Path to UW program provided \$772,000 over 29.5 months to fund the two strategies of [transfer support](#) and [summer seminar experiences](#), including hiring dedicated advising staff, hiring faculty for summer seminars, providing stipends for students in the summer seminars, creating a transfer ambassador program, and obtaining data and evaluation services.

Participants

All students participating in the Seattle Promise program are eligible to engage with and participate in Path to UW. The program specifically targets working with students furthest from educational justice including BIPOC students, First Generation college students, and low-income students.

Indicators

DEEL looks at the following indicators to measure how well Path to UW is supporting students to attain a certificate, credential, or degree by age 26: Transfer Application, Admission, and Enrollment to UW Seattle, & student satisfaction.

Seattle Promise Transfer Application, Admission, and Enrollment to UW Seattle:

Path to UW's impact can be seen as Promise student applications, admissions, and enrollments to UW Seattle have grown three consecutive years. Additionally, for the 2023 admission cycle, Path to UW students had an 82% admission rate to UW-

Seattle, higher than both non-Path Promise students (59%) and the overall admission rate for Washington community college students (69%).¹

Table 1: Seattle Promise Transfer Applications, Admission, and Enrollment to UW - Seattle

	Applied				Admitted				Enrolled			
	Fall 2022	Fall 2023	Fall 2024	Growth*	Fall 2022	Fall 2023	Fall 2024	Growth*	Fall 2022	Fall 2023	Fall 2024	Growth*
Total	84	126	153	21%**	66 (79%)	96 (76%)	121 (79%)	3%	54 (64%)	80 (65%)	TBD	1%
BIPOC	50 (60%)	92 (73%)	110 (72%)	-1%	36 (55%)	67 (70%)	84 (69%)	-1%	31 (57%)	53 (66%)	TBD	9%
Pell Eligible	N/A	N/A	N/A	--	N/A	N/A	N/A	--	22 (41%)	28 (35%)	TBD	-6%
First-Gen	28 (34%)	55 (44%)	80 (52%)	8%	25 (38%)	34 (35%)	63 (52%)	17%	16 (30%)	27 (34%)	TBD	4%

*Refers to recent Fall percentage point change compared to previous year. **Percent change in number of applicants.

Of Promise students who transferred to UW Seattle (Path to UW) in 2023, 66% identify as BIPOC, 34% were First-Generation² college students and 35% were Pell eligible (lower income)³, trending higher than transfer populations including WA Community and Technical Colleges and the overall UW transfer class.

Student Survey Responses

In a recent Path to UW evaluation report⁴ conducted by Community College Research Initiative (CCRI), key findings include:

- Advising supports and seminars were important to nearly all (more than 70% of those surveyed) students who transferred
- Summer seminar participants were more likely to apply to transfer and felt seminars were important in their preparation, readiness, and transition to UW
- The program continues to foster valuable relationships and a network for students navigating their transfer journey. One participant commented on important seminar learnings and the support of their Path to UW advisor: "I felt like the Path to UW was extremely helpful in my preparation for understanding what I needed for transfer. I thought the Seattle Central Advisor did help a little but when I spoke with a UW advisor I realized that there [were] quite a few things I didn't know such as application opening dates and deadlines."

Resources and More Information

- [UW Seattle Path to UW program homepage](#)
- [CCRI Path to UW Assessment Report](#)
- [Path to UW and Beyond - Graduating Path to UW Students](#)

For more information or questions about Path to UW, contact Department of Education and Early Learning (DEEL) Postsecondary Associate Jesse Cooley, jesse.cooley@seattle.gov

¹ Malik, L. (Jun 2024). Path to UW program: 2022-23 [Unpublished report]. Seattle Promise, Seattle Colleges.

² First Generation is defined as the first in their family to obtain a bachelor's degree.

³ Publicly available Pell-eligible student data unavailable. Data source: Path to UW, SBCTC.

⁴ Wetzstein, L., Kovachik, K. (Mar 2024). Path to University of Washington Program Evaluation report. [Unpublished Report]. University of Washington, Community College Research Initiative