

Budget Values and Principles

Walla Walla Community College
2025-2026 Budget Planning Cycle

1 BOARD POLICY INTERESTS

- The budget aligns with the College’s Vision, Mission and Strategic Priorities and Objectives.
- The budget supports student success as evidenced by multiple indices including qualitative and quantitative data.
- The budget supports employee success by providing resources for professional development opportunities to promote student success and service to the community.
- The budget responds to or anticipates external factors specific to each budget development cycle.
- The budget positions the College for long-term financial stability and maintains reserve funds to deal with emergencies or unanticipated expenses.

2 INSTITUTIONAL PRIORITIES

- Align resources to attain Strategic Priorities and Objectives, as measured by institutional effectiveness indicators. Specifically, opportunities will be identified to realign funds to proven and/or scalable strategies that improve student learning and success and eliminate areas of inequity.
- Protect the quality of our diverse students’ Walla Walla Community College experience. Ensure academic standards and excellence, while striving to provide equitable levels of access to programs and services.
- Develop methods to promote innovation and transformative changes, such as career pathways, that will improve or preserve students’ opportunities to be successful.
- Identify beneficial new partnerships and develop alternative means of generating revenue and resources, such as actively seeking opportunities to collaborate and coordinate programs and services among private and public entities in Walla Walla County, statewide, nationally, and internationally.
- Align resources to strategically manage all enrollment, including achieving the College’s state-funded FTE enrollment target.

- Prioritize the schedule of offerings according to degree outcomes and student needs. Preserve, when possible, each unit’s core courses, programs, and services.
- Align resources to strengthen organizational effectiveness and efficiencies through equitable, diverse, and inclusive strategies and processes to build an anti-racist institution.
- Fund recurring expenses using ongoing sources of revenue, rather than using one-time monies.

Exceptions may be made for one-time funding requests that are anticipated to generate revenue or cost savings in future years (e.g., “seed program” funding).

3 EXPECTATIONS OF OURSELVES

- We will conduct ourselves as a community of learners working within a participatory governance framework, while treating people equitably with dignity and respect.
- We acknowledge that student representatives and each employee has a role to play and a responsibility to participate in departmental budget planning discussions, as appropriate. Roles vary based on each employee’s and student representative’s membership in groups that are given prescribed responsibilities in the budget process. The roles of the Budget Council, Budget Staff, College Council and Executive Leadership Team are specifically described in budget planning documents.
- We will maintain open, honest, transparent, and effective communication across the College, including making budget data available through media such as the College’s intranet.
- Each work unit will make its budget request only after carefully considering departmental and institutional outcomes, essential service levels, enrollment trends, program mix, and fill rates, to meet the changing needs of today’s students.
- When budget reductions or eliminations are necessary, we will arrive at recommendations in a timely manner through the existing budget process and timelines.
- We will involve and inform programs and individuals who will be directly impacted, as plans evolve, and before making final budget recommendations to College Council.