Preparing Tacoma students for college

In partnership with Tacoma Public Schools, University of Puget Sound created Access Programs to offer traditionally underrepresented students in local middle and high schools opportunities to prepare for college. Through interaction with Puget Sound students and professors, visits to campus, and participation in community events and activities, students gain confidence in their abilities and become ready to pursue their academic goals.

Access Programs are open to students in grades 7 through 12 attending public school in Tacoma who are members of one or more of the following groups:

- first-generation college students
- underrepresented minoritized groups
- groups with underrepresented socioeconomic statuses

Students with a desire to attend college are encouraged to apply.

For information about Access Programs or to request an application form, contact:

Access Programs
1500 N. Warner St. #1019
Tacoma, WA 98416-1019
Phone: 253.879.3927
Fax: 253.879.2450
Email: access@pugetsound.edu
pugetsound.edu/access
School Year Programming

Access to College Day
See what college life is like! Puget Sound professors and representatives from campus departments explain the college admission process, financial aid, how to use the campus library, academic support services, study abroad programs, and more. The day includes a tour of campus and the chance to meet and talk with current Puget Sound students.

Tuesday Night Tutoring
Puget Sound students work with Access Program students to tackle tough subjects and help with homework, teaching effective study habits that will serve students throughout their academic careers. Tutors are trained in cultural competency, confidentiality, and issues related to working with minors, enabling them to build rapport with their students, and allowing the students to interact comfortably with their tutors in a college setting. Sessions are held on campus on Tuesdays, from 4 to 6 p.m.

Career and Culture Days
Multiple times a year, Access Programs students visit local businesses to meet with professionals to discuss the paths they took to success. Students also participate in area arts, cultural, and community events to explore perspectives beyond their own and discover the possibilities available when they pursue their goals.

Summer Programming

Summer Academic Challenge
Students participate in a four-week enrichment program to strengthen their math and science skills and build on what they’re learning in school. Summer Academic Challenge keeps students academically engaged during the summer and helps them prepare for the coming school year.

Access Programs are designed to:

Provide exposure to college and thereby expand college opportunities for youth traditionally underrepresented in higher education.

Encourage academic persistence for participants.

Offer comprehensive programs to participants involving a wide range of academic support, academic enrichment, and college cocurricular experiences.

Encourage parent involvement in academic and college preparation programs.