We believe everyone deserves the opportunity to earn a college degree, that’s why University of Puget Sound created Access Programs. Our programs provide the opportunity for students from greater Pierce County to visit campus, interact with Puget Sound students and professors, find community while having fun, clarify their academic goals, and gain confidence in their abilities.

Access programs are open to students in grades 7–12 attending public schools in Tacoma or in greater Pierce County who are members of one or more of the following groups:

- First generation to attend college
- Underrepresented minoritized groups
- Groups with underrepresented socioeconomic statuses

Students with a desire or curiosity to attend college are encouraged to apply.
Summer Academic Challenge (SAC)
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 Scholars Cohort Program
This group of students takes on the college journey together on the road to graduation. In addition to peer camaraderie, students participating in the program will receive social, cultural, and academic support, have faculty mentors, and regularly meet peers from Tacoma throughout the academic year. Access Scholars will also be provided the opportunity to develop leadership skills, pursue personal growth, and cultivate community in a supportive environment necessary to achieve academic success.

Financial Aid Packaging for Access Scholars
University of Puget Sound provides a financial aid package that meets the full demonstrated need of students who join the Access Scholars Cohort Program.

Access Programs are designed to:
• Give students the chance to familiarize themselves with college culture, processes, and opportunities.
• Support students in their academic goals and tenacity.
• Provide a community of support and resources from peers, professors, and college students.
• Offer opportunities for parent involvement in academic preparation.