

Office of
Advanced
Programs

The College Connection

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Creating a College-Going
Culture in WCPS



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WC Facts

Undergrad Enrollment
1,400

Representation
40 nations
35 states
49% from Maryland

On-Campus Residence
80%

Average Class Size
17 students

Average Test Scores
SAT CR+M—1150
ACT Composite—24

Students Receiving Aid
85%

Source www.washcoll.edu

Get to Know the FAFSA

The FAFSA, or Free Application for Federal Student Aid, is used to apply for federal financial aid, such as grants, work-study, and loans. All students who plan to continue their education after high school should complete the FAFSA, even if they think their family income is too high to qualify for federal aid. Why? Most community colleges, universities, and career schools use FAFSA information to award additional aid that helps make up the difference between college costs and what a family can be expected to contribute through income, savings, loans, and student earnings. Maryland also

uses the FAFSA to award state aid.

Seniors and parents should visit www.pin.ed.gov to apply for their Personal Identification Number (PIN), which is needed to complete the forms. The FAFSA opens for submission on January 1, and families are encouraged to submit it as soon as possible. The Maryland deadline for FAFSA submission is March 1, but each college may have a different deadline. For example, the Washington College FAFSA deadline is February 15. Students should check with the colleges they are interested in attending and know all the deadlines.

Website of the Month

www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov

FAFSA4caster

The FAFSA Forecaster provides families of younger students a financial planning tool. Parents enter some basic information and the website predicts their child's eligibility for federal student aid. Predictions appear in a College Cost Worksheet that can be used to estimate other student aid as well as projected savings that can help finance a college education.

Check it out!

College of the Month

Founded in 1782 under the patronage of our first President, Washington College is a private liberal arts college located on Maryland's Eastern Shore, just 75 miles from the nation's capital. The nearby Chesapeake Bay serves as

an outdoor classroom for many of the college's academic programs, including a new environmental studies major. WC offers over 40 majors, including one of the few undergraduate behavioral neuroscience programs in the country, as



well as a literary arts program that annually awards the nation's largest undergraduate prize for creative or critical writing.

Go, Shoreman!

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Advanced
Programs**

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www.wcboe.k12.md.us



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School Spotlight: WHMS

AVID students at **Western Heights Middle School** planned and hosted an AVID Parent Night on October 12. They greeted parents, created and delivered a PowerPoint presentation about what they have learned, answered questions, and served refreshments. Following the presentation, the families and teachers traveled by bus to the Washington County College Fair at HCC, where students were given a list of questions to ask the college reps. Their answers then served as the basis of a graded writing assignment. Thanks to the AVID site team members who chaperoned this event!



L: AVID teacher Jessika Krietz (front) with students, parents, and other WHMS staff. R: AVID counselor Nick Mowen leads the students into the HCC ARCC.

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WHMS students talked with college and career school reps at the HCC College Fair.