

Workforce Education Information & Resources

LCC offers a variety of workforce education support programs, some of which can help students pay for college.

For information about requirements for certificate and degree programs, please see **Programs of Study**.

- **Apprenticeship Program**
- **Basic Food, Employment & Training (BFET)**
- **Cooperative Education**
- **Opportunity Grant Program**
- **Worker Retraining**
- **Workfirst**

La falta de habilidades lingüísticas no es una barrera para la admisión y la participación en cualquier oportunidad de educación profesional y técnica.

Apprenticeship Program

Apprenticeship combines employment, education and training in one workforce program. Employers and their employees develop, register and operate apprenticeship programs based on the needs of industry. Registered apprenticeship is governed by the Washington State Apprenticeship and Training Council (WSATC) under the authority of RCW 49.04 and WAC 296-05.

Apprenticeship Training Committees (ATC) run apprenticeship programs for various trades as approved by the WSATC. Acceptance into an apprenticeship program is determined by the program's selection procedures. Two primary components include provisions for an employer/employee relationship with paid on-the-job training for a specific occupation and at least 144 clock hours of related supplemental (classroom) instruction per year. On-the-job training experiences are conducted under the direct supervision of a qualified journeyman who is affiliated with the apprentice's trade or program. Classroom instruction provides an opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills that supplement on-the-job training and work experience.

Lower Columbia College is a partner in the Registered Apprentice system and provides or supports the related supplemental classroom instruction when requested by an apprenticeship program. Also, students earning direct credit at LCC through the Career Pathways/Tech Prep program may be eligible to apply those credits toward the supplemental instruction component of a registered apprenticeship program.

LCC's apprenticeship advisor can refer you to the ATCs for the programs the College supports and

provide you with information on applying Tech Prep credit toward an apprenticeship. Once accepted into an apprenticeship program, you may register for approved courses at LCC. Tuition for apprentices taking their required apprenticeship classes at LCC is reduced by 50% under WAC 131.28. Registered apprenticeship is part of the state Workforce Development System. Apprentices may be eligible for training assistance vouchers. Many apprenticeship programs are approved for veteran's education benefits.

See below for contact and other important information.

Phone number for LCC Apprenticeship Contact: **(360) 442-2601**

Webpage for Regional Apprenticeship Coordinator: **apprenticeship.lni.wa.gov**

Webpage for LCC Career Pathways/Tech Prep: **lowercolumbia.edu/career-pathways**

Basic Food, Employment & Training (BFET)

In a partnership with Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), Lower Columbia College offers opportunities for vocational education and career development to low income students who qualify to receive or are currently receiving federally issued basic food benefits.

While BFET does not provide tuition assistance to students at this time, students may qualify for other assistance such as child care and food benefits.

BFET allows students who are receiving federally issued basic food benefits to continue receiving those benefits while attending school. Participants are required to participate in monthly career exploration activities with BFET staff.

BFET Eligibility

Students may be eligible for BFET if they:

- Are enrolled in an ESL, GED, IBEST or professional-technical degree or certificate program.
- Are a US Citizen, Refugee or Immigrant (US resident five years or more)
- Are NOT receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Are receiving or are eligible to receive Basic Food Benefits through the federal program.
- Are low income (please check with BFET coordinator for current income guidelines).

See below for contact and other important information.

Phone number: **(360) 442-2332**

Webpage: **lowercolumbia.edu/bfet**

Located in Admissions Center (ADC)

Cooperative Education (Credit for Work Experience)

Through cooperation between the student, instructor and an employer, one credit can be earned for every 33 hours of work related to a program of study at LCC. Many LCC programs have established Cooperative Education courses (Numbers 288/289). Students may enroll for a maximum of 15 credits toward a degree or certificate program; 1-5 credits of work experience (288) per quarter, plus a one-credit seminar (289) option. Cooperative work experience may be paid or volunteer work related to your program of study. Work Study jobs may qualify.

Students will be assigned to an instructor in the related field of study to guide them through the work-based learning process. Students will develop learning objectives with the assistance of an LCC instructor and job site supervisor, applying the theories, concepts and methods learned in the classroom to a real job setting. Students also take a one-credit Cooperative Education seminar to build a portfolio or research a work-related topic to help prepare for future employment.

To participate, students need to have completed nine credits of program-related courses and have at least a 2.0 GPA. To enroll, students must have permission from their LCC program instructors and receive entry codes for registration and the required agreements each quarter from the Cooperative Education office. Independent Study (299) credits also count toward the 15-credit maximum.

See below for contact and other important information.

Phone number: **(360) 442-2610**

Webpage: lowercolumbia.edu/cooperative-education

Located in Admissions Center (ADC)

Opportunity Grant Program

Unemployed or underemployed adults seeking a certificate or degree in a high demand career may be eligible for help with college expenses under the Opportunity Grant Program. The grant provides individualized support services, along with funding for tuition and fees, books, and/or tools for up to 45 credits.

Eligible students must be Washington State residents, meet income eligibility requirements, and enroll in one of the approved high demand career pathways (see lowercolumbia.edu/opportunity for complete list). Applicants must submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Washington Application for

State Financial Aid (WASFA) to determine income eligibility but do not need to be awarded financial aid to qualify. For example, students who do not qualify for traditional financial aid for reasons such as default on a previous loan, cancellation of financial aid, or failure to register for Selective Service may qualify for an Opportunity Grant.

Students interested in applying to the program should attend an Opportunity Grant Information Session at the Career and Employment Center. Individualized support services offered through this program include assistance with education planning, financial aid, campus and community resources, and skill building.

See below for contact and other important information.

Phone number: **(360) 442-2338**

Webpage: lowercolumbia.edu/opportunity-grant

Located in Admissions Center (ADC)

Worker Retraining

Worker Retraining is a state-funded program that provides job-related training and employment services to dislocated and unemployed workers to help them gain additional training in their field or to get started on a new career. Students may receive additional funding to help pay for retraining tuition, books and fees or "jump-start" funding while waiting financial aid approval.

Students may also need to take additional steps to keep their unemployment benefits while attending training and possibly qualify to receive additional unemployment benefits. The college works with the Employment Security Department and other community agencies to provide services to dislocated workers. LCC offers educational planning, advising, and assistance with admissions, registration, and financial aid processes.

Worker Retraining Eligibility

Students may be eligible for Worker Retraining if they:

- Are currently receiving unemployment benefits
- Have received unemployment benefits in the last 48 months.
- Will be losing their job in the immediate future
- Were self-employed but due to economic downturn or natural disaster have become unemployed or underemployed.
- Are a displaced homemaker (were dependent on another's income and that income ended due to a change of domestic circumstances)
- Are underemployed
- Are enrolled in a professional-technical degree or certificate program.

See below for contact and other important information.

Phone number: **(360) 442-2334**

Webpage: lowercolumbia.edu/worker-retraining

Located in Admissions Center (ADC)

Workfirst

LCC's Workfirst Program assists parents receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) from the Department of Social and Health Services.

The goal is to provide low-income families with stability and a path toward self-sufficiency. Participants receive additional support while they are attending a vocational or basic skills program.

WorkFirst staff at LCC are dedicated to assist students reach their educational goals through resource assistance, barrier removal, educational planning, and access to career services.

Available Options:

- High School Equivalence Exam prep
- High School completion through CEO or HS21+ program
- English as a Second Language (ESL) classes
- Vocational education in full or part-time programs and Continuing Education (see eligible program list below)
- College Prep/Life Skills

Washington State requires all parents receiving TANF to participate in a work-like activity to receive their cash grant.

Additional Support (*as funding allows*)

- College admission and testing expense vouchers.
- WorkFirst Financial Aid for students who are ineligible for federal financial aid funding consisting of tuition, fees, and books
- High School Equivalency exam class and testing fees
- Program required expenses such as background checks, First Aid/CPR testing, and state testing and certification fees for employment
- Educational planning.
- TANF Work Study opportunities (paid employment).
- Attendance and participation tracking for DSHS.

See below for contact and other important information.

Phone number: **(360) 442-2540**

Webpage: **lowercolumbia.edu/workfirst**

Located in Admissions Center (ADC)