ANNUAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD

November 1 - May 31

Year-round enrollment for newborns

Enrollment Guide

2014-2015 ENROLLMENT YEAR

GET

Guaranteed Education Tuition℠

Save today. Secure tomorrow.

Washington State's
529 Prepaid College
Tuition Program

Take the first step

Save for college with GET

Learn how GET works

and why saving early is important.

Decide how much

and how often you want to save.

GET started saving

for your child's college education.

"We researched different options and decided that GET was the safest investment for our children's college education."

The Hinds Family, Bellingham

GET helps families save

Over the past ten years, college tuition at Washington State's top public universities has climbed an average of 8.6% annually, more than three times our nation's inflation rate. Although the cost of college is increasing, you can save significantly on these future costs by planning ahead. Saving, even a little at a time, can make a big difference down the road. The important thing is to get started.

The Guaranteed Education Tuition Program is Washington's 529 prepaid college tuition plan. It is administered by the Washington Student Achievement Council, and was established in 1998 to help families save for their child's future higher education costs. Since that time, over 157,000 GET accounts have been opened and over 37,000 students have already used their accounts to attend colleges, universities and technical schools nationwide. Here's why:

State guarantee

The State of Washington guarantees that the value of your account will keep pace with the cost of college tuition, no matter how much it increases in the future.[1] You don't have to worry about the ups and downs of the stock market. You are assured that the money you invest in GET will be there when your child is ready for college.

Choice of colleges nationwide

You can use your GET account at nearly any public or private college, university or technical school in the country and even at some schools around the world. The value of each GET unit is determined by the cost of resident, undergraduate tuition at Washington's most expensive public university but you can use your units to pay for college expenses practically anywhere. Your GET account has the same monetary value whether your child attends a public university, a local community college, a private university, or a college in another state.

Tax-free growth and withdrawals

Because GET is a state 529 plan, the after-tax money you put in will grow tax-free. And when your child is ready for college, the money you withdraw will be tax-free too, as long as you use it for qualified higher education expenses.[2]

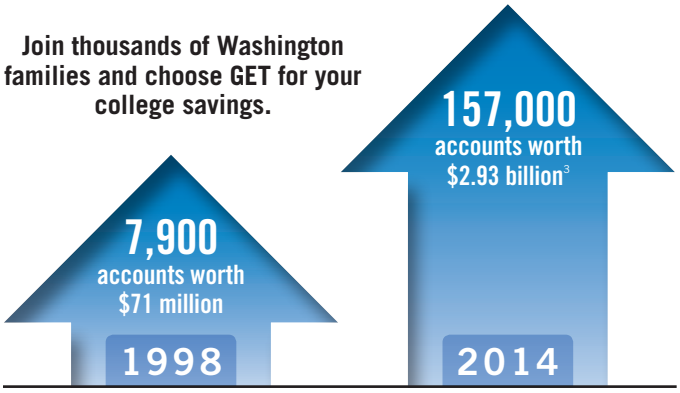
Flexibility and control

You can use your GET account not only for tuition, but also for room and board, books, or other qualified expenses. If your child chooses not to go to college or receives a scholarship, you can transfer your account to another family member, hold on to your account in case plans change, save it for graduate school, or even request a refund. And you always maintain complete control over the account.

Easy ways to save

You can set up a monthly payment plan, add funds whenever you have extra money to contribute, or choose a combination of the two. You can save whatever amount fits best in your family budget. You can open an account for anyone – your child, grandchild, friend or even yourself. The only requirement is that either the account owner or the student is a Washington resident at the time of enrollment in the program.

Join thousands of Washington families and choose GET for your college savings.



[1] The value of GET units is based on resident undergraduate tuition and state-mandated fees at Washington's most expensive public university (University of Washington or Washington State University).

[2] Review IRS Publication 970 and GET Program Details or www.get.wa.gov for a list of qualified higher education expenses.

[3] The $2.93 billion figure represents the value of the GET fund, including the current value of all future receivables for Custom Monthly contracts, as of June 2014. The current market value of the GET Trust Fund, managed by the Washington State Investment Board, is $2.66 billion as of June 2014.

100 GET units purchased today = 1 year of future tuition GUARANTEED, no matter how much tuition increases.

How GET works

GET works on a unit system, with 100 GET units equal to one year of resident, undergraduate tuition and state-mandated fees at the most expensive Washington public university. The current unit price is $172. You can purchase anywhere from one to 500 units per child, and you can even purchase partial units.

You can purchase GET units all at once, over time with monthly payments, or do a little of both. You decide what's right for you and your family.

BASED ON CURRENT ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS, a GET account should be held for at least six years to realize financial gain.

The State of Washington guarantees that if you buy 100 GET units today, you'll have one year of tuition when your child is ready for college. Each unit is worth 1/100th of that amount and is guaranteed in the same way, even if tuition doubles or triples in that time.[4] That's what makes GET different from other savings plans. GET's tuition guarantee is backed by the full faith and credit of the State of Washington.[5] That means if future tuition increases ever require the program to pay out more money than it has available, the Legislature is required by state law to provide funding to cover the shortfall.

As a GET customer, you will always be protected by this guarantee. Your investment is carefully managed by the Washington State Investment Board, and has been given an "A" rating for financial stability.[6] In fact, the GET program has a funded status of 106% meaning it is fully solvent and is expected to meet all of its financial obligations for current enrollees without the need for state assistance.

GET UNIT PRICING	
Expected tuition cost	$124.74
Operating expenses	$5.93
Reserve	$20.51
Amortization	$20.82
TOTAL UNIT PRICE	**$172.00**

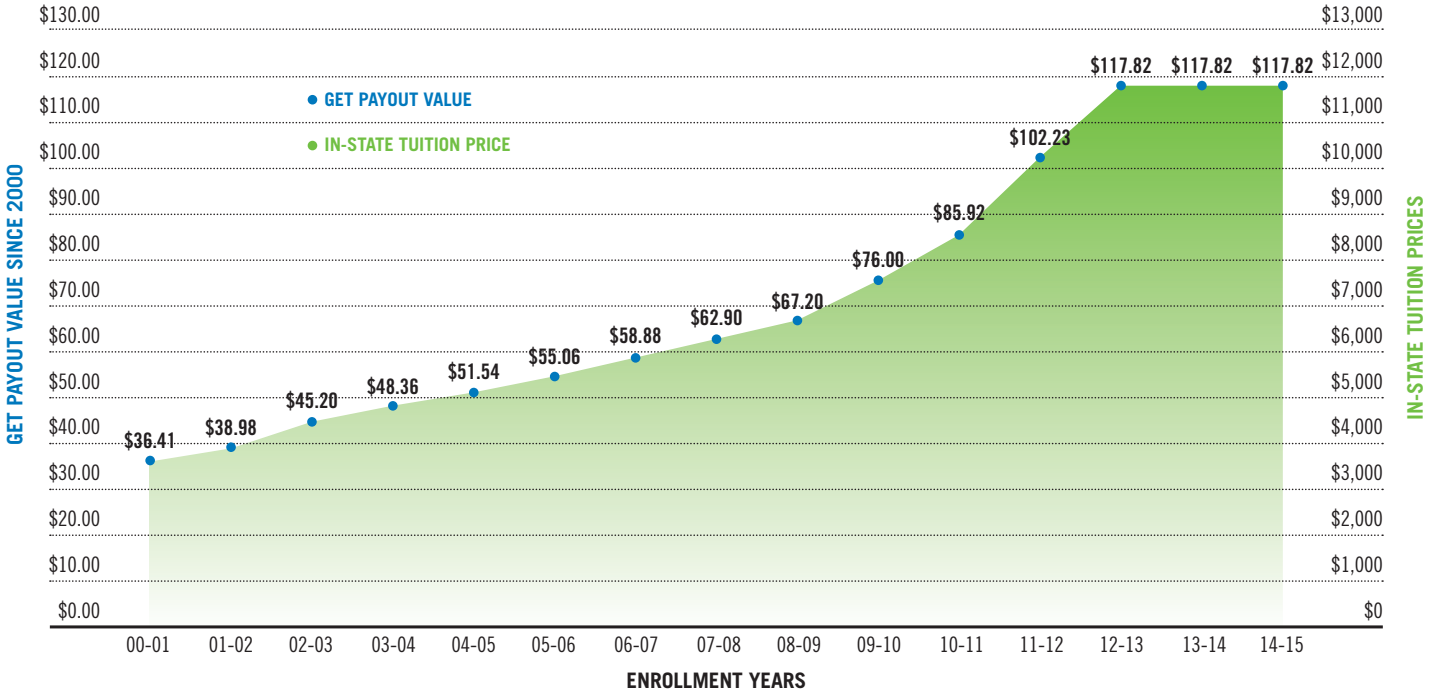
[4] The value of GET units is based on resident undergraduate tuition and state-mandated fees at the most expensive public university in Washington, either the University of Washington or Washington State University.

[5] Revised Code of Washington 28B.95.050

[6] "2014 Price Setting Analysis" (Washington State Actuary, 2014)

YOUR GET ACCOUNT IS GUARANTEED TO KEEP PACE WITH TUITION PRICES

With GET, your college savings are guaranteed to keep pace with in-state tuition costs no matter how much they increase.



Earning a college degree gives you more choices and increases your earning potential.

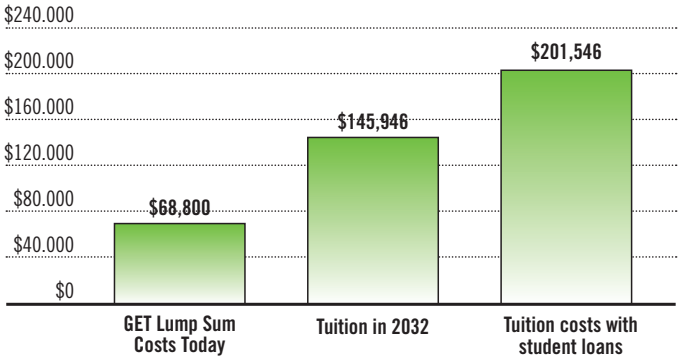
Source: College Board 2010

Reduce the need for student loans

The cost of a college education continues to increase, and may at times seem out of reach for today's parents. With tuition inflation, parents of today's newborn could potentially pay almost $146,000[7] for four years of tuition at a top Washington public university. Room and board costs may nearly double that amount.

FOUR YEARS OF COLLEGE TUITION

Planning ahead for today's newborn.



Above chart is for illustration purposes only and actual figures may vary. Costs are based on Washington's most expensive public university, assuming annual tuition inflation of 8.0% for 2 years, followed by 2 years of 7.0% and 2 years of 6.0% increases, then an average annual increase of 5.5%. Estimates are based on October 2014 State Actuary Report. Student loans are based on 6.8% interest rate for Direct Unsubsidized Loans over 10 years.

A GET account can help your child achieve higher education by making college more accessible and more affordable. Saving for college reduces the need to take out expensive student loans.

[7] Based on Washington State Actuary current projections.

[8] Calculation assumes a $4.25 difference between the cost of a latte vs. brewing your own coffee; and an average of 250 working days in a year.

[9] "2013 End-of-Year Filing Season Statistics" (Internal Revenue Service, 2014)

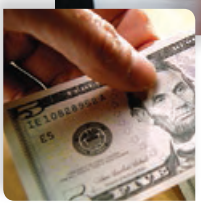
[10] "The Project on Student Debt" (Institute for College Access & Success, 2014)

Saving even a little helps a lot

Especially for young families, a commitment to save for college when budgets are tight may seem overwhelming. Ask parents of college students, however, and they'll confirm that every little bit helps. Whether you save enough to cover tuition, provide for a semester abroad or simply reduce the amount of student loans, you'll value the effort for years to come. Here are some ideas to get started:

Skip the latte *and brew your own coffee. That could free up over $1000 per year[8] to contribute to your college savings.*

The average ***income tax refund*** *in 2013 was $2800.[9] Set that aside and give your savings a great boost.*



Just $5 a day for ten years *can add over $18,000 to your savings, and that doesn't even include any potential savings growth.*

Saving is better than borrowing

A recent survey of GET customers revealed that avoiding debt in the future is one of the main reasons families save for college with GET. The average college graduate today faces about $30,000 in student loan debt, a significant burden for young adults at the start of their careers.[10] Regular contributions to your college savings can add up over time and will reduce future student loan debt.

Start early and save more

Newborns up to their 1st birthday may be enrolled year-round. Family members often like to recognize the birth or special milestones of a baby's first year with a lasting gift. Opening a GET account that family and friends can contribute to is a perfect choice. Gift announcements are available for you to download from our website.

Did you know you can open a GET account even before your child is born? Just open an account during the enrollment period, naming yourself as both the account owner and student beneficiary. You can change the name of the student once your child is born.

Plan ahead for your family. Another simple start to your college savings is to open one account that can be used to save for all of your future children. Make contributions as you wish over time, then transfer Lump Sum amounts to new accounts that you open for each child later on. Families who start early have more time to contribute, and their GET accounts have more time to grow in value.

Use your GET units at nearly any public or private college, university or technical school in the country.

Includes all colleges listed with FAFSA (fafsa.ed.gov).

Save what you can afford

It all adds up, whether you can save for four years of tuition or two, or just save enough to help your child or grandchild with a part of tuition expenses to make their dreams come true. The average GET account contains less than 200 units. GET units can be saved and spent in whole or partial amounts. Funding your GET account with the amount that fits in your budget is the best approach. The important part is that you're saving for college.

The payout value of a GET unit is based on the highest resident, undergraduate tuition and state-mandated fees at a Washington public university. Regional and community colleges require fewer units, while private or out-of-state universities generally cost more. If your school's tuition costs more than the value of the units you have available, you just pay the difference. If you have more units than you need for tuition, you can use GET to pay for room and board, books, or other qualified higher education expenses.

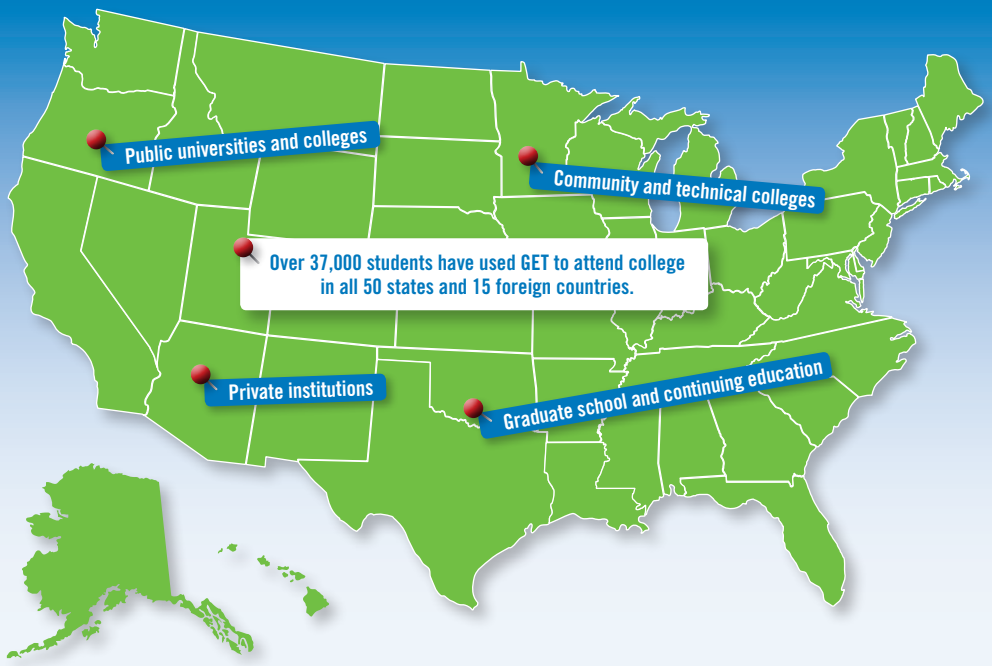
WHAT CAN MY UNITS BUY?

500	Four years of tuition and fees at UW or WSU, plus extra to go towards books, lab fees, supplies and room and board.
400	Four years of tuition and state-mandated fees at UW or WSU.
200	Two years of tuition at a community college, plus almost two years of tuition at a regional university.
100	About a year of on-campus room and board, books and supplies at a university.
75	About a year of tuition and fees at an in-state regional university.
50	About a year of tuition at a non-profit online university.
34 Units	About a year of tuition at an in-state community or technical college.

Examples shown are estimates based on the cost of various college expenses as of September 1, 2014. Actual future costs may vary. Additional units may be used for other qualified higher education expenses as defined in IRS Publication 970. Custom Monthly contracts are available in 50 unit increments. Lump Sum units may be purchased in any amount (even partial units).

Use GET nationwide at the school of your choice.

You can use GET at nearly any public or private college, university or technical school in the country, and even some foreign countries too. The unit value is the same, whether your child attends an in-state public college or an out-of-state private university.



"GET makes it easy to save what we can for our three girls and we know the money will be there when they need it."

The Freeby Family, Olympia

Explore your saving options

With GET, you can set your college savings goals realistically. Custom Monthly Plans start at $74 per month, and automatic monthly withdrawals from your bank account can be set up for any amount for Lump Sum plans. Perhaps you have money set aside to get your college savings started, and then plan to contribute more over the coming years. Tax refunds, birthdays and holidays can all be opportunities to add to your account. **Remember that no matter how much you save, even a little can make a big difference.**

Three easy ways to save

1 **Lump Sum Plan.** GET's "pay as you go" plan lets you purchase any number of units (from one to 500) whenever you choose. You can even buy partial units at any time, though you must purchase at least one unit when you first open your account. Whenever you buy units in "Lump Sum," you pay the unit price (currently $172) that is in effect at the time we receive your payment. The unit price is set annually, and may also be adjusted once annually, to ensure the actuarial soundness of the program. Units must be held in a Lump Sum Plan for at least two calendar years before you can use them.

2 **Custom Monthly Plan.** By saving a set amount monthly, your money can grow as your child does. GET's defined monthly payment plan features a monthly payment that remains the same throughout the term of your contract. You can contract for 50 to 500 units (in 50 unit increments) with your choice of payment term (between one and eighteen-years). Your contract locks in the current $172 unit price. The monthly payment amount includes a 7.5 percent finance charge,[12] so it's best to choose the shortest payment term you can comfortably afford. That way you can save on finance charges. To use your units, your contract must be paid in full and your account must be open for at least two calendar years.

THE UNIT PRICE INCLUDES A PREMIUM.[11] Based on current projections, you should plan to hold the units at least six years before your account shows financial gain; longer if you are using a Custom Monthly Plan.

3 **You can always choose to save both ways.** If you open a Custom Monthly Plan account, you can add Lump Sum units at any time. If you open a Lump Sum account, you can always add a Custom Monthly Plan later during any open enrollment period. GET's website features a Payment Calculator to help you decide which plan(s) best fit your budget.

Several payment options available

Automatic monthly withdrawal. You can have money automatically withdrawn each month from your bank account and deposited directly into your GET account. You can choose to pay your Custom Monthly Plan amount, or make a payment of any amount to regularly purchase Lump Sum units. Just sign up online or complete an automatic withdrawal authorization form on our website. Payments will be taken out of your bank account on the 15th day of each month.

Payroll deduction. You can have money deducted from your paycheck and deposited directly into your GET account. If your employer already participates in GET payroll deduction, simply complete the payroll deduction authorization form available on our website and submit it to your employer's payroll department. If your employer does not yet participate, suggest it to your human resources department. Let us know too and we'll be happy to forward to your employer all the necessary information.

Online payments. You can transfer money at any time from your bank directly to your GET account through our electronic bank transfer system through US Bank. They charge a $1 convenience fee for each transaction, and you may make payments on up to four accounts per transaction. You can also set up payments to GET through your own bank. Visit our website or call us to learn more.

Payment coupons. If you prefer to mail your payment, we'll send you a book of payment coupons. Just send us a coupon with your check or money order by the 15th day of every month for the Custom Monthly Plan or use these coupons whenever you have extra money to contribute to the Lump Sum Plan.

Credit cards and debit cards: You may use a credit card or debit card to pay the one-time enrollment fee only. You cannot buy units or make a Custom Monthly Plan payment with a credit card or debit card.

[11] GET is a self-sustaining program which helps families buy future tuition. The unit price, which includes a premium above current tuition, takes into account estimated future tuition, projected inflation and investment returns, and administrative costs. It also includes a stabilization reserve to adjust for periods of lower-than-expected returns or higher-than-expected tuition, and amortization of past losses. The premium assures stability for the GET program. The account owner is compensated by the increasing value of GET units when held for at least six years.

[12] The 7.5% finance charge is compounded annually. The monthly payment also includes a small interest adjustment and a payment processing fee and is rounded to the next whole dollar.

"We opened their accounts when they were young. We're so glad we don't have to worry about future tuition increases."

The Hurley Family, Olympia

Top 10 most frequently asked questions

1. Can GET be used at private colleges or out-of-state universities?

You can use your GET units at nearly any public or private college, university or technical school in the United States and at selected colleges in other countries. A college is eligible if it participates in federal financial aid programs through the U.S. Department of Education. To view participating schools, visit www.fafsa.ed.gov.

2. What if my child gets a scholarship?

You have several options. If your child's scholarship covers tuition and fees, you can use your GET units to pay for room and board, books, or other qualified higher education expenses. You can also transfer the account, in whole or in part, to another family member. You can request a refund (see our Refund and Cancellation policy for details). You can also wait up to ten years to see if your child may want to apply GET account funds toward graduate school.

3. How will it affect our financial aid?

If the parent or dependent student is the account owner, GET is considered an asset of the parent and treated more favorably than assets of an independent student when determining eligibility for financial aid. Distributions from GET accounts owned by non-parents may be treated as student income the following year and have greater impact. We encourage you to consult your financial advisor or the financial aid office at your school.

4. What if I can't make my monthly payments? What are my options?

If you can no longer make payments on your Custom Monthly contract, you may have the option to 1) convert to a Lump Sum Plan and end your monthly payments, 2) reduce the total number of units in your contract to lower your payment, 3) increase the number of years in your contract to lower your payment, or 4) close the account and request a refund. Please review our Refund and Cancellation policy or call us for details and options for your account.

5. What if my child chooses not to go to college?

You have several options. Students have up to ten years after their selected benefit use year to begin using their GET account. Many students who aren't ready for college upon high school graduation change their minds. You can transfer funds in the account to another family member with an existing account, or change the student beneficiary on the entire account to another family member. You can request a refund as well, though you will need to pay taxes on any increase in value as well as a refund penalty. Please review our Refund and Cancellation policy for details.

6. How do I know it's safe?

GET is one of only four state-sponsored prepaid college tuition plans in the country with a guarantee in state law (RCW 28B.95.050). The state guarantees that if future tuition increases ever require the program to pay out more money than it has available, the Legislature would be required by state law to provide funding to cover the shortfall. GET is a self-sustaining program and does not rely on general state budget funds. The unit price is carefully evaluated twice yearly to ensure that future college funds will always be there for families who have enrolled their children in GET.

7. Are units the same as credits?

GET units are not the same as credit hours at a college, university or technical school. Credit hours have an academic value. Credits vary between schools and represent an academic year or degree requirements. GET units have a dollar value. You purchase GET units at a set price today and whenever your child attends college, the dollar value of your units will be based on tuition costs at that time, no matter how much they have increased. One unit equals 1/100th of the actual resident, undergraduate tuition and state-mandated fees at Washington's most expensive public university.

Students who plan to attend college are seven times more likely to do so if they have a savings account in their name.

Source: Center for Social Development, Washington University at St. Louis (Elliott & Beverly, 2010)

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE FAQS.

8. How many units should I buy?

You can buy a minimum of one unit to a maximum of 500 units per child, in full or partial unit increments. You can use up to 125 units each academic year. Any unused units from one year will automatically roll over to the next year.

The fact is that most college costs are covered by a combination of savings, part-time work, scholarships, loans, and grants. It's important to realize that whether you can afford 50 or 500 units, you are helping to make college dreams a reality for your child.

9. How do I use my GET units?

When your student is ready for college, we'll send you information on how to use your units. You will complete a Direct Payment Request if you want GET to send money directly to the school, or a Reimbursement Request if you have paid college expenses from your own funds. Units must be held at least two years before use, and Custom Monthly Plans must be paid in full. As the account owner, you maintain control of your account and are the only one who can request account changes, distributions or a refund.

10. How is the unit purchase price set? Why is it higher than the payout value?

The GET Committee sets the unit purchase price based on an actuarial formula that takes into account estimated future tuition, projected inflation and investment returns, and administrative costs. It also includes a stabilization reserve to adjust for periods of lower-than-expected returns or higher-than-expected tuition, and amortization of past losses. The GET Committee sets the unit price annually, and may adjust it once annually, if needed, to ensure financial stability for the program.

The payout value of a GET unit is established at the beginning of each academic year when the state public universities set their tuition rates. Each year, the payout value of a GET unit represents 1/100th of the actual resident, undergraduate tuition and state-mandated fees at Washington's most expensive public university.

Today's unit purchase price is higher than the current payout value because the state guarantees your GET account will keep pace with tuition in the future, even if it doubles or triples in price. This premium over current tuition ensures stability for the program.

It will take at least six years to realize a gain on your investment (more if using a Custom Monthly Plan), but GET's guarantee ensures the money you save will be there in the future. GET is a self-sustaining program and receives no ongoing state appropriations.

GET makes a great gift

Grandparents and other friends and family members can easily make a contribution to a child's GET account online or by mail. It's the perfect gift for special occasions such as baby showers, birthdays and holidays. Giftors can contribute to an existing GET account, or start a new account for a child. In fact, over 14% of GET accounts are opened by grandparents or other family members who are not the child's parents.

The gift of education is one that will open doors to a world of opportunity and is sure to last a lifetime.

It's never too early to plan ahead.
College is an investment for a lifetime.

Enroll now

Enroll online

Nearly 92% of GET accounts are opened online, and enrolling online takes an average of fifteen minutes. Just click "Enroll Now" on our website. You can set up a Lump Sum or Custom Monthly Plan, use a credit or debit card for the $50 enrollment fee, then send us a check, money order or set up an electronic funds transfer to get your account started. It's that easy. You can view your account status and change some account information online whenever it's convenient for you. You can also email us at **GETInfo@wsac.wa.gov** or call our Contact Center **(1.800.955.2318)** during business hours for personal assistance.

You will need the following information:

- **About you (Account Owner)**
  Social Security number and contact information, including email address
- **About your student (Beneficiary)**
  Social Security number, contact information, date of birth and projected benefit use year
- **About your plan selection**
  Lump Sum Plan or Custom Monthly Plan

Please thoroughly review the GET Program Details before you enroll. We charge a $50 non-refundable enrollment fee for each GET account, with a maximum $100 fee per family. You may qualify for the $100 maximum family fee if the same account owner opens accounts for more than two students living at the same address. You can pay the enrollment fee by credit card, debit card or check.

After you enroll, you will receive a welcome email confirming your enrollment within two weeks. Unless you have selected Automatic Payroll Deduction or Automatic Monthly Withdrawal, your coupon book will follow either within a few weeks (Lump Sum Plan) or 2-3 weeks before your first payment due date (Custom Monthly Plan). Your account can usually be viewed online within ten business days.

Important dates

Open an account by May 31, 2015

Opening an account

November 1, 2014	The 2014-2015 enrollment year begins. You can open an account at the $172 unit price.
May 31, 2015	The 2014-2015 enrollment year ends. If you enroll online, you must complete your enrollment by midnight PDT on May 31. If you enroll by mail, your enrollment form must be ***postmarked*** by May 31. *Online enrollment gets congested during the final week of the enrollment period. To avoid frustration, please enroll early.*

Buying units for your account (If your account was opened on or before May 31, 2015)

June 25, 2015	June 25 is the last day to buy Lump Sum units at the $172 unit price. We must ***receive*** your payment by June 25. ***(We do not accept June 25 postmarks.)*** If we receive your payment after June 25, there will not be sufficient time to process the payment before the July 1 unit price change.
July 1, 2015	The GET Program may increase the unit price for Lump Sum purchases. Call our Contact Center for details, or check our website.

Enrollment dates and unit price for 2015-2016

Annually, the program will announce an enrollment period. The price of units shall be set annually and may also be adjusted once during the year, if necessary, to ensure the actuarial soundness of the program. The dates of the 2015-2016 enrollment period and the corresponding unit price will be available by Fall 2015. Please check our website or call our Contact Center for details.

Visit our website at get.wa.gov to learn more

Tools & Resources

- Choose the right savings option and payment plan for your budget with our Payment Calculator.
- Get more info on how GET works with interactive videos, webinars, and tutorials.
- See how GET compares to other savings options with our Compare Plans chart.
- Discover how GET is priced and valued on our Price, Payout and Fees page.

News & Events

- Stay up-to-date with our News & Info page and GET blog.
- Find opportunities to meet GET representatives on our Events Calendar and Request a Speaker page.
- Read about GET customers' experiences on our Testimonials page.

24/7 Account Access

Easily manage your GET account online with our secure customer portal.

Save today. Secure tomorrow.

Contact us

Email: GETInfo@wsac.wa.gov

Telephone: 1.800.955.2318 (toll-free)
or 360.753.7803 (Olympia)
Weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Pacific Time (excluding state holidays) Changes will be posted on our website. Translation service is available for customers who do not speak English.

Website: get.wa.gov

Mail enrollment forms, payments and certified letters
GET Program, PO Box 84824, Seattle, WA 98124-6124

Mail correspondence
GET Program, PO Box 43450, Olympia, WA 98504-3450

Visit our office
917 Lakeridge Way SW, Olympia, WA 98502
Weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (excluding state holidays)

Directions are posted on our website.

GET
Guaranteed Education Tuition℠

Washington State's
529 Prepaid College
Tuition Program

WASHINGTON STUDENT
ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL
EDUCATION · OPPORTUNITY · RESULTS

The Washington Student Achievement Council administers the GET Program while the Washington State Investment Board oversees its investments.
The Committee on Advanced Tuition Payment, commonly referred to as the GET Committee, governs the program.

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