

WAC 132P-276-060 Requests for public records. In accordance with requirements of chapter 42.56 RCW that agencies prevent unreasonable invasions of privacy, protect public records from damage or disorganization, and prevent excessive interference with essential functions of the agency, public records may be inspected or copied or copies of such records may be obtained, by members of the public, upon compliance with the following procedures:

(1) A request shall be made in writing upon a form prescribed by the college which shall be available at its administrative office. The form shall be presented to the public records officer; or to any member of the college's staff, if the public records officer is not available, at the administrative office of the college during customary office hours. The request shall include the following information:

- (a) The name of the person requesting the record;
- (b) The time of day and calendar date of the request;
- (c) The nature of the request;

(d) If the matter requested is referenced within an index maintained by the college, a reference to the requested record as described in such index;

(e) If the requested matter is not identifiable by reference to an index, an appropriate description of the record requested.

(2) The public records officer shall reply to written requests within five business days of receipt of the request by:

- (a) Providing copies of the requested records;
- (b) Acknowledging receipt of the request and providing a reasonable estimate of the time the college will require to respond; or
- (c) Denying the public records request. Denials of requests for public records will be accompanied by a written statement specifying the reason for denial.

(3) Additional time to respond to a request may be based on the public records officer's need to ask that the requestor clarify the intent of the request, to locate and assemble the information, to notify third persons or agencies who are the subject of or affected by the request, or to determine whether any of the information requested is exempt. If the requestor fails to clarify the request, the college need not respond to it.

(4) In all cases in which a member of the public is making a request, it shall be the obligation of the public records officer or staff member to whom the request is made, to assist the member of the public in appropriately identifying the public record requested.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.50.140. WSR 09-24-049, § 132P-276-060, filed 11/24/09, effective 1/1/10; WSR 00-01-076, § 132P-276-060, filed 12/13/99, effective 1/13/00; Order 74-3, § 132P-276-060, filed 12/6/74.]