
SENATE BILL 6464

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Senators Delvin, McAuliffe, Hewitt, Pridemore and Rasmussen

Read first time 01/12/2006. Referred to Committee on Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to expanding access to baccalaureate degree
2 programs at Washington State University, Tri-Cities; and amending RCW
3 28B.45.030.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.45.030 and 2005 c 258 s 4 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (1) Washington State University is responsible for providing
8 baccalaureate and graduate level higher education programs to the
9 citizens of the Tri-Cities area, under rules or guidelines adopted by
10 the higher education coordinating board and in accordance with
11 proportionality agreements emphasizing access for transfer students
12 developed with the state board for community and technical colleges.
13 Washington State University shall meet that responsibility through the
14 operation of a branch campus in the Tri-Cities area. The branch campus
15 shall replace and supersede the Tri-Cities university center. All
16 land, facilities, equipment, and personnel of the Tri-Cities university
17 center shall be transferred from the University of Washington to
18 Washington State University.

1 (2) Washington State University Tri-Cities shall continue providing
2 innovative coadmission and coenrollment options with Columbia Basin
3 College, and expand its upper division capacity for transfer students
4 and graduate capacity and programs. The campus shall also seek
5 additional opportunities to collaborate with the Pacific Northwest
6 national laboratory. (~~Beginning in the fall of 2006, the campus may
7 offer lower division courses linked to specific majors in fields not
8 addressed at local community colleges. The campus may admit lower
9 division students through coadmission or coenrollment agreements with
10 a community college, or through direct transfer for students who have
11 accumulated approximately one year of transferable college credits. In
12 addition to offering lower division courses linked to specific majors
13 as addressed above, the campus may also directly admit freshmen and
14 sophomores for a bachelor's degree program in biotechnology subject to
15 approval by the higher education coordinating board. The campus may
16 not directly admit freshmen and sophomores for degree programs other
17 than biotechnology, however this topic shall be the subject of further
18 study and recommendations by the higher education coordinating board.~~)

19 (3) Beginning in the fall of 2006, the campus may admit lower
20 division students directly. By simultaneously admitting freshmen and
21 sophomores, increasing transfer enrollment, coadmitting transfer
22 students, and expanding graduate and professional programs, the campus
23 shall develop into a four-year institution of higher education serving
24 the Tri-Cities region.

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