



Yakima Valley College

2025-27 Operating and Capital Budget Requests
Washington State Community
& Technical Colleges



2025-2027

OPERATING BUDGET REQUEST

Washington's 34 community and technical colleges are asking the Legislature to keep our colleges whole and to invest in core operational support and employee compensation. These investments are vital for delivering high-quality instruction and services to our 290,000 students, as well as for supporting the local communities and employers that rely on their skills and contributions.

Maintain previously approved state allocation *(\$28.6 million in fiscal year 2025)*

We respectfully request the Legislature preserve funding already approved for our colleges in the 2023-25 operating budget for fiscal year 2025 (\$28.6 million). A proposed rollback of funding due to a state budget error would effectively amount to a budget cut this academic year. Our colleges were advised of the error at the start of fall quarter and, by then, had already dedicated the funds in good faith to support programs and services, hire staff, enter vendor contracts, and pay for increasing operating costs — all in service to students. Rolling back approved funding for the college system would be a budget cut when colleges are already struggling to retain employees and manage rising costs.

Provide Fully Funded, Competitive Compensation *(\$183 million)*

Faculty and staff are at the heart of our students' success, but we are losing them to better paying jobs in private industry, K-12 schools, and other colleges and universities. Along with faculty, we are struggling to hire and retain administrative and classified staff who serve in crucial roles in financial aid, business operations, and advising. A salary increase of 6.5% for each year of the biennium, for a total wage increase of 13%, would help colleges provide competitive

compensation, fill vacant positions, and reduce turnover. We urge the Legislature to continue to provide 100% funding for compensation in the 2025-27 operating budget. Otherwise, colleges would have to make budget cuts elsewhere to close the funding gap.

Support College Operations *(\$90 million)*

Community and technical colleges urgently need additional, core operational support to cover the true cost of running a college. College operating costs have increased dramatically over the past five years and Washington's tuition formula has not kept pace with the increases. Rising costs and capped tuition rates have squeezed college operating budgets and, within those narrow funding margins, colleges must dedicate a significant portion to unavoidable costs: About 80% of college funding is dedicated to salaries and a significant amount is tied to specific purposes under legislative provisos. Faced with rising costs, capped tuition rates, and inflexible funding, colleges have limited ability to secure or shift resources to where they are needed the most. Legislative funding for core operational support would help cover essential costs, ensure sufficient funding for student programs and services, and enable colleges to meet their unique local needs.



2025-2027 CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST

Preserve, Optimize, Modernize

In today's rapidly changing higher education landscape, community and technical colleges need to offer safe, modern spaces for teaching and learning and provide the best training ground for new and emerging career fields. Our community and technical college system's \$650 million capital budget request is designed to meet both those goals.

Who We Serve

Anchored in local communities across Washington, our 34 community and technical colleges collectively served about 290,000 students in the 2023-24 academic year. We proudly serve a very diverse student population. Our students are more likely to be the first in their families to attend college, come from lower-income families, be people of color, hold down jobs while enrolled, and care for parents or children. The median age is 26.

Minor Works

Our request prioritizes minor works projects ahead of all other work to prevent or delay more costly renovations and replacement projects in the future.

In this request, our state's 34 community and technical colleges would receive funding for high-priority facility repairs — such as repairing or replacing roofs, windows, elevators, boilers, and mechanical systems — and to proactively replace campus infrastructure that is beyond its useful life, before it fails.

All colleges would also receive funding to modernize existing spaces to ensure they continue to be viable, relevant, and useful.

Major Projects

Our capital budget request includes funding for 12 major projects, starting with a study of possible solutions for Lake Swano dam at Grays Harbor College. Considered "high hazard" by the Department of Ecology, the dam poses an imminent threat to public safety in the south Aberdeen area. A dam failure would significantly disrupt campus operations by cutting off utilities and access to several buildings and by eliminating the college's alternate tsunami evacuation route.

The remaining projects on the list support space for instruction, labs, student services, and vocational programs in high-demand fields like clean energy, automotive technology, advanced manufacturing, and allied health. Nearly 241,000 square feet of the college system's oldest and least functional teaching and learning spaces would be replaced or renovated.

Clean Buildings Act Compliance

Our college system seeks funding for each college to inventory energy-consuming equipment on campus — such as HVACs, boilers, and lighting systems — in order to develop Energy Management and Operations and Maintenance plans required by the 2019 Clean Buildings Act.

Owners of buildings that need to comply with the Clean Buildings Act are required to have a qualified person submit compliance reports for affected buildings, with the first report due in 2026. A second part of this request is to enable colleges to either train staff to become qualified to submit compliance reports or contract with others who are qualified.



YVC Impact

Maintaining the previously approved state allocation in the 2025-27 operating budget is of critical importance to Yakima Valley College students. Rolling back that funding would reduce our budget by approximately \$2 million and erode our ability to offer an excellent education and support services, such as tutoring and personal academic advising, that are essential to students successfully completing their degree or certificate. At YVC, 75% of students are the first in their family to attend college and 64% come from low-income households. Keeping our budget whole is important to maintain a quality education that enables students to achieve a better life and prepare the outstanding workforce that is necessary for the long-term prosperity of the Yakima Valley.

In addition, Yakima Valley College's proposed Prior Kendall Hall project is among the system's future capital projects. YVC is expanding enrollment capacity in its Associate Degree in Nursing program and recently launched a new Practical Nursing program, the only PN program in Eastern Washington, to help fill a critical shortage of these health care professionals in Yakima, Kittitas and Klickitat counties. These programs will be housed in the proposed project, which includes spaces that mimic clinical settings. In addition, the proposed building will feature a career center and IT collaboration space.

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The information provided in this brochure is from the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges. The funding request is to support the 34 institutions in the system.

For additional information: yvcc.edu/communityrelations

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