

ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-25

\$19.3M

TOTAL SAVED

by Alaska students through WICHE Student Access Programs.

\$18.4M

SAVED
through WUE

\$839,251

SAVED
through WRGP

WESTERN UNDERGRADUATE EXCHANGE



Saves **UNDERGRADUATE** students on out-of-state tuition. They pay no more than 150% of in-state tuition at partner institutions across the West.

Top Alaska WUE schools for out-of-state undergraduate students:

- ▶ **University of Alaska Fairbanks (273)**
- ▶ **University of Alaska Anchorage (156)**
- ▶ **University of Alaska Southeast (68)**

Top out-of-state WUE schools for Alaska undergraduate students:

- ▶ **Northern Arizona University (146)**
- ▶ **Montana State University, Bozeman (85)**
- ▶ **Fort Lewis College, CO (83)**

WESTERN REGIONAL GRADUATE PROGRAM



Saves **GRADUATE** students on out-of-state certificate, master's, and doctoral programs. They pay no more than 150% of in-state tuition at partner institutions across the West.

Top Alaska WRGP schools for out-of-state graduate students:

- ▶ **University of Alaska Anchorage (54)**
- ▶ **University of Alaska Fairbanks (4)**
- ▶ **University of Alaska Southeast (1)**

Top out-of-state WRGP schools for Alaska graduate students:

- ▶ **University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (8)**
- ▶ **University of Idaho (8)**
- ▶ **Northern Arizona University (5)**

PROFESSIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM



Helps students pursuing careers in **10 HEALTH FIELDS**. They can enroll in programs in the WICHE region and receive substantial tuition support from their home state/territory.

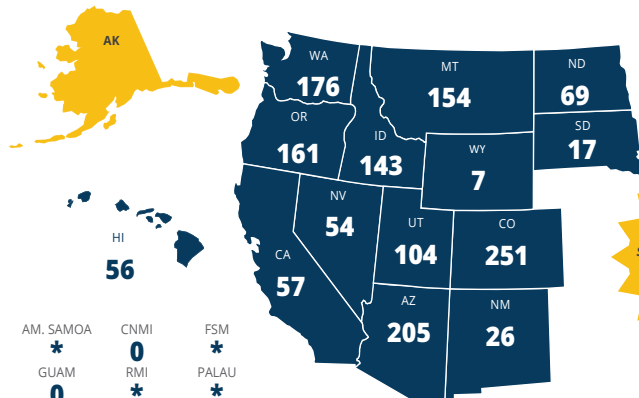
72% of Alaska's PSEP graduates returned home to practice (2012-21). Students are not contractually required to return.

Alaska did not have any students enrolled through PSEP in AY 2024-25. The state of Alaska offers support to its residents in seven healthcare professions offered through PSEP.

11,411% ROI gained on Alaska's WICHE annual dues (\$169,000/FY 2025)

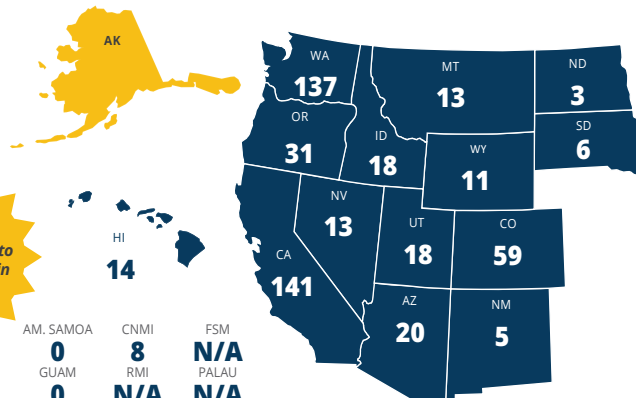
WUE

WUE STUDENTS **FROM** ALASKA: **1,480**



497 WUE students chose to attend college in Alaska

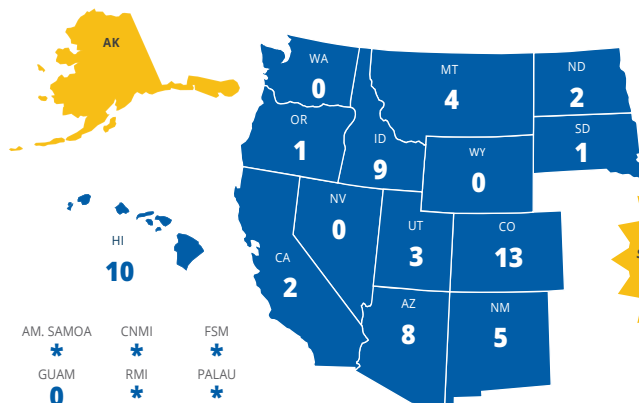
WUE STUDENTS **TO** ALASKA: **497**



* Currently do not have any participating WUE schools.

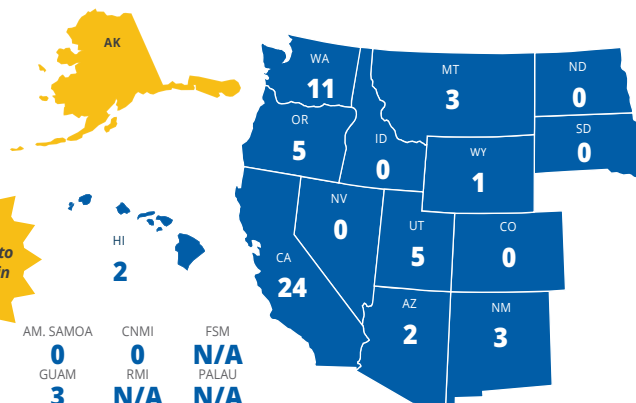
WRGP

WRGP STUDENTS **FROM** ALASKA: **58**



59 WRGP students chose to attend college in Alaska

WRGP STUDENTS **TO** ALASKA: **59**



* Currently do not have any participating WRGP schools.

PSEP

Alaska did not have any students enroll through PSEP during the current academic year. However, Alaska residents can use PSEP for these healthcare professions:

- ▶ Dentistry
- ▶ Occupational Therapy
- ▶ Optometry
- ▶ Pharmacy
- ▶ Physician Assistant
- ▶ Physical Therapy
- ▶ Podiatry

WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING



"Thanks to WUE, I was able to attend the University of Alaska Fairbanks, where I found the perfect setting to pursue my college education. The program expanded my horizons and allowed me to choose a university that truly aligns with my interests and goals."

LEVENTE, Washington resident, Communications, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Regional collaboration

WICHE brings together senior academic leaders to foster dialogue about issues facing individual institutions through its leadership and professional development networks.

WESTERN ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP FORUM – 4-YEAR INSTITUTIONS

- ▶ Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education
- ▶ University of Alaska Anchorage
- ▶ University of Alaska Fairbanks
- ▶ University of Alaska Southeast
- ▶ University of Alaska System

Denise Runge, University of Alaska, will serve as a primary faculty member for the Academy as of July 2024.

WESTERN ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP ACADEMY is a yearlong professional development program for academic leaders aspiring to become chief academic officers in the WICHE region's postsecondary sector. Nine cohort members from Alaska institutions have participated in the Academy since its inception in 2015.

WICHE offers student health and technology contracts through a **COST-SAVINGS PROGRAM** with the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) to colleges and universities, K-12 school districts, local and state municipalities, and nonprofit organizations with an education emphasis. Last year, entities that used these contracts saved 9% over what they otherwise would have outside this joint purchasing arrangement.

WICHE ACADEMY FOR LEADERS IN THE HUMANITIES is a two-year leadership development program for aspiring academic leaders with a background in the humanities. Stephanie Bauer, University of Alaska Anchorage, is participating in the 2024-2026 cohort. Ian Hartman, University of Alaska Anchorage, is participating in the 2023-2025 cohort.

NO HOLDING BACK The University of Alaska Southeast is one of 12 WICHE institutions that participated in 2022-23 in analyzing data, policies and practices related to transcript and registration holds, contributing toward tools for other institutions to undertake this work.

Optimal behavioral health care

WICHE Behavioral Health Program (BHP) contracts with the Alaska Department of Health and Social

Services (DHSS), Division of Behavioral Health, and the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, to support the **ALASKA PSYCHOLOGY INTERNSHIP CONSORTIUM (AK-PIC)** to complete the training of students enrolled at the University of Alaska's doctoral program in clinical-community psychology, as well as other psychology doctoral students who wish to train and work in Alaska.

WICHE BHP, in collaboration with the Center for Alaska Native Health Research (CANHR) and the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC), was awarded a **NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH)** research grant. This project will evaluate the behavioral health aid program focusing on efficacy, implementation, and best practices. As behavioral health workforce issues continue to grow in tribal areas, this research has the potential to significantly influence the development of new programs across the West.

The WICHE BHP was selected through a competitive bidding process to assist the **ALASKA PSYCHIATRIC INSTITUTE (API)** in maintaining compliance with regulating agencies through review of policies, health information management, infection control, milieu management, risk management, medical staff credentialing, pharmacy practices, and life safety code and environment of care.

Sound public policy

Alaska participates in the **STATE AUTHORIZATION RECIPROCITY AGREEMENT (SARA)** through WICHE. This voluntary agreement provides reciprocity for the state authorization of distance education. WICHE Commissioners have been strong advocates for protecting the state voice in important governance decisions affecting this agreement and staff continue to support participating states and improving student protections while bolstering access.

Created by the WICHE Commission in 1995, the **LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LAC)** works to strengthen state-level postsecondary policymaking across the West. Members are legislators appointed by each state, territory, or freely associated state in the WICHE region; they meet annually to explore emerging policy issues and develop strategies for interstate collaboration.

KNOCKING AT THE COLLEGE DOOR is the leading U.S. resource for projections of high school graduates. Released in December 2024, the newest edition is essential for postsecondary policymakers, planning and workforce efforts, and economic development. Visit wiche.edu/knocking

to access reports, interactive dashboards, webinars, presentations, as well as state-level data.

DATA RESOURCES WICHE offers curated data and policy resources to support better-informed decision-making. WICHE's research projects and collaborations cover postsecondary completion, health workforce development, behavioral health in postsecondary education, open educational resources (OER), state finance, prior learning assessment, and more.

- ▶ **Tuition and Fees in the West** includes tuition, fees, and enrollment data about 350+ public institutions in the West.
- ▶ **Benchmarks: WICHE Region** presents information on the West's progress in improving access to, success in, and financing of higher education.
- ▶ Data on over 35 indicators in WICHE's **Regional Fact Book for Higher Education in the West**.

DATA EXPERTS WICHE staff provide analysis on finance, financial aid, articulation and transfer, strategic planning, student demographics, and more, as well as host peer-to-peer calls of state, system, and institutional chief academic officers to identify areas of potential collaboration and resource sharing across the West.

CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICERS NETWORK Staff from the University of Alaska system office and the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education also participate in regular collaborative calls with colleagues around the region.

Innovative solutions

WCET – THE WICHE COOPERATIVE FOR EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES is the leader in the practice, policy, and advocacy of digital learning in higher education. Its growing membership includes institutions, higher education agencies and systems, nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and corporations in all U.S. states and several Canadian provinces. WCET members include:

- ▶ Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education
- ▶ University of Alaska Anchorage
- ▶ University of Alaska Fairbanks

STATE AUTHORIZATION NETWORK (SAN) helps guide institutions through state regulations around online courses and programs. SAN members include:

- ▶ Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education
- ▶ University of Alaska Anchorage
- ▶ University of Alaska Fairbanks

WICHE has convened the **OERWEST NETWORK**, which is part of a nationwide collaborative to scale the development and adoption of free course materials. Open educational resources (OER) have shown promise in improving student outcomes, particularly for poverty-affected students, for whom the high cost of textbooks can be a barrier to postsecondary success.

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