

HIGH SCHOOL 21+

Life experience turned into credits for a high school diploma

"Never in my wildest of dreams did I ever think that it would be possible to graduate with cap, gown, and a high school diploma. I can't wait to see what the future has in store for me!"

Shannon Fowler, HS 21+ graduate, Skagit Valley College



Austin James, Lower Columbia College *Shannon Fowler, Skagit Valley College*

A springboard to opportunity

Adults who lack a high school diploma now have another way to get a second chance. It's called "High School 21+," a program that turns life experience into credits toward a high school diploma.

Program overview

- Students must be at least 21 years old.
- Advisors assess students' education and work readiness. Students can demonstrate their knowledge — and receive high school credits — in several ways. These include: work, life, and military experience; a traditional placement test; a prior learning portfolio; and high school and college transcripts.
- Advisors then create a customized plan of action. Students take classes selected especially to fill education gaps, and move ahead as soon as they've mastered the subject matter.
- Students pay \$25 per quarter and the college issues the Washington state diploma.

The benefits

High School 21+:

- Recognizes life competency in addition to classroom time and tests.
- Opens the door to federal financial aid, vocational training programs or degree programs.
- Is accepted more readily and consistently by the military because it is an actual high school diploma rather than an equivalency.

Students have other ways of earning high school diplomas from community and technical colleges. They can earn an associate degree and ask for a high school diploma after the fact, or work with colleges to complete courses missing from their high school transcripts. Students can also take the GED®.

A path to college and careers

Adults who lack a high school diploma often attend basic skills classes at two-year colleges. Until now, those classes did not count toward a high school diploma.

High School 21+ adds more rigorous, high-school level education to basic skills classes so students can update their reading, writing, math and English language skills while working toward a high school diploma. The courses then lead to credit-bearing classes that prepare students for college or careers.

Adults with high school diplomas are better prepared to enter college-level programs, earn certificates and degrees, and secure well paying jobs. With High School 21+, adults have a new opportunity to earn a diploma and turn their fortunes around.

See the reverse side for a list of participating colleges.

High School 21+ colleges

Bates Technical College	253-680-7395
Big Bend Community College	509-793-2301
Centralia College	360-736-9391 ext. 383
Clover Park Technical College	253-589-4509
Edmonds Community College	425-640-1593
Everett Community College	425-388-9291
Grays Harbor College	360-538-4167
Lake Washington Institute of Technology	425-739-8363
Lower Columbia College	360-442-2580
Peninsula College	360-417-6383
Pierce College Fort Steilacoom	253-964-6657
Pierce College Puyallup	252-840-8463
Renton Technical College	425-235-2352 ext. 5752
Seattle Central College	206-934-4180
Shoreline Community College	206-546-4602
Skagit Valley College	360-416-7726
South Puget Sound Community College	360-596-5238
Spokane Falls Community College	509-533-4600
Tacoma Community College	253-566-5144
Walla Walla Community College	509-524-4808
Yakima Valley Community College	509-574-6850