



American Public Works Association Washington State Chapter Higher Education Scholarship Application–2026

2-Year Degree

The Washington State Chapter of the American Public Works Association is offering a **\$2,500 scholarship** to students in 2 year colleges or technical schools. These scholarships are directed to students in pathways or programs that will benefit the field of Public Works.

Public works is all around us. As an industry, it provides the water we drink, the roads and bridges we drive on, sewer and stormwater systems, snow and ice removal, garbage and recycling services, environmental protections, other transportation systems such as railroad, airports, and ferries, and even emergency response to major disasters. Public works operatives work for both the government (cities, counties, and state) and consulting firms. Public works offers a huge variety of jobs such as engineer, surveyor, environmental scientist, GIS specialist, communicator, graphic artist, writer, mechanic, equipment operator, accountant, HR professional, administrative professional, and many others.

The application process is open to students currently enrolled in two-year programs. Applicants must be enrolled in a college or school in the State of Washington. Students enrolled in an out-of-state school will not be eligible.

Entry Criteria

1. To be eligible for consideration the applicant shall be pursuing a course of study that will lead to a career in public works. This can include the engineering field directly related to Public Works, i.e. engineering, surveying, GIS, mechanics, communications, administrative services, marketing, construction administration, environmental sciences, operations, etc.
2. The applicant shall be a full time student as of the fall 2026 school year.
3. The applicant shall meet the respective school's definition of full time standing for the 2026/2027 school year.
4. Evaluation criteria will include, in addition to scholastic considerations:
 - Beyond the classroom activities and interests
 - Community service efforts
 - Responses to essays and situational questions

Application Instructions

Please fill-in the following application completely. Space has been provided to answer the essay questions. Please do not modify the form.

Applications must be submitted in PDF electronic format.

No hard copies will be accepted.

Applications are due no later than Friday, June 19, 2026.

Applications shall be emailed to
Liam Olsen
APWA Scholarship Committee Chair
liam.olsen@jacobs.com



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General Information

Name (Last, First, Middle Initial)

Email Address

Telephone

Educational Background

High School

School Name

Graduation Date

Location (City, State)

College/Technical School

School Name

GPA

Location (City, State)

Expected Date of Graduation/Completion of 2 year program/University transfer (Month, Year)



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Scholarships

Scholarships in effect for the coming year (description and amount):

Should you win, describe the impact this scholarship would have in supporting your education.

Activities, Achievements, and Honors

Activities, organizations, societies, etc. (on and off campus). Include activities that you are involved with. For example: volunteer work, sports, community involvement, working with youth groups, etc.



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Essay Questions

Public works is all around us. As an industry, it provides the water we drink, the roads and bridges we drive on, sewer and stormwater systems, snow and ice removal, garbage and recycling services, environmental protections, other transportation systems such as railroad, airports, and ferries, and even emergency response to major disasters. Public works operatives work for both the government (cities, counties, and state) and consulting firms. Public works offers a huge variety of jobs such as engineer, surveyor, environmental scientist, GIS specialist, communicator, graphic artist, writer, mechanic, equipment operator, accountant, HR professional, administrative professional, and many others.

With this definition in mind, please answer the following two questions in separate essays on a separate sheet, 500 words max per essay.

- 1 Tell us about an interesting class you've taken so far in your high school or college career and how it relates to the public works industry. What inspired you about the class? What was the most important thing you learned in the class?
- 2 Describe how you have demonstrated leadership ability both in and out of school.

Applicant Signature

Date