

## ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-24

**\$18M**

**TOTAL SAVED**

by Alaska students through WICHE Student Access Programs

**\$17M**

**SAVED**  
through WUE

**\$1M**

**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 (242)**
- ▶ **University of Alaska Anchorage (147)**
- ▶ **University of Alaska Southeast (62)**

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

- ▶ **Northern Arizona University (166)**
- ▶ **Montana State University, Bozeman (106)**
- ▶ **Washington State University (73)**

## WESTERN REGIONAL GRADUATE PROGRAM



Saves students on out-of-state **GRADUATE** 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 (51)**
- ▶ **University of Alaska Southeast (3)**
- ▶ **University of Alaska Fairbanks (2)**

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

- ▶ **University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (11)**
- ▶ **University of Idaho (11)**
- ▶ **University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus (6)**

## 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.

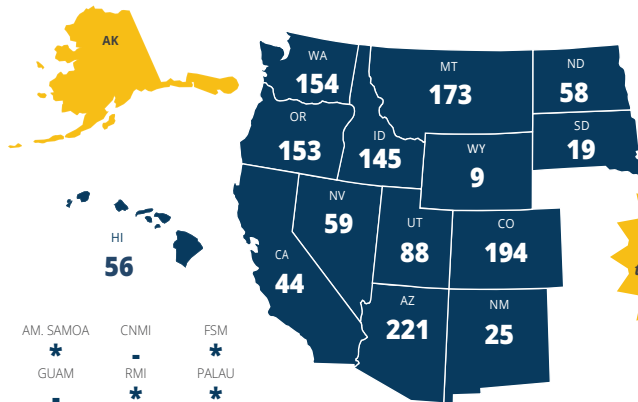
**72% of Alaska's PSEP graduates returned home to practice (2012-21)**. Students are not contractually required to return.

Alaska did not have any students enrolled through PSEP during the current academic year. The state of Alaska supports its residents in seven health care professions offered through PSEP.

**10,957% ROI** Gained on Alaska's WICHE annual dues (\$164,000/FY 2024)

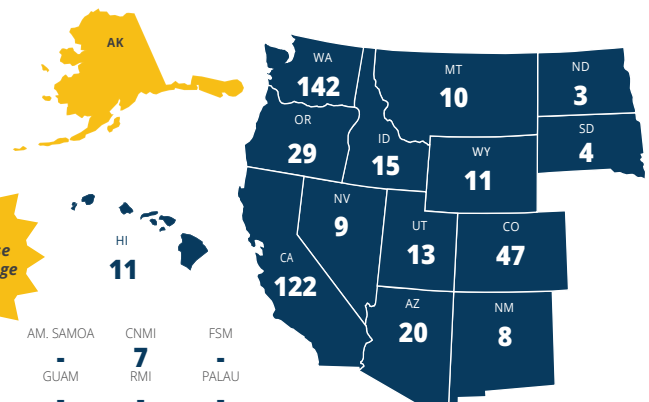
## WUE

WUE STUDENTS FROM ALASKA: **1,398**



451 WUE students chose to attend college in Alaska

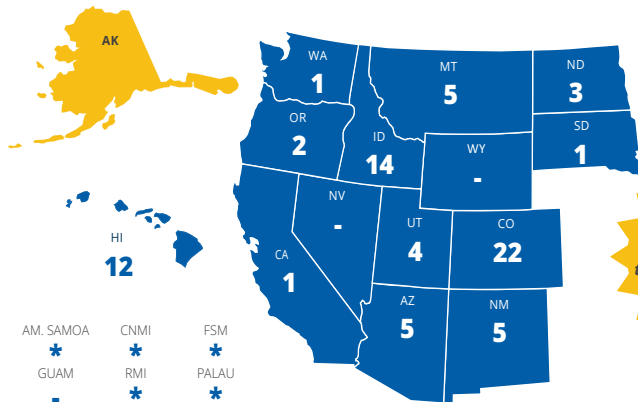
WUE STUDENTS TO ALASKA: **451**



\* Currently do not have any participating WUE schools.

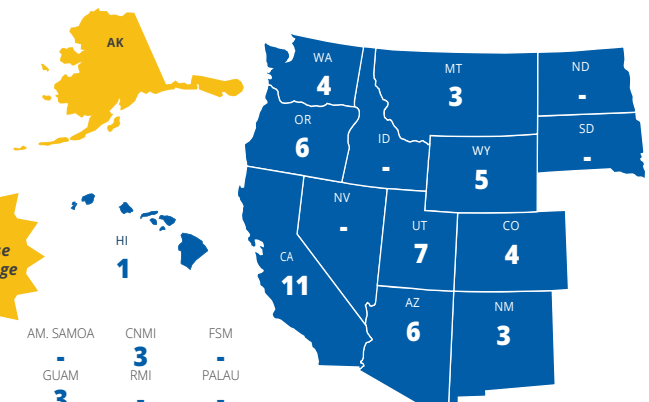
## WRGP

WRGP STUDENTS FROM ALASKA: **75**



56 WRGP students chose to attend college in Alaska

WRGP STUDENTS TO ALASKA: **56**



\* 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 health care professions:

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

## WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING



“ With no architecture programs in my home state, seeking a degree out-of-state was inevitable. WRGP made my education more affordable and provided a dynamic and diverse learning environment that has enriched my educational experience. I recommend WICHE’s Student Access Programs to anyone looking to reduce or avoid student loans. ”

**PAUL**, Alaska resident, Master of Architecture, University of Hawai’i at Mānoa

## 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. Nine cohort members from Alaska institutions have participated in the Academy since its inception in 2015.

**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.

**COSTS-SAVINGS PROGRAMS** Thanks to collaboration with the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC), one of four U.S. regional higher education compacts, WICHE-region educational institutions, nonprofits, and public education entities can benefit from three programs: MHECtech, which provides competitively bid purchasing contracts for an array of hardware, software, and technology services; MHECare, which provides a student health insurance plan and teletherapy services; and a MHEC Cyber Insurance Program, which offers risk transfer and advisory solutions.

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.

**WICHE ACADEMY FOR LEADERS IN THE HUMANITIES** is a leadership development program for aspiring academic leaders with a background in the humanities. The two-year fellowship consists of campus-based and external mentoring, a three-day in-person seminar, and an extended project. Ian Hartman, University of Alaska Anchorage, is participating in the 2023-25 cohort.

## Optimal behavioral healthcare

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 Ph.D. 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.

**TOGETHER WITH VETERANS (TWV) – RURAL VETERAN SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM** is a national program that enlists rural Veterans and local partners to join forces to reduce Veteran suicide in their own communities. Funded by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and administered by the WICHE BHP, TWV provides communities with individualized coaching, tools, training, technical assistance, and resources to implement the program in their own communities. The BHP supports 38 rural communities as far east as New Hampshire and as far west as Guam, and of those, supports 18 rural communities in the WICHE region. The TWV program has one site in Juneau, Alaska, and has served nearly 890 rural veterans from that area.

## Sound public policy

***KNOCKING AT THE COLLEGE DOOR*** is the leading U.S. resource for projections of college-ready students. *Knocking*, which includes a quadrennial publication with additional analysis, is essential for postsecondary policymakers, planning and workforce efforts, and economic development. Visit [knocking.wiche.edu](http://knocking.wiche.edu) 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**.

**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 technology-enhanced 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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