

College Quick Facts for Elementary/Middle Schools

Use this list of facts to provide mini-lessons to increase students' and parents' college knowledge. Include a quick fact during morning or evening announcements, or announce them during sporting and family events!

DID YOU KNOW...?

- Going to college in West Virginia is a bargain! It is more affordable to go to college in West Virginia than almost any other state. And almost all West Virginia students get help paying for college through scholarships and grants, known as financial aid.
- By the time you transition to high school, most jobs in West Virginia will require a college degree. There are lots of degrees to choose from. Some students go to school for one or two years. Some go for four or more years. When you think about career and job options, you should also try to learn about the type of education you will need.
- Students who complete a four-year college degree earn, on average, a million dollars more over their lifetime than students who stop their education after high school. When you learn more, you earn more!
- College graduates are more likely to have steady jobs. That means they are less likely to be laid off when times are tough.
- One West Virginia college was named after a very famous United States Supreme Court Justice. Marshall University is named after Chief Justice John Marshall.
- Students at West Virginia University get to class by taking a small train called the "P.R.T."
- Lots of colleges in West Virginia have mascots that are symbols of West Virginia's outdoorsy spirit and beautiful mountain landscape. For example, the mascot at WVU is a mountaineer. Glenville State University's mascot is the Pioneer, and West Liberty's mascot is the Hilltopper.
- Concord University's nickname is "Campus Beautiful," because the buildings and gardens on campus are so pretty. Bluefield State University is also called "Big Blue."
- West Virginia University is located in Morgantown. But the school also has two partner campuses. One is called WVU Tech and it is located in Beckley. The other is called WVU Potomac State College, and it is located in Keyser in the state's Eastern Panhandle.
- College campuses can sometimes look like small cities. Some of them have fitness centers, restaurants, coffee shops, swimming pools, convenience stores, and even bowling alleys and movie theaters! For example, Fairmont State University has a building called the Falcon Center. It is named after the school's mascot, the falcon, and has places for students to study, work out, eat out, and relax.
- Shepherd University offers the best of both worlds — small town comfort with big city attractions nearby. Shepherd University is located in Shepherdstown, WV, a small town with just a couple of streets. But it is also only an hour and a half away from the nation's capital, Washington, D.C.!
- Not every college student has to go to college for four years. Many students can earn certificates or degrees in just one to two years by attending a community or technical college. West Virginia has ten community and technical colleges and each of these colleges has several campuses in different towns throughout the state. The closest community and technical colleges to our school are...

College Quick Facts for High School Students and Adult Students

- Use this list of facts to provide mini-lessons to increase students' and community members' college knowledge. Work with a local media outlet to coordinate a regular "fun fact" feature, or announce these tidbits during sporting and other campus or community events!
- Note: All facts are valid for students who plan to attend college in the 2022-2023 academic year; however, financial aid information and economic statistics are subject to change annually.

FINANCIAL AID AND COLLEGE COSTS FACTS

- West Virginia's public colleges and universities offer some of the lowest tuition rates in the country! West Virginia's colleges and universities offer a great education at a bargain! The average cost of tuition for one year at West Virginia's public four-year colleges is approximately \$8,418. The average cost of tuition for one year at the state's public two-year colleges is about \$4,400!
- West Virginia provides more financial aid dollars per student than almost any other state in the nation. Most West Virginia students receive financial aid to help pay for education and training beyond high school!
- Students of any age or income-level who plan to pursue a certificate program, two-year college degree program, or four-year college degree program should complete the FAFSA — or Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The FAFSA is free to submit, and it's a requirement for not only federal financial aid, but also for many state financial aid programs! Students planning to attend college next year should look for the FAFSA online after October 1.
- West Virginia offers several grant and scholarship programs, including the PROMISE Scholarship Program, the West Virginia Invests Grant, the West Virginia Higher Education Grant, the West Virginia Engineering, Science, and Technology Program, the Underwood-Smith Teacher Scholarship Program, and the Higher Education Adult Part-time Student (HEAPS) Program! The HEAPS program can be used to help pay for many certificate programs!

CAREER OUTLOOK AND ECONOMIC FACTS

- To keep up with future workforce demands, 60 percent of working-aged West Virginians will need a certificate or degree. But in 2016, only 31 percent of West Virginians aged 25-64 held at least an associate degree. Earning your college degree opens up opportunities - because our state needs more college graduates to fill high-paying jobs!
- Students who complete a bachelor's degree program earn, on average, a million dollars more over their lifetime than students who stop their education after high school. When you learn more, you earn more!
- During the recession, unemployment rates for college-educated workers stayed low relative to unemployment rates among those with a high school diploma or less.
- College-educated adults are more likely to receive health and pension benefits and to be satisfied with their jobs, and a college education leads to healthier lifestyles -- all reducing health care costs for families and society.
- On average, the benefits of a four-year college degree are equivalent to an investment that returns 15.2 percent annually -- more than double the average return on stock market investments since 1950.

COLLEGE PLANNING AND EXPLORATION

West Virginia's students and parents can get free help planning, applying, and paying for college by visiting College for West Virginia's free college- and career-planning website available at CFWV.com. That's CFWV.com.

Students can practice for the ACT and SAT for FREE at CFWV.com, the state's free college- and career-planning website. That's CFWV.com.

Students can apply directly to all of West Virginia's public two-year and four-year colleges and universities through CFWV.com. CFWV.com is West Virginia's free college- and career-planning website!

