

YOUR JOB & CAREER CONNECTIONS

We are your Career Center, open to students, alumni, staff, faculty, and community for staff assisted and self-directed services. We are currently serving individuals remotely and in person at Fort Steilacoom and Puyallup. We continue to be available by email or phone. Contact information can be found in our Staff Directory on the next page.

Welcome to Fall 2022!

Welcome all new and returning students, faculty and staff to Fall 2022! In our newsletters you will find information on free services and resources available to students and community members. Watch for future editions of our newsletters in your email or on the Pierce College Workforce website. Past editions can also be found on the Pierce College Website at <https://www.pierce.ctc.edu/workforce-connections>.

Did You Know - you may be eligible for assistance through Pierce College Workforce Programs?

The Workforce department and its partners can assist with accessing and navigating campus and community resources which may include finding help with funding for tuition and books, housing, applying for financial aid, job search, childcare and more.

Below is a guide to our Workforce programs.

- **BFET (Basic Food Employment & Training)** Supports students receiving SNAP benefits who are enrolled in transitional education, a certificate program, or certain associate degree programs.
- **WorkFirst** Supports students who are parents of young children, receiving TANF (Cash Assistance), and are enrolled in certain professional/technical programs.
- **Worker Retraining** Supports students who currently receive or have received unemployment benefits in the past 48 months, about to or have separated from the military in the past 48 months, a displaced homemaker, formerly self-employed or are currently working in a position considered not in demand according to [Employment Security](#) and are enrolled in a professional/technical program.
- **Opportunity Grant** Supports students who are low-income (per FAFSA or WASFA) who are enrolled in an approved program.
- **Job and Career Connections** is Pierce College's Career Center. It supports students, alumni, staff, faculty, and community members who may be looking for work, including fulltime, part time, work study, internship, or volunteer opportunities. We also help those who need job search resources, career exploration, or a resume or cover letter reviewed among other support services.

Not sure where to start? Complete the Start Next Quarter survey www.startnextquarter.org to find out if you may be eligible for one or more of the Workforce programs.

Boost into Accounting and Kinesiology with Virtual Info Sessions

Accounting – Wednesday October 19th 3:00 pm – 4:00pm, [Register here for Accounting Career Boost](#)

Kinesiology – Tuesday October 25th 3:00pm – 4:00pm, [Register here for Kinesiology Career Boost](#)

- Get Career Insights with Local Industry Leaders
- Find Out What Training You Need To Be Successful
- Learn How WIOA Can Support You With Coaching & Services

Call 253-905-1827 for more information.

Funding Eligibility: Start Next Quarter www.startnextquarter.org, is a quick survey that identifies possible funding sources for degrees or certificates.

Jobs, Work Study, & Internships: <https://pierce.joinhandshake.com>

Pierce College Job & Career Connections Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/1151589171538211/

Need Help?  Find campus and community resource: [Pierce Advocacy and Resource Connections \(PARC\)](#)

Workforce Staff Directory

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FS (Fort Steilacoom) Welcome
Center, Cascade bldg. 3rd fl.

PY (Puyallup) Student Success Center,
Gaspard bldg., ADM 106

Hours: In-person and remote service
available Monday – Friday, 8am-11am
for walk-ins and afternoons by
appointment.

Have a question? Email us at
JCC@pierce.ctc.edu

Metropolitan Development Council (MDC)

MDC is a community-based organization located in downtown Tacoma that serves all of Pierce County. MDC can provide education support and assistance for any student or community member with:

- ✓ FAFSA/WASFA applications
- ✓ College/University applications and admissions, including fees
- ✓ Referral(s) to other MDC programs and community resources
- ✓ Identification of a career path (Virtual Job Shadow)
- ✓ Scholarships
- ✓ Student Loans and Loan Defaults
- ✓ GED Testing including official exams and study material expenses and online account setup
- ✓ Financial Literacy
- ✓ Free ORCA Cards

For further information please contact Eleni Palmisano, MDC Coordinator at 253-722-3429 or epalmisano@pierce.ctc.edu.

Tools to Explore Your Career Options:

WOIS Career Planner

Create your WOIS Career Planner account to explore career pathways, occupation outlook, learn about your personal work style and interests, discover educational programs, and track progress along your career pathway. Assessments look at possible career matches, include a reality check to see how the pathway aligns with your lifestyle, and allows you to compare schools and universities.

WOIS CIS360

Great for prospective students, WOIS CIS360, allows users to create a free profile, explore your career pathway possibilities, occupation outlook, or complete a career assessment.

Find WOIS links and more at: <https://www.pierce.ctc.edu/career-exploration>

Handshake

Not just a job-search platform, Handshake allows students to look at real-time information about occupations, participate in a virtual workshop or event with industry experts, or connect directly with professionals in pathways of interest.
<https://pierce.joinhandshake.com/login>

The 23-24 FAFSA & WASFA Applications Are Here!

In Washington there are two different types of applications:

- FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) if you are a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen www.fafsa.gov OR
- WASFA (WA Application for State Financial Aid) if not eligible to complete a FAFSA due to immigration status, defaulted student loans or other situations with federal aid www.wsac.wa.gov/wasfa

Both require income and tax return information (if applicable) from 2021 from both student and possibly parent, depending on dependency status.

For further information or assistance please contact Eleni Palmisano, MDC Coordinator at 253-722-3429 or epalmisano@pierce.ctc.edu.