

# Benefits of Mass Packaging: college highlights

## WACTC Technology Committee & WACTC, Nov. 30 - Dec. 1, 2023 Update

During the fall quarter Financial Aid Council, Lower Columbia College presented its experience in adopting the two recent Mass Packaging enhancements. Two additional Mass Packaging enhancements will be deployed Dec. 12, 2023.

Below are some of the benefits they shared:

* Quicker awarding of students once they are ready for packaging
* Allows award offers to go out sooner
* Students have come in to enroll in classes after they saw their award offer
* Staff can concentrate on other job duties
* Smaller group of students who still need to be manually awarded versus manually awarding every student

Tacoma Community College shared its experiences with the SBCTC Financial Aid ctcLink Support team.

## Lower Columbia College

*Jessica Harris, Assistant Director of Financial Aid*

* Using the mass packaging process for awarding our students after their FAFSA/WASFA has been reviewed has increased our department’s efficiency.
* The bulk of students can be mass-packaged which means there are fewer students that must be individually awarded due to their circumstances. This allows our staff time to concentrate on all the other financial aid department job duties outside of awarding that must be done.
* Mass packaging has also allowed us to award students based on their file completion date rather than prioritizing the enrolled students first.
* This means our award offer letters are being sent out to students sooner and even if the student isn’t currently enrolled.
* Receiving an award offer letter from LCC has encouraged some of the unenrolled students to register in classes which could be a boost to our enrollment levels if those students were hesitating to enroll before having a plan to pay for their classes.

## Tacoma Community College

*James D. Flowers, Ed.D., Director of Financial Aid and Veteran Services*

Here are the reasons we use the mass packaging tool:

* It allows for quicker notification of a financial aid offer once a student’s file is ready
* It allows for staff to concentrate on other job-related duties (which is crucial here at TCC)
* We have groups of students that still need to go through a manual process, similar to LCC
* Unfortunately, after we run the mass packaging process at the beginning of each academic year, students that go through the subsequent mass packaging jobs after the initial big one, is manually checked to make sure the offer was done correctly

Mass packaging at TCC is similar to what LCC presented at the FAC meeting; however, we do not send offers to students who have not enrolled.