

Whatcom

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Fall 2015

National Leader in Cybersecurity Education

WCC is at the forefront of cybersecurity education. The College is a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance – 2 Year Education and the lead institution of CyberWatch West. In summer 2015, WCC received two National Science Foundation grants totaling \$6.4 million to drive a nationwide expansion of cybersecurity education. The College's first four-year degree will be the new Bachelor of Applied Science degree in IT Networking (pending accreditation). The degree builds upon current options, including an associate in applied science transfer degree in cybersecurity that is aligned with a corresponding bachelor degree program at Western Washington University.

Healthcare Education Innovator

For more than 30 years, WCC has been a leader in healthcare education, meeting demand for highly skilled nurses, physical therapist assistants, medical assistants and massage practitioners. Students experience real-world, high-pressure healthcare scenarios at the College's Health Professions Education Center. Thanks to WCC's innovative instruction, graduates consistently pass licensing exams at rates above national and state averages. WCC's nursing program is among the first in the state to offer a direct transfer degree for graduates who want to earn their bachelor's degree in the field. In related news, Whatcom leads a \$584,000 Hospital Employee Education and Training grant to develop instructional programs that prepare students for emerging healthcare careers in care coordination, behavioral health and aging populations.

Business Degrees that Work

WCC's business degrees pair a foundation of business, accounting and related courses with relevant electives, preparing students for transfer to four-year institutions or to enter the workforce. Whatcom's business administration AS degree covers general principles and business skills. New certificates of proficiency are available in sustainable business leadership practice and finance-related topics that may be applied toward an associate's degree in finance. WCC's office administration and hospitality and tourism business management programs teach students versatile skills. WCC's business programs are specifically developed to meet Whatcom County's small to mid-sized business profile.

Options Help Students Succeed

New pathways in math and English begin this fall. The alternative math literacy pathway is ideal for students who are not pursuing STEM degrees. They'll focus on common math skills for use in college, careers and life. Changes in English include revisions to placement testing, prerequisites for gateway courses and new composition course offerings. The most obvious change for students is placement testing. In-coming students can now submit their high school GPA, AP test score, AP course grade, SAT or ACT score, or the Accuplacer reading skills test score for placement into Whatcom English courses. In addition, a score of 3 or 4 on the Smarter Balanced Assessment (taken in 11th grade) allows placement in English 101.



Whatcom At A Glance

Students Served:

10,993 annually
6,379 quarterly
3,999 FTE**
6,817 credit students annually
4,496 community and continuing education students annually

***FTE=Full-time equivalent, total equivalent of all students taking exactly 15 credits per quarter.*

About WCC Degree & Certificate Seeking Students:

- 78% Whatcom County high school graduates*
- 21% students of color
- 41% first-generation college students
- 14% Running Start, 929 students
- 70% between the ages of 16-24

**Students 20 and younger, includes Running Start.*

Degrees Awarded:

- 79% academic transfer.
- 21% professional technical (11% health care, 4% technology/ Remainder business, education, and law & justice)

Top degrees WCC graduates earn at subsequent colleges:

- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)
- Business/Finance/Accounting
- Social Sciences
- Humanities

Ranked among the top six community colleges in the state and top 150 in the nation.

- Aspen Institute, 2014

Expanded, improved Pavilion and Student Recreation Center now open

WCC students approved and funded expansion and enhancements of the Pavilion and Student Recreation Center. The beautiful, new building opened on the first day of fall quarter, Sept. 22, 2015. It includes more than 24,000 square feet of new construction and 6,700 square feet of renovated space. Students supported the project to improve classrooms, to increase exercise options on campus, and to create a gathering space. Amenities include new fitness and strength training equipment, a second-floor indoor running track, balcony-level fitness and stretching areas, two new studio spaces, upgraded locker room facilities, and food and beverage services. The public is invited to the 5:30 p.m. Oct. 6 ribbon cutting and open house. Find more information at whatcom.edu/news.

Polish skills or explore a personal interest with WCC Community & Continuing Education

Whatcom's Community & Continuing Education program offers outstanding non-credit classes. (whatcomcommunityed.com) Here are fall classes we're especially excited to share:

- Autumn Road Trip to the Northwest Chocolate Festival (Oct. 3)
- Craft Beer Appreciation Class (Oct. 6) and Craft Beer: The American Scene (Nov. 3)
- Productivity Tools to Simplify Your Life!, series begins Oct. 19
- Chuckanut Writers, writers rejoice at this expansive list of classes. A partnership with Village Books
- Always popular, social media/technology series
- On the horizon: cybersecurity and human resource classes geared for small businesses

Gifts to WCC Foundation help build futures

For many Whatcom Community College students, higher education and a brighter future would not be possible without the support of gifts to the WCC Foundation.

Over 60 percent of our students require some level of financial support to pay their tuition. Scholarship funds gifted by donors mean that we can increase our scholarship awards and decrease student reliance on loans that delay financial independence. Scholarship awards for the 2014-2015 year totaled over \$300,000 to over 250 students. We also increased the number of awards available to first-generation college students and those working toward a transfer degree to a four-year college or university.

The WCC Foundation also granted over \$460,000 to support student access and success including the Intercultural Center, the tutoring center, veterans' services, student emergency funds, faculty development and funding for the new CIS lab.

When you contribute to the WCC Foundation, you're investing in our students and our community *and* ensuring that all students can access first-rate higher education to build a better future. Contact us at foundation@whatcom.ctc.edu or 360.383.3320. Thank you!

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