

Whatcom

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Summer 2015

Bachelor's degrees begin here

At Whatcom, 79 percent of our degree- and certificate-seeking students intend to transfer to a four-year school. They know Whatcom is a smart choice to begin their college degree because they'll receive first-rate instruction and save money as they earn their general university requirements.

WCC graduates transfer to universities throughout the U.S. and closer to home, including Western and the University of Washington. Transfer options include:

- **Associate in Arts and Sciences (DTA)** Transferable to most four-year schools in Washington and many out-of-state universities. It is designed for students who plan to pursue a bachelor's degree in a wide variety of majors, especially business, arts/humanities and social sciences. Students can now earn their AAS degree fully online.
- **Associate in Science (AST)** Designed for students planning to major in specific science or engineering fields. Students will generally transfer with junior standing but may be required to complete additional general educational requirements after transfer.

New transfer options and four-year degree:

- A new articulation agreement with Trinity Western University (TWU) will create a seamless transition to the four-year school for Whatcom graduates with an associate in science degree in business administration. Students can complete their bachelor's degree at TWU's campuses in Bellingham or Langley, British Columbia. Students who successfully complete WCC's AS degree in business administration will have fulfilled the first two years toward TWU's bachelor's degree in leadership. Business administration graduates transferring to any other TWU undergraduate program will enter with 60 semester hours of credits, which – depending upon the degree of choice – may satisfy the full first two years of the TWU degree.
- The Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) approved Whatcom's direct transfer degree program in nursing. The agreement streamlines the process for students who want to earn their bachelor's degree in nursing after completing an associate's degree and successfully passing the licensing exam. Whatcom's nursing program is among the first in the state to receive this recognition and will offer the degree starting this fall, pending accreditation approval. While registered nurses can begin work immediately after earning their associate's degree and license, increasingly, industry expectation is that nurses will have a bachelor's degree in the field.
- The SBCTC has approved WCC's first applied four-year degree program. Pending accreditation approval, beginning fall 2017, accepted students can enroll in Whatcom's new Bachelor's of Applied Science (BAS) degree in IT Networking. The degree addresses the growing employment gap for qualified IT networking personnel with enhanced skills in cloud computing, mobile technologies and industrial control systems.



Whatcom At A Glance

Students Served:

10,980 annually*
6,379 quarterly
3,999 FTE**
6,817 credit students annually
4,496 community and continuing education students annually

**2013-2014 figure*

***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 (10% health care, 4% technology, 4% business. Remainder 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

High School 21+ helps adults earn their diplomas

Whatcom is offering a new program for adults who didn't graduate from high school but want to earn a diploma. Called High School 21+, the competency-based high school diploma pathway differs from traditional high school completion programs because it is tailored for adult learners with features such as recognition and credit for competencies gained through life experiences; an affordable tuition of \$25 per quarter; and convenient day, evening and online classes. Students can enroll now; classes will begin in the fall. WCC is one of 20 community colleges in the state to offer the program. Whatcom signed on as a High School 21+ site because college leaders recognized the need in local communities. By 2019, two-thirds of all new jobs in Washington state will require at least one year of college. Yet, locally, approximately 10 percent of adults in Whatcom County and 12 percent of adults in Skagit County – nearly 28,000 people – do not have high school diplomas. For more information or to enroll, contact WCC's Transitional Learning Program, 360.383.3060.

Whatcom leads \$584,000 Hospital Employee Education and Training (HEET) grant

WCC has been awarded a \$583,865 state grant to continue development of instructional programs that prepare students for emerging careers in the healthcare industry. The courses and credit bearing certificates developed through the Hospital Employee Education and Training (HEET) Innovation grant support emerging positions in the continuum of patient care coordination – such as patient navigator or care coordinator – as well as existing roles such as medical assistant. The project convenes healthcare professionals statewide to guide the development of course content, ensuring it meets industry standards as well as expectations created through the Affordable Care Act. In this year's HEET grant-funded work, Whatcom will guide curriculum revisions, including the integration of oral health content. The team will also write curriculum for two new courses in behavioral health and aging populations.

Expanded, improved Pavilion and Student Recreation Center opens this fall

WCC students approved and funded expansion and enhancements of the Pavilion and Student Recreation Center. When the building opens this fall, it will include 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.

Your support helps students to access higher education ... and succeed!

For many of Whatcom's students, higher education wouldn't be possible without the community college and your support of the WCC Foundation. Here are few quick examples of how you can help.

- At Whatcom, 60 percent of our students require financial support of some kind to pay their tuition. Donating to the WCC Foundation will allow us to increase scholarships, decreasing students' reliance on loans that can delay financial independence.
- In addition to scholarships, the Foundation this year has provided more than \$200,000 for College programs and initiatives such as the Intercultural Center, tutoring support and Veteran's Services that help students stay in school and connect with the resources and people who will help them to succeed.
- Foundation grants are also funding curriculum enhancements such as the purchase of simulation equipment for our Health Professions Education Center and 3-D printers for use across the curriculum.

When you contribute to the WCC Foundation, you're investing in Whatcom's highly regarded culture of learning and ensuring that all students can access first-rate higher education that delivers results.