

Whatcom

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Spring 2015

Bachelor's degrees begin here

More than 80 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, gain the GURs they need AND save money. Whatcom's advisors excel at helping students maximize their time by developing a schedule that leads to success.

Plus, at Whatcom, students can experience an exciting campus culture without getting lost in the crowd.

We're especially proud that more WWU transfer students start at Whatcom than any other community college in the state. Of the 3,171 students who received an undergraduate degree from Western, 39 percent entered the university as a transfer student. Of those, 18 percent began at WCC. (2013-2014)

At Whatcom, these students earn transferrable credits for popular WWU degrees such as environmental science, psychology, business or biology. Our partnership with Western includes highly respected bridge programs to bachelor's degrees in nursing and computer science.

Whatcom grads also transfer to prestigious institutions such as the University of Washington, University of Oregon, the University of California-Berkeley, and many more.

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**.
- **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.
- **Did you know?** Students can now earn their Associate in Arts and Sciences transfer degree fully online. Other certificates and degrees are available through a combination of online and face-to-face classes. Learn more: whatcom.edu/elearning.



Whatcom At A Glance

Students Served:

10,980 annually
6,457 quarterly
4,126 FTE*
6,861 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. 2013-2014 figures.*

About WCC Degree & Certificate Seeking Students:

- 66% between the ages of 16-24
- 20% students of color
- 40% first-generation college students

Degrees Awarded:

- 81% academic transfer.
- 19% professional technical (11% health care, 3% technology. Remainder business, education, 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

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Students discover pathways at career and transfer center

Located in Entry & Advising, Laidlaw Center room 116, WCC's Career & Transfer Center provides a wide variety of services to help students with career and future planning. Advisors help students to search for jobs or majors, research four-year schools, polish resumes or prepare for interviews.

- **For employers:** When your business is ready to hire its next skilled and educated employee, complete and submit Whatcom's online job position form at whatcom.edu. Please call or email to find out how Whatcom can connect you with your future employees.
careercenter@whatcom.ctc.edu, 360.383.3080

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 spring classes we're especially excited to share:

- Introduction to 3-D Printing, starting April 7
- Leadership Series, starting April 23
- Chuckanut Writers classes, Chuckanut Writers Conference (June 26-27) in partnership with Village Books
- Social Media Marketing Series, starting April 29
- Craft Beer Appreciation, raise your glass May 7

Local support is critical as state decreases education funding

Washington is spending less per student on higher education than it did in the 1980s, when inflation is taken into account. Where is the money going instead? According to a Feb. 24, 2015, Seattle Times report, the answer is human services. Thirty-five years ago, higher education received 16 percent of the budget (\$928 million of a \$5.8 billion budget). In the last biennium, it received only 9 percent of the budget (\$3 billion of a \$34 billion budget). Less than half of WCC's funding now comes from the state.

Students bear the brunt of decreased state support in the form of increased tuition. While it can be difficult to afford higher education, it is a wise investment. The Washington Student Achievement Council predicts that by 2016 nearly three-fourths of available jobs will require at least a postsecondary credential. 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. This academic year, 185 students received a total of \$225,000 in scholarships from the Foundation. Of the students who applied for a Foundation scholarship, an amazing 80 percent received funding, ranging between \$750 and full tuition.
- 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.