

Online + Evening Associate in Arts and Sciences – FAQs

1. When can I start the program?

You can join at the beginning of any quarter: fall, winter, spring or summer. To start in winter 2020, please turn in your participation agreement by December 16th.

2. How much free time will I need for this program?

To do well, you should budget around 15 hours per week for each course, including classroom and study time. Your online instructors will let you know how often they expect you to log in and participate. Most of them will say to log into your online course every day if possible, or a minimum of several times a week.

3. How much will this program cost?

At 2019-20 rates, tuition and fees for the two courses will total about \$1,265 each quarter if you're a resident of Washington State. You'll also buy or rent your own books and supplies.

4. Am I eligible for financial aid or other funding?

We encourage you to [apply for financial aid](#). Financial aid awards are based on financial need. You should also check with your employer to see if they offer any tuition assistance. Plus, you may want to [apply for scholarships](#). If it turns out you'll be paying out of pocket, you can use our [tuition payment plan](#) to spread out your payments.

5. Can I take just one course per quarter?

Yes. You can move through the program more slowly if it works better for you.

6. Who will my advisor be?

The advisor for the Online + Evening Associate in Arts and Sciences program is Leslie Clark, one of Whatcom's online academic advisors. Contact Leslie at advise@whatcom.edu.

7. What if I already have some college credits?

Bring in or email an unofficial copy of your transcripts from all previous colleges to your advisor. She'll complete an unofficial evaluation so you'll have an idea of what you have left to take. Later you'll have official transcripts sent to Whatcom and request an official evaluation.

8. Do I need placement tests?

Unless you've already completed college-level English composition and math courses, we'll ask you to do "informed self-placement" for English and take a math placement test to figure out your current level of skill.

9. What if I'll be starting math or English below the college level?

Your advisor will work with you to map out what you need to take. You'll probably take one math or English skills course and one of the program's regular courses each quarter until you catch up.

10. What if I've been out of school a long time?

No problem! Your previous credits don't expire. (But we'll probably still ask you to take a math placement test.) We've found that returning adults turn out to be some of the best students because of their life experience and ability to focus.

11. What if I'd rather take other courses instead of the ones in the quarter-by-quarter sequence?

That may be possible, although only the courses in the published sequence are guaranteed to be available Tuesday/Thursday evenings and online. Please discuss the changes you want to make with your advisor.

12. Can Running Start students be in this program?

Running Start students are welcome to participate in this program. They should continue to work with Running Start advisors to figure out which of the courses will align with their high school graduation requirements.

13. What university majors can I prepare for in the program?

This program works best for students planning to major in humanities or social sciences. Your advisor will help you adapt it to your future major as much as possible.

However, it's not the right program if you plan to major in a science, engineering or business. If that's your goal, please contact us so we can connect you with other options available at WCC.

14. Where can I transfer after I finish this program?

The Associate in Arts and Sciences is a DTA (direct transfer agreement) degree. It prepares you to transfer to public and private universities in Washington State. Many out-of-state universities also recognize completed DTA degrees. It doesn't guarantee admission, but it improves your chances.

Several Washington universities offer bachelor's degrees online, if that format works well for you.

15. Can Online + Evening students use the recreation facilities on campus?

Yes, please do. Click here for the [Pavilion/Student Recreation Center's hours](#). Our outdoor tennis courts are first-come, first-served.

16. Will I get a student card?

Yes. You'll have an Orca Card to check things out of the library, make copies and print from campus computers, use the Student Recreation Center, get into WCC athletic events, etc.

The Orca Card's biggest benefit is that you can use it as a quarterly bus pass for Whatcom Transportation Authority's local bus routes. WTA's Cordata Station is right across the street from the WCC campus.

17. Where will I park? How much will parking cost?

Parking is free at WCC. The only restrictions on parking are in designated handicap and visitor spaces. [Click here to find a parking lot close to where your courses will be taught.](#)

18. Does WCC have student housing?

WCC will open a new student housing complex on campus in fall 2020. In the meantime, the college offers a limited amount of housing in neighborhoods close to campus. [Click here for housing information.](#)