

BTC gets OK to offer its first bachelor's degree

Highlights:

- Technical college to offer bachelor of applied science
- Degree will focus on manufacturing and information technology
- College president calls the approval a 'landmark moment'

By Debbie Townsend

BELLINGHAM —

Bellingham Technical College has received approval to offer its first bachelor's degree.

BTC expects to offer a Bachelor of Applied Science in Operations Management starting in fall 2016.

Graduates with such a degree can find careers in businesses and industries ranging from fisheries to refineries. BTC's initial focus will be on manufacturing and

information technology. Graduates are expected to be on track for higher-level, higher-pay positions such as production managers or operations managers.

The bachelor's degree will be a two-year degree added on top of an existing associate's degree or previous bachelor's degree. Students without those can start from scratch at BTC, earning an associate's degree and then the bachelor's.



Figure 1 Students walk through the campus of Bellingham Technical College on Thursday, Feb. 18, 2016. The college was just approved to offer its first bachelor's degree. Philip A. Dwyer pdwyer@bhamherald.com

The technical college received approval for the degree Feb. 4 from the Washington State Board of Community and Technical Colleges.

BTC President Kim Perry called the approval a “landmark moment” for the college and a boost for the community.

“In a time when families are struggling to pay for college, it is essential to our students that we give them transferable degrees,” she said [in a press release](#). “Regardless of where they start, they need to be able to add to their educational investment and have it be mobile, competitive and targeted toward what employers are looking for.”

For more information, go to www.btc.edu.

Read more here: <http://www.bellinghamherald.com/news/local/article64101362.html#storylink=cpy>