



Bellingham Technical College

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Media Contact:

Zoe Fraley, Director of Communications

Phone: 360.752.8325 Email: zfraley@btc.edu

For Immediate Release

PLACEMENT TESTING NO LONGER REQUIRED FOR NEW STUDENTS AS BTC ADOPTS GUIDED SELF-PLACEMENT FOR MATH & ENGLISH

Bellingham, WA — Registration is now open for Fall Quarter 2023 at Bellingham Technical College, and the admissions process is now easier with the launch of a new placement option that doesn't require students to take standardized placement tests to determine which classes they should take as they're starting in their programs.

This new assessment option is called Guided Self-Placement, and it allows students to use placement tools developed by BTC to make an informed decision about which math and English classes they will start in. Students without transcripts will no longer need to schedule an appointment, pay for testing and come to campus to take high-stakes assessment tests; now they can complete Guided Self-Placement online at the time that works best for them.

"We're excited to offer this new option to help reduce barriers for students who are just getting started in college," BTC President James Lemerond says. "I've seen first-hand the positive impact that guided self-placement can have on students, both in increased access for students to classes and in student success in the courses they place themselves in."

BTC began offering Guided Self-Placement when registration opened for fall quarter in May, driven by research that indicates that testing and other placement measures are not always effective predictors of success. Guided Self-Placement has been found to be a more comprehensive mode of determining proper placement than traditional testing methods. The college accepts transcripts from high schools and other colleges to determine a student's starting point. Students who don't have transcripts will be able to choose between Guided Self-Placement and ACCUPLACER placement testing to determine their placement in math and English classes.

Guided Self-Placement encourages students to evaluate their own past course work, success rates, and self-determination as a part of placement. The tools developed by faculty at Bellingham Technical College provide students with basic information about classes and their requirements: course descriptions, types of assignments, modes of evaluation, and required hours of study. Students can then work with their college navigator to help determine their appropriate level for placement, keeping the student's educational goals in the forefront. The goal of Guided Self-Placement is to help students evaluate their own strengths and preparedness for college work.

Learn more about BTC's new Guided Self-Placement options for students at www.btc.edu/guidedplacement

About Bellingham Technical College

Bellingham Technical College provides student-centered, high-quality professional technical education for today's needs and tomorrow's opportunities. Accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, BTC offers more than 50 associate degree, over 30 certificate options and two bachelor of applied science degrees providing professional technical education to support local and regional industry workforce needs. For more information, go to www.btc.edu.

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