Fisheries & Aquaculture Sciences at BTC

BTC’s programs in Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences are ideal for students interested in biology and working in a varied and challenging outdoor environment.

The Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences program gives students experience in biological studies with state and private agencies. Students work with smolt traps, spawner surveys, data collection, scale and otolith samples, and water quality. This field experience provides practical work for the instructional “laboratory.” These valuable experiences complement the classroom theory and related instruction components. The program operates in partnership with regional, tribal, and statewide industries, as well as regional enhancement associations.

Instruction takes place in the classroom and at the Whatcom Creek Hatchery at Maritime Heritage Park in Bellingham, which is operated by BTC’s Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences program. You can put your education to work in the public or private sectors, for employers such as the Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, and private hatcheries and shellfish farms.

The employment outlook for program graduates is very strong, and students can expect to earn excellent wages. Skilled workers in Fisheries and Aquaculture are in high demand with an average employment placement rate of 81% within nine months of graduation.

TRANSFER OPPORTUNITIES AT BTC

BTC’s programs usually have three options for degrees depending on your education goals.

Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree: A two-year technical degree that allows you to go directly to work in your field.

Associate of Applied Science-Transfer (AAS-T) degree: A two-year technical degree that allows you to either go directly into your field or choose to transfer to a specific program at a four-year college or university.

Associate of Science for Transfer (AS-T) or Major Ready Program (DTA): Allows students to take both General Education courses and major-specific courses in preparation for transfer with junior standing to a four-year college or university.

Transitioning to BTC: BTC accepts both traditional and non-traditional credit for equivalency to BTC courses on a case-by-case basis. Contact Admissions at admissions@btc.edu or call 360.752.8345.

Learn more: www.btc.edu/Transfers

*For details regarding BTC career wages and placement, see back pages or visit www.btc.edu/CareerServices
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE
- Associate of Applied Science—Transfer Degree
- Associate of Applied Science Degree
- Certificate of Completion (See Fisheries Resources)

Program Length: 6 quarters

If you have a love for the great outdoors and an interest in biology and wildlife, consider the Fisheries program at BTC. You can prepare for a rewarding career in habitat restoration or as a fish hatchery specialist, fish culturist, fisheries technician, net pen worker, shellfish hatchery worker, scientific aid, or water quality technician.

Skilled fisheries workers with AAS degrees are needed by employers such as the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as private hatcheries, shellfish farms, enhancement organizations, salmon and net pen operations, and federal and private scientific companies. Upon completion of the AAS-T or AAS, students also receive a Fisheries Resources Certificate of Completion.

Workers already employed in the industry may be able to enhance their skills and work toward a degree through online or on-campus classes. Contact the instructor for options and requirements.

About 81% of BTC Fisheries and Aquaculture students are employed within nine months of graduation. The average annual wage in this field is $34,218, with an earning potential of about $41,413 per year.*

For program entry points please visit our Program pages under Degrees & Classes on our website: www.btc.edu

*For details regarding BTC career wages and placement, see back pages or visit www.btc.edu/CareerServices

FISHERIES AND AQUATIC SCIENCES
- Associate of Applied Science—Transfer Degree
  Transferable to Western Washington University/Huxley

Program Length: 6 quarters

Would you like to start earning your bachelor’s degree from Western Washington University (WWU) as soon as you enroll in BTC? With this exciting new program, you can!

The Fisheries and Aquatic Science AAS-T degree program is designed to directly transfer to WWU. Upon completion of the program, you can transfer as a junior to pursue a Bachelor of Arts degree in either Environmental Studies or Geography from WWU’s Huxley College of the Environment.

With intensive classroom theory on subjects like biology, aquatic ecology, chemistry and English, along with practical field and laboratory experience, you’ll develop a strong foundation of skills and knowledge. Topics covered in your coursework will range from data collection to water quality, and from smolt traps to spawner surveys.

BTC’s Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences degree offers top-notch instruction and hands-on field experience to prepare you to transfer to WWU and begin a career with private employers, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and others.

This program operates in partnership with regional, tribal, and statewide industries, as well as regional enhancement associations.

For program entry points please visit our Program pages under Degrees & Classes on our website: www.btc.edu

*For details regarding BTC career wages and placement, see back pages or visit www.btc.edu/CareerServices
FISHERIES RESOURCES

- Certificate of Completion
  Program Length: 4 quarters

Expand your knowledge of wildlife inhabiting local creeks, rivers, lakes, and Puget Sound with the Fisheries program at BTC. Learn the basics of water quality, fish and shellfish biology, and spawning techniques, and prepare for an exciting career in the fish hatchery industry.

Your skills will be ready to use with employers such as the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as private hatcheries, shellfish farms, and federal and private scientific companies.

For program entry points please visit our Program pages under Degrees & Classes on our website: www.btc.edu

www.btc.edu

Getting Started is Easy!

1 Apply to BTC & Apply for Financial Aid
- Complete the free online application at www.btc.edu/ApplyOnline
- You’ll be emailed a Student Identification Number (SID), a college-assigned number specific to you.
- To apply for financial aid, complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online. Use BTC college code 016227. Learn more at www.btc.edu/FinancialAid
- See if you are eligible for support through Workforce Funding: www.btc.edu/WorkforceFunding
- Apply for the $500 New Student Admissions Scholarship!

2 Assess your Starting Point
- Degree- or certificate-seeking students need to determine their math and English starting points. Placement may be determined using previous college transcripts, placement tests you have already taken, or by taking the Accuplacer test.
- Need to test? We recommend you refresh and review your skills before you test. Go to www.btc.edu/Assessment for helpful study guides and the drop-in testing schedule and payment options.
- A $25 testing fee is required for the Accuplacer test.

3 Advising & Registration
- It is required that new students attend an advising and registration session, where you will learn about important campus resources and register for courses.
- You will schedule your session online (you will receive email instructions) OR contact Admissions at 360.752.8345

4 Prepare to Attend
- Pay: Tuition and fees must be paid and funded by the published payment deadlines. Payment can be made at the cashier in College Services 110, or online at www.btc.edu/Pay
- Attend New Student Orientation Kick-Off: New students are required to attend the New Student Orientation Kick-off the day before the quarter begins. The three-hour event is for students to make connections, learn about resources, meet faculty, take a tour of the program areas, and attend an optional Computer Boot Camp. Sign-up online at www.btc.edu/Events

*Employment and Wage Data Sources
BTC graduate employment rates: Career Bridge (careerbridge.wa.gov), June 2012; reflects 2006–2009 program graduates
BTC Mission
Bellingham Technical College provides student-centered, high-quality professional technical education for today’s needs and tomorrow’s opportunities.

BTC Vision
Bellingham Technical College will be a recognized leader in providing innovative and effective technical education, maximizing student potential and supporting the regional economy through development of a competitive workforce.