



Bellingham Technical College
September 30, 2019

Media Contact:
Marni Saling Mayer, Director of Communications
Phone: 360.752.8325 Email: msmayer@btc.edu

For Immediate Release

BTC TO OFFER NEW PART-TIME PRACTICAL NURSING CERTIFICATE STARTING SPRING 2020; LEARN MORE AT AN INFO SESSION OCT. 14



Bellingham, Washington — Bellingham Technical College (BTC) will now offer a new Practical Nursing certificate in a part-time, evening format designed for students looking for a part-time option that better meets their needs.

The new Practical Nursing (PN) certificate will start in Spring Quarter 2020, and the college will start accepting applications for the program on October 21, 2019. Those who are interested in learning more about the program can attend an **info session Monday, October 14, from 4–5 p.m. in BTC’s Haskell Center 108.** Sign

up for the info session at: <https://btcpracticalnursinginfosession.eventbrite.com>

The new Practical Nursing certificate — which is approved by the Washington State Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission (NCQAC) — fills a need in the community for Licensed Practical Nurses to staff local clinics, assisted living facilities and skilled nursing facilities.

“There is a critical need for nurses of varying skill levels in Whatcom County, Washington state and beyond, and BTC is always working with our partners in healthcare to help meet those needs,” said Julie Samms, Dean of Nursing & Allied Health at BTC. “This new part-time Practical Nursing pathway will help to meet industry demand while better serving our students who want to earn a living while advancing their nursing skills. We know there’s a big need there for this kind of flexible option from our students who are working and who have families.”

Classes for the program are scheduled to run in the evenings two to three days a week, with curriculum alternating between classroom lessons and hands-on training in BTC’s Nursing labs, culminating with clinical experience in the industry. Students who complete the six-quarter program will be eligible to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination – Practical Nurse (NCLEX-PN). Practical Nursing students will have access to the same support as Nursing students, including tutoring, student navigators and clinical simulations.

This new Practical Nursing program will expand BTC's Nursing offerings for students, who can currently earn a Nursing Assistant certificate or an Associate Degree in Nursing that has a pathway for Licensed Practical Nurses to return to school part-time to train to become Registered Nurses. Because BTC's Nursing degree is a Direct Transfer Agreement/Major Related Pathway that allows students to transfer into RN to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) programs, the Practical Nursing program is the first in the state that will allow students to transition into a DTA/MRP Associate Degree.

Learn more about BTC's Nursing options at www.btc.edu/nursing

About Bellingham Technical College

Bellingham Technical College is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, and offers seven transfer degrees such as pre-nursing, computer science and business. Completion of these degrees prepares BTC students to transfer with a junior status to participating colleges and universities in Washington State. BTC offers 39 associate degree, 55 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.

For more news, events, and photos from the college follow us on www.facebook.com/bellinghamtech, www.twitter.com/bhamtechcollege and www.instagram.com/bellinghamtechcollege.

#