About Bellingham Technical College

Bellingham Technical College has been training students for in-demand, high-paying careers for more than 65 years. At BTC, the focus is always on our students and helping them succeed. We’re proud to have one of the highest graduation rates of all public two-year colleges in Washington state, as well as high job-placement rates for our graduates. At our vibrant campus in the heart of Bellingham, we educate a diverse population of over 3,700 students in 50 degrees, 41 certificate programs and two bachelor of applied science degrees.

Bellingham Technical College’s mission is to provide student-centered, high-quality professional technical education for today’s needs and tomorrow’s opportunities.

BTC students prepare for careers in many areas, including high-demand fields such as advanced manufacturing, engineering, nursing, accounting and more.

Smaller classes mean your instructors really know you, and our lectures are reinforced in the lab, whether it is in a fast-paced kitchen, on the welding floor, or in a salmon hatchery.

At every step, you’ll know that BTC’s faculty and employees are here to support you in pursuit of your professional goals.

Bellingham Technical College would like to acknowledge that our service area today is within the usual and accustomed lands of the Lhaq’temish or Xwlemi (Lummi) Nation, and of the Nooksáʔaq (NookSack) Tribe of the Coast Salish peoples, as well as the original territory of the sʔémaʔ (Samish) Indian Tribe. Our respect and gratitude go to our indigenous neighbors, whose care and protection of the land and water continues to this day.
Transitional Studies

BTC’s Transitional Studies programs are a starting place for you to build a strong foundation for your education. Whether your goals are to continue your education or enter the workplace, our programs are here to give you what you need to succeed.

College Readiness*

Work at your own pace to learn the skills you’ll need to pursue your goals, with a focus on basic reading, writing, math, and GED preparation and High School Completion, along with workplace skills for today’s job market.

English Language Acquisition (ESL)*

ESL classes are offered at beginning, intermediate and advanced levels for students who need to improve their English skills to enroll in college or succeed in the workplace.

Integrated Basic Education Skills Training Program (I-BEST)

I-BEST is a special program structure created to give you extra support in the classroom as you’re pursuing your program, pairing a professional technical specialist and a specialist in basic academic skills for intensive teaching.

For more information, please call the Transitional Studies department or visit our website for current offerings: www.btc.edu/TransitionalStudies

Finish High School in College!

If you left school before receiving your diploma, BTC offers several options to help you complete high school. Once you’ve achieved your diploma or its equivalent, you can continue your college education or pursue your career.

General Education Development Certificate (GED Prep)*

BTC’s GED Prep courses will get you ready to take the Reasoning through Language Arts, Mathematical Reasoning, Science and Social Studies sections of the GED tests.

* Note: Cost for specified programs is $25 per quarter. Waivers are available for eligible students.

High School Completion*

BTC is ready to help students age 16 and over obtain their high school diploma. If you have work, school, military and life experience but no diploma, then BTC’s adult high school completion program HS+ could help you. BTC will evaluate your high school transcripts, any college courses you’ve taken and your work and life experience to see if you’re eligible for a diploma awarded by BTC.

IMPACT!

Youth Re-engagement Program

If you are 16-21 years old and left high school without a diploma or are significantly behind in credits, the IMPACT! Program can help.

Students start by earning their GED and are then eligible to continue to attend college at BTC with most expenses for testing, books, tuition, and fees covered while in the IMPACT! program.