



Running Start at BTC



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About Bellingham Technical College



Bellingham Technical College is a leading educational institution and the only technical college in northwest Washington State. BTC offers high-quality education in a supportive, student-first environment.

At our vibrant campus, conveniently located in the heart of Bellingham, we educate a diverse population of over 8,000 students in more than thirty associate degree and fifty-four certificate programs.

BTC prepares students for careers in many fields, from advanced manufacturing to accounting; process technology to pastry; registered nursing to radiologic technology.

Our approach is high-tech, hands-on, and student-centered. Smaller classes mean your instructors really know you, and most programs are structured so you'll remain with your group throughout. At every step, you'll know that BTC faculty and staff are here to support you in pursuit of your goals.

www.btc.ctc.edu

Notice of Non-Discrimination

Bellingham Technical College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation, or age in its programs and activities.

What is Running Start?

Running Start is a statewide program that allows qualified high school juniors and seniors to receive college credit tuition free while completing high school. Students are enrolled simultaneously in high school and college classes (or just college classes) and are awarded dual credits by their high school and college.

To enroll in BTC courses, all Running Start students must submit a complete Running Start referral form signed by a high school authority/school district. Private high school and home school students must enroll in the public school district in which they live to be eligible for Running Start for college attendance.

About Running Start at BTC

Running Start is a great way to kick off your college experience! It will give you a taste of college while you're still enjoying high school. You'll receive extensive college and technical training, develop independence and study skills, expand realizations about yourself and your abilities—all vital steps that help you succeed in college.

You can maximize your education by taking courses that may not be offered at your school. You also have the option to take BTC courses exclusively, as long as they are college level (numbered 100 or above) and you are satisfying your requirements for high school graduation. You can choose from over 54 certificate and degree programs at BTC—so it's easy to match a program to your strengths and interests!

And you may be able to continue participating in your high school activities and athletics while enrolled in classes at BTC—so you can stay in touch with your friends and teachers.

Why Choose BTC?

BTC has strong relationships with local employers and the community, positioning our students for meaningful employment and satisfying careers upon graduation.

BTC's Running Start advisor works closely with counselors at your high school and is available to meet with you throughout your attendance at BTC. Whether you're facing a minor challenge or a major obstacle, we'll be here to help you through it.

Benefits of Running Start

Running Start students say that attending classes with people of all ages and varying perspectives is the most rewarding part of the program.

You will also save money on the first year or two of college, because Running Start students do not pay tuition. You are responsible for applicable program fees, supplies, and books.

BTC is a working laboratory that replicates the working world, offering a full range of career options.

Running Start students complete more college credits, with better grades, and are more gainfully employed than other high school graduates who attend college.

The Future is already here! BTC graduates leave with optimism, enthusiasm, and a sense of being in charge of their own futures.

www.btc.ctc.edu

Developing Your Plan

Your high school establishes graduation requirements. Before enrolling in Running Start, it is important that you work with your high school counselor and verify exactly what credits you need for graduation.

Start with a visit to our website to prepare for your first quarter of college: www.btc.ctc.edu. Click on Certificate and Degree program links for detailed information about the areas of study that interest you and how to apply.

Beginning college early is an important decision. We recommend you discuss it thoroughly with your parents or guardians, your high school counselor, and a BTC advisor.

For more information, contact: Charles Onion at 360.752.8459 or e-mail rstart@btc.ctc.edu



RUNNING START IN 5 EASY STEPS

1

First, talk to your parents or guardians, counselors, and teachers about your goals and interests and determine a study plan.

2

Take the Accuplacer Assessment test, which places you in the appropriate English and math courses.

3

Meet with BTC's Running Start advisor for program advice and to complete steps toward enrollment.

4

Complete the Running Start referral form and submit to BTC's Registration Office when you sign up for classes and pay applicable fees. **Make sure both you and your high school counselor sign your referral form.**

5

Attend a Get Ready! student orientation and purchase your books.

Important Considerations for Parents

It is expected that a Running Start student be academically and developmentally mature to function in a college's independent environment. A high degree of initiative and the ability to interact with people of all ages and backgrounds will help ensure a successful experience.

While Running Start students pay no tuition, students and or their families are responsible for expenses such as books, program fees, supplies, and transportation.

Holiday and break schedules differ from high school calendars—BTC is on a quarterly system, not the semester system of high schools.

Bellingham Technical College follows federal guidelines concerning access to student records. Once your student begins to attend Bellingham Technical College as a Running Start student they are considered a "regular college student." This means that unless the college has written authorization from your student, the faculty and staff are unable to discuss your student's record, progress or standing in the college with you. This policy is in accord with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and WAC Chapter 132j-164.

For more information and expanded explanation of this policy, please consult Bellingham Technical College's catalog or website: www.btc.ctc.edu

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BTC Mission

Bellingham Technical College delivers superior 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, creating options for career success, and developing a competitive workforce.



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