

Bellingham Technical College

Fisheries & Aquaculture Sciences



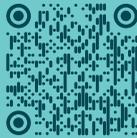
Fisheries & Aquaculture Sciences
Fisheries & Aquaculture Techniques
Aquaculture Science

**FORGE YOUR
OWN PATH**
www.btc.edu



2023/24

FORGE YOUR OWN PATH



www.btc.edu/Fisheries

You love the outdoors but never thought that you could make it a career. In BTC's Fisheries & Aquaculture Sciences program, you'll get hands-on experience as you learn the science behind this sustainable career.

Fisheries & Aquaculture Sciences

- Fisheries & Aquaculture Sciences
- Fisheries & Aquaculture Techniques
- Aquaculture Science

Get **hands-on training** for your career in **salmon and trout hatcheries, fisheries management, aquaculture, and sustainable seafood.**

▶ **Practical & Professional**

You'll learn by doing in BTC's student-run hatchery, with immersive labs, and work in the field with instructors who have extensive industry experience.

▶ **Built-in Community**

BTC's Fisheries & Aquaculture Sciences programs offer small class sizes and cohorts, so you'll build a supportive community of classmates and get plenty of one-on-one time with instructors.

▶ **Return on Investment**

With strong financial support for students and shorter certificates and two-year degrees, you'll graduate with less debt ready to join the fisheries and aquaculture workforce.



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.

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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 Noxws'á?aq (NookSack) Tribe of the Coast Salish peoples, as well as the original territory of the s?éməš (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.

BTC's Fisheries & Aquaculture Sciences are ideal for students who are ready to

leave the office behind and prepare for careers in salmon and trout hatcheries, fisheries management, and sustainable seafood.

The Fisheries & Aquaculture Sciences program offers hands-on training in real-world settings, covering technical skills such as finfish husbandry, aquatic conservation and restoration techniques, shellfish and algae culturing, and fisheries population monitoring.

Learn essential skills in salmon and trout hatchery operations alongside Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife employees at a variety of facilities, including the student-run Whatcom Creek and Bellingham Hatcheries.

Students gain in-demand skills by raising over 2 million salmon and trout annually to support local commercial, tribal, and recreational fisheries.

BTC Degree Options

Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree:

A two-year associate 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 with transferable general education courses 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.

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

*Wage & Employment Data Sources

Earning potential: Washington State Employment Security Department 2021 Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates (esd.wa.gov) reflect 2018–21 employment; average annual wage reflects the 50th percentile, and earning potential reflects the 75th percentile of annual wages across Washington state.

Employment data come from the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges and reflect WA/OR employment for students enrolled in BTC between 2017-18 and 2019-20.

Go beyond the textbook and spend your class time outside.

Students learn the foundations of fisheries management through intensive field training, including electrofishing, beach seining, habitat surveying, and more. Picture yourself snorkeling for fish abundance, kayaking to monitor invasive species, or exploring the biodiversity of tidal flats.

Join the next generation of the blue revolution through sustainable seafood production.

Finfish, shellfish, and algae are essential to provide aquatic protein and nutrients to feed the world's growing population. In our training hatchery, students gain hands-on experience in sustainable aquaculture, including shellfish hatchery production, algae culturing, and aquaponics. Students also learn from local experts through farm training and practicing skills directly with industry partners.



Fisheries & Aquaculture Sciences

Associate of Applied Science Degree

Program Length: 6 quarters

Get paid to do what you love with an AAS in Fisheries & Aquaculture Sciences. With an **over 90% graduate placement rate**, this program is designed to give you the training necessary to begin your career in salmon and trout hatchery operations, fisheries management, or sustainable seafood production. The Fisheries & Aquaculture Sciences program is the only two-year college on the West Coast to offer technical training in shellfish hatchery operations and the only Washington State college with its own Department of Fish and Wildlife salmon hatchery program.

The Fisheries & Aquaculture Sciences AAS degree prepares students for direct entry into diverse workforce opportunities. Graduates qualify for Hatchery Specialist 2 and Scientific Technician 2 positions with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Biological Technician GS 4 positions with the federal government, and employment in tribal government, private, and nonprofit sectors.

"I love how this program focuses on students' desire to preserve fisheries resources, and how we can improve the future of the industry. This program has prepared me for my career by giving me the hands-on skills it takes to be successful in this field."

— Tim Danner, Fisheries student

Upon completion of the AAS, students also receive the Fisheries & Aquaculture Techniques Certificate of Completion.

*The average annual wage in this field is \$53,133, with an earning potential of about \$64,731 per year.**





be you

*You've never shied away from a challenge, but the idea of a college degree always seemed out of reach. At BTC, you found affordable technical education to launch your career, with high wages and the flexibility to take you where you want to go. **FORGE YOUR OWN PATH. BE YOU.***



Bellingham TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Fisheries & Aquaculture Sciences

Associate of Applied Science Degree—Transfer

Program Length: 6 quarters

Take your career to the next level with the AAS Transfer Degree in Fisheries & Aquaculture Sciences. This degree is designed for students who are interested in transferring to a partnering institution to complete their bachelor's degree. A combination of our AAS-T and a bachelor's degree prepares students for higher level employment in aquatic research and management.

Students in the AAS-T degree gain all the hands-on experience in salmon and trout hatchery operations, fisheries management, and sustainable seafood production, while also completing pre-requisite transfer courses. **Fisheries & Aquaculture Sciences AAS-T graduates may transfer up to 90 credits to select colleges in Washington State**, allowing you to complete your bachelor's degree in just four years.

Upon completion of the AAS-T, students also receive the Fisheries & Aquaculture Techniques Certificate of Completion.

"We really value the BTC students. When we see an application from them come in, we get excited because we know that they already know what they're getting themselves into."

— Jason Ragan, Director of Clam and Oyster Farming at Taylor Shellfish

Upon completion of the AAS-T, students also receive the Fisheries & Aquaculture Techniques Certificate of Completion.



Fisheries & Aquaculture Techniques

Certificate of Completion

Program Length: 3 quarters

Included in the Fisheries & Aquaculture Sciences Degrees

Want to fast-track your education?

The Fisheries & Aquaculture Techniques

Certificate focuses on applied, technical skill development in just nine months to maximize learning with a minimal time commitment. This certificate is ideal for students exploring new career pathways, established industry members desiring additional training, or those wishing to supplement their bachelor's degree with hands-on experience.

Fisheries & Aquaculture Techniques Certificate graduates meet the requirements for Fish Hatchery Technician positions with WDFW and Biological Technician GS 3 positions with the federal government, and employment in tribal government, private, and nonprofit sectors.

Certificate students wishing to learn more advanced topics for higher employment placement may apply all Fisheries & Aquaculture Techniques certificate course credits towards an AAS or AAS-T in Fisheries & Aquaculture Sciences.



Upon completion of the Fisheries & Aquaculture Techniques Certificate, students also receive the Aquaculture Science Certificate of Completion.

Aquaculture Science

Certificate of Completion

Program Length: 3 quarters

Included in all Fisheries & Aquaculture Program Degrees and Certificate

Interested in remote learning? The Aquaculture Science Certificate may be completed entirely online in a convenient, self-paced format. Courses cover aquaculture-focused topics such as finfish and shellfish culturing, aquatic animal health, and water quality. The Aquaculture Science Certificate is designed for students either wishing to start their education remotely or industry members desiring professional development with a flexible schedule.

Aquaculture Science Certificate students wishing to gain hands-on experience for higher employment placement may apply all certificate course credits towards the Certificate in Fisheries & Aquaculture Techniques, or the AAS or AAS-T in Fisheries & Aquaculture Sciences.





Find more information:

www.btc.edu/admissions

Admissions & Funding checklist:

www.btc.edu/admissionsteps

Apply to BTC

Apply at **www.btc.edu/applyonline** and get your ctcLink ID number.

Apply for Financial Aid

File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) if you are a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen.

<https://studentaid.gov>.

File the Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA) if you are not eligible to complete the FAFSA.

<https://wsac.wa.gov/wasfa>

For other funding resources, visit:

www.btc.edu/financialresources

Assess Your Starting Point

Degree- and certificate-seeking students need to determine their math and English starting points.

BTC offers multiple options to determine where you start in those classes. Visit: **www.btc.edu/assessment**

Meet Your Navigator & Register for Classes

Students will meet with College Navigators for a mandatory GET Started appointment: navigate Goals, create an Education plan, become Tech ready, and register for classes.

Contact Admissions & Registration to schedule your appointment: **admissions@btc.edu** or call **360.752.8345**.

Bellingham Technical College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, gender identity or expression, sex, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, age, or genetic information in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Executive Director for Human Resources, 3028 Lindbergh Avenue, Bellingham, WA 98225, 360.752.8354. BTC publications are available in alternate formats upon request by contacting the Accessibility Resources office at 360.752.8345.

Bellingham Technical College no discrimina en base a raza, color, origen, religión, sexo, discapacidad, militares veteranos dados de baja con honores o estatus militar, orientación sexual o edad en sus programas y actividades. La siguiente persona ha sido designada para manejar las peticiones de información relativas a la no discriminación política: Director ejecutivo de Recursos Humanos, 3028 Lindbergh Avenue, Bellingham, WA 98225, 360.752.8354. Las publicaciones de BTC están disponibles en formatos alternativos a petición, favor de contactar a la Oficina de Servicios de Accesibilidad (Accessibility Resources office) 360.752.8345.



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