# Whatcom
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Self-Guided Campus Tour

**Welcome to Whatcom!**

Whatcom Community College is an accredited, comprehensive two-year college with an accomplished faculty and staff who serve more than 11,000 students annually. On its campus in Bellingham, WA, and through on-line courses, Whatcom offers transfer degrees, professional and technical training programs, as well as basic education, job skills, and Continuing and Community Education classes. For more information, visit www.whatcom.ctc.edu.

This self-guided tour is designed to help you discover WCC at your own pace whenever is convenient for you. If you are on campus after regular business hours, we highly recommend visiting when the College is open to meet with staff members who can help answer your questions.

Begin your tour at the flagpole in front of **LAIDLAW CENTER (LDC).** Students come to this building to see an academic advisor, learn about financial aid, register for classes, and pay tuition. Classrooms are located on each floor. Key areas in this building include:

- **The Registration Window**
  - Following admission, assessment and advising, this is where new students can register in person.
  - Students may also register or change classes online by using My WCC (OASIS) from the WCC homepage.

- **The Cashier's Window**
  - Students can easily pay their tuition and fees at this convenient service window located just across from Registration.

- **Entry & Advising (LDC 116)**
  - Students can talk with an advisor about their classes, develop a long-term degree plan, gain assistance with career and transfer information, get access to free disability support services, receive personal counseling, and learn about independent study options and internships.

- **Career Center (LDC 116)**
  - Students can receive help with career exploration and browse job postings here. Students looking for a job can get assistance in resume writing, interviewing, networking and other job readiness skills.

- **Veterans Office (LDC 116 and 117 )**
  - Professional staff and VA Work Study students are available to meet with students.
  - WCC offers degree/certificate programs approved by the Washington State Approving Agency for the enrollment of those students who are eligible under Veteran Administration (VA) Education Benefits programs. Eligible students can be certified only for courses that apply to their declared degree program.

- **Financial Aid Office (LDC 135)**
  - This office provides service to students who receive financial aid in the form of federal aid, grants, scholarships, on-campus and off-campus work study, loans, etc.
  - Each year, March 15th is the deadline for completing your FAFSA. Visit the Financial Aid Office for more specifics.

- **Running Start (LDC 134A, C, D, E)**
  - Running Start is a statewide partnership between high schools and community/technical colleges where students receive both high school and college credit for classes completed at the college.
  - High school juniors and seniors may enroll simultaneously in high school and college classes, or solely at Whatcom.
  - Running Start students do all of their advising in the Running Start Office.

- **WorkFirst (LDC 134B)**
  - WorkFirst provides tuition, books and fees for eligible TANF and low-income working parents, short-term training (Customized Job Skills Training), Working Connections Childcare, GED preparation, and WorkFirst work-study as part of Washington State's Welfare-to-Work program.
  - The WorkFirst staff will assist TANF clients and low-income working parents to develop a plan to gain professional skills and wage progression.

- **Turning Point (LDC 134F)**
  - Turning Point is part of the Whatcom Displaced Homemaker Program. It offers free workshops and classes four times a year for eligible students. Workshops are offered for improving self-esteem and communication skills.
  - Classes are offered for career and life planning. Information, referral and support activities are also available.

- **Testing Center (LDC 133)**
  - Photo ID is required for all testing. Some fees may apply.
  - Proctored faculty, placement, and GED testing.
  - Community proctored exams on a limited basis.

Walk through Laidlaw and exit facing the **SYRE STUDENT CENTER (SSC).** If it is after hours and Laidlaw is closed, head around Laidlaw and walk through the brick courtyard toward SSC. Many student events and club activities are held in this courtyard. The auditorium inside Syre often hosts events, productions and live entertainment. Key areas in this building include:

- **Bookstore (SSC 101)**
  - Students can purchase textbooks, school supplies and WCC gear here. They can also sell their used books through the "buy-back" program for money at the end of each quarter.
  - Monthly and discounted quarterly WTA bus passes are also available at the bookstore

- **Dockside Café (Food service on the main floor)**
  - This is the main cafeteria on campus where students can purchase food. There are two other eateries on campus; all are open Monday-Thursday from 7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Hours on Fridays, holidays and Summer Quarter vary.

- **Horizon Newspaper (SSC 202)** - www.whatcomhorizon.com
  - The newsroom for the Horizon Newspaper, Whatcom's student-run newspaper, is on the second floor of Syre.

- **Student Life Office (SSC 208)** - www.whatcom.ctc.edu/student-life
  - Students can get their ORCA student IDs cards, check the lost and found, and ask other general questions here.
  - The ORCA card is a full-service card students use to purchase items at the bookstore, eateries on campus, vending machines, and check out items from the library.
  - Student Life also provides information on Student Government, Student Clubs, Student Ambassadors, Programming & Diversity Board, and other student programs.

- **Baker Reading Room (SSC 217)**
  - The Baker Reading room is a quiet place for students to study with couches, a fireplace and views of Mt. Baker.

- **International Programs (SSC 201)**
  - The International Programs office is located on the 2nd floor of the Syre building. Whatcom's 260+ international students can seek out advising and obtain other services through this office.
  - Domestic students can connect with the Study Abroad Program here as well.

Take the sidewalk that runs alongside the courtyard, in front of **BAKER HALL (BKR)** and walk toward Heiner Center**.** Students take classes in Baker Hall that are related to the **Business** and **Computer Information System** programs. Baker Hall is also the home of WCC's **Hospitality & Tourism** program.

- Whatcom is the lead institution for CyberWatch West, one of four centers in the nation dedicated to **Cybersecurity** education.
- The Language Lab for **World Languages** and **English as a Second Language-Academic (ESLA)** programs is found here.
- The computer labs in Baker have both open lab and classroom sessions. Availability is posted outside the door.

Continue walking and you'll come to **HEINER CENTER (HNR)** on your right. This building houses WCC's Library, theater, music rooms, classrooms and computer labs.

- **Auditorium (HNR 209)**
  - This is where many plays and music productions are performed. The side classrooms, HNR 208 and 210, are

often used for various music and film classes.

- **Library (HNR 215) -** library.whatcom.ctc.edu
  - The Library provides a number of services and resources for Whatcom students and the greater community including research assistance, a collection that supports college curricula, reference material and study spaces.
  - Students can check out books, DVDs, flash drives, calculators, some class textbooks and reserve items at the circulation desk.
  - There are more than 40 research computers networked to printers available for student use. The library also has wifi connectivity.
  - The Library has two copiers that require the use of an ORCA card or Guest Card. The copiers can scan pages to a USB drive. ORCA cards are credited with 150 free copies or prints each quarter. Guest Cards are available for purchase from the Place of Deposit (POD) station in the Heiner and Syre building lobbies. Copies and prints are 10 cents per side.
  - Whatcom has a partnership with Whatcom County and Bellingham Public Libraries allowing requested materials from those collections to be delivered to WCC. Students can use the libraries of Western Washington University, Bellingham Technical College, and Northwest Indian College by presenting their ORCA card.

- **Student Access Lab and Computer Help Desk (HNR 104/105)**
  - On the bottom floor of Heiner is the Student Access Lab (SAL). This is the largest computer lab on campus and is also where students can check out laptops.
  - All computer access at WCC requires students to use a personalized network account. Once you enroll in a class, an account is automatically created for you. With a network account, students receive:
    - A personalized username and password
    - Network storage of 5GB and web storage of 25GB
    - Wireless access
    - A Whatcom email address
    - Web-based Microsoft Office

- **Orca Bay Café**
  - Also located downstairs is another campus cafe. Students can purchase coffee, beverages and snacks here.

Now, walk out of Heiner and past the "Gathering Fountain" (meant to look like a pod of Orca whales, Whatcom's mascot) toward Laidlaw Center and turn right at the flagpole toward the crosswalk. The "Gathering Fountain" is one of 12 art installations on Whatcom's campus. Can you spot all 12?

Cross the street toward the "Levitating Sphere" rock sculpture in front of **KULSHAN HALL (KUL).** Students primarily take science courses in this building, however a variety of classes are taught in the classrooms upstairs. This is where our **Biology, Chemistry**, and **Physics** labs are located. Students will also find the Kulshan Coffee Cart here, serving coffee, beverages and snacks on the first floor.

Walk around Kulshan and head north toward the "Signature Rock" sculpture in the mini courtyard. On your right will be **KELLY HALL (KLY).** Students take a variety of general courses in classrooms in Kelly Hall, including but not limited to **English, History, Early Childhood Education** and **Communications.**

From Kelly, turn left toward the **CASCADE BUILDING (CAS).** This building is where most of the **Art** and **Visual Communications (Graphic Design)** classes take place. The Visual Communications Lab is also locating in Cascade. Key areas in this building include:

- **Learning Center (CAS 113)**
  - The Learning Center offers free tutoring and has a drop-in Writing Center and drop-in Math Center for students, as well as help for Biology and Chemistry.
  - Students may receive up to two hours of free tutoring per week per class for most WCC classes, depending on tutor availability.

- **ABE/ESLA and Transitional Learning Office (CAS 167C)**
  - Here students can get information about taking classes for basic reading, writing and math brush-up, plus GED test preparation.
  - Students can also get information from this office about our **IBEST** program, which provides extra support for **ABE (Adult Basic Education)** students in professional technical programs such as Medical Assisting, Billing & Coding, NAC and Business courses.

- **Multicultural Academic Support Center (CAS 117)**
  - The Multicultural Academic Support Center (MASC) supports degree-seeking students of multicultural backgrounds.
  - MASC staff support students academically through advising, referral services, as well as helping students find academic and social support on campus and in the community.
  - This is also the home to Whatcom's Ethnic Student Association and the Queer Straight Alliance.

To the West of Cascade Hall, next to WCC's **ORCA FIELD** and tennis courts, is **ROE ART STUDIO (ROE).** If you make your way to Kellogg Road, turn right to go behind Cascade Hall. You will see a small bridge on the left-hand side that will take you to ROE. This studio serves as the main area for Whatcom's **Ceramics** and **Sculpture** classes.

From Cascade, cross the street and make your way back to the other side of campus. Straight ahead you will see stairs that lead up to the **PAVILION (PAV)**. Whatcom's Athletics Department, gym and fitness center, and most P.E. courses are located in this building.

- WCC offers Men's & Women's Basketball, Men's & Women's Soccer, and Women's Volleyball. Basketball and volleyball compete inside the Pavilion, while soccer plays on Orca Field.
- Here students can check out sports equipment with their student ID cards and utilize the basketball court during open gym times.
- Groundbreaking for Whatcom's new Recreation Center begins June 2014. Be sure to take construction into consideration, as not all facilities will be open during this time.

- WCC students are able to use Western Washington University's Rec Center at the Alumni rate. Rates are set by Western and can be viewed at www.wwu.edu.

**This concludes the main portion of your Whatcom Community College campus tour! If you would like to continue on, there are three additional buildings you may visit including Whatcom's Foundation Building, Auxiliary Services Building and the Health Professions Education Center.**

**Extended Tour!**

Whatcom's **FOUNDATION BUILDING (FND)** is home to Whatcom's Office for Advancement (Communications & Marketing), the Whatcom Community College Foundation, Conference & Event Services, and the Community & Continuing Education program. The Foundation Building is located next to the main campus across from Cordata Station. Key areas in this building include:

- **WCC Foundation (FND 205)** - whatcom.ctc.edu/foundation
  - Here, students can learn more about scholarship opportunities available to them.

- **Community & Continuing Education (FND 101)** - whatcomcommunityed.com
  - Community members can also register for Community & Continuing Ed classes in this building.

- **Conference & Event Services (FND 102)** - whatcom.ctc.edu/rentals
  - This is where staff, students and community members can find information on reserving and renting campus space.

The **HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION CENTER (HPEC)** is Whatcom's newest campus building, located at the corner of Stuart Road and Cordata Parkway. All of Whatcom's health professions programs are housed here.

- The building features state-of-the-art classroom and lab spaces, and offices for Whatcom's state- and nationally-accredited programs in **Nursing, Physical Therapist Assistant, Massage Practitioner** and **Medical Assisting**.
- Interiors were designed to replicate the healthcare environments in which students will eventually work and provide as close to a real-world experience as possible.

Built in 2012, the **AUXILARY SERVICES BUILDING (ASB)** is home to Whatcom's Facilities & Operations Department, grounds crews, custodial, and our copy and mail services. The building design attained a LEED Gold certification, featuring solar roof panels, low flow toilets, a heat recovery system, rain gardens, bio-filtration swales, and pervious walkways. The building is a model for the College's dedication to sustainability, and located to the NW of Orca Field.

Thank you for visiting campus. We hope you enjoyed your tour, and that you will be back soon!

**If you have any questions or would like to schedule a time to come to campus for a guided tour, please contact the Office of Student Life at (360) 383-3007.**