

Whatcom

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Self-Guided Campus Tour

Welcome to Whatcom!

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 returning to visit when the college is open and meet with staff members who can help answer your questions about key areas on campus.

Mission Statement

Whatcom Community College contributes to the vitality of its communities by providing quality education in academic transfer, professional-technical and life-long learning, preparing students for active citizenship in a global society.

History

In 1970, Whatcom began offering a small selection of courses around the community. They quickly grew a name for themselves and expanded class offerings. By 1974, the College offered 20 vocational associate degrees, a half-dozen college level courses, and had an enrollment of 600 full-time students. During this time, WCC did not have a campus and was essentially a "College without Walls," holding classes in different rented spaces around the city.

By 1978, faculty were teaching classes in as many as 80 locations each quarter. Students were traveling from all over the county to come to WCC, as well as some from Skagit County. WCC completed building Laidlaw Center, our core facility, in 1987, followed by Baker Hall. They soon were followed by several other buildings on campus, which were built about 2 years apart until 2004 when Kulshan was built, our newest building. Now the Whatcom campus is 71 acres and has 10 buildings.

Whatcom has been accredited by The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities since 1976 and now offers over 34 Professional Technical associate degrees and certificates, direct transfer degrees, and serves over 12,000 students annually. The College has 4,500 full-time students and 70% of students are seeking a transfer degree.

About WCC

- ❖ Whatcom Community College is a two-year state-supported college.
- ❖ The campus consists of 10 buildings on 71 acres.
 - Whenever a new building is built, since we are a state-supported institution, 1% of the budget for the building must go towards “beautification of the campus.”
- ❖ 4,200 full-time students, serving over 7,500 students per quarter.
- ❖ 70% of degree and certificate-seeking students are transfer students.
- ❖ Over 34 professional/technical degrees and certificates and direct transfer degrees.

Admissions:

- ❖ Open admissions policy:
 - Any students who are 18 and have a high school diploma or GED are automatically accepted.
 - Do not require SAT/ACT scores, High School transcripts, or minimum GPA.
- ❖ Placement Tests:
 - Require placement tests in English, Reading, and Math.
 - \$20 one-time fee that includes any retakes.
 - Accept English and Reading scores from other schools, but Math has to be taken on campus as the Math test was designed by our Math faculty based on our curriculum.
- ❖ Applying:
 - There is no application fee to apply to Whatcom Community College
 - It is recommended students apply by the priority deadline each quarter to get priority registration.
- ❖ SAT, ACT scores:
 - Encourage students to take them anyway.
 - If students are planning to transfer to a university with under 45 credits, they will need to submit high school transcripts and SAT/ACT scores with their application.

Housing

- ❖ WCC does not have dorms and is not affiliated with any property management companies, but students can get recommendations for local management companies to find housing.

- ❖ Upon availability, students can stay at Western Washington University in south campus dorms
- ❖ Lots of students find roommates to live with or live by themselves.
- ❖ Bellingham is very student-friendly; most leases are for the academic year.

Parking

- ❖ Parking is free on campus.
- ❖ Very commuter-friendly campus, encourage students to ride the bus or carpool.
- ❖ Three (3) bus lines come straight to campus.

Classes

- ❖ Class sizes are about 20-30 students. In fact, the faculty to student ratio is 1:22.
- ❖ Small class sizes mean:
 - Better access to instructors.
 - Better knowledge of the materials.
 - More one on one attention.

Security

- ❖ Classes on campus begin at 8am (some even at 7:30am).
- ❖ From 8am – 5pm there is an Emergency Response Team on campus to help with security/medical emergencies and situations.
- ❖ We do have after-hours security and if a student does not feel safe, there is a number they can call to be escorted to their car.

Begin your tour at the flagpole in front of **LAW CENTER (LDC)**. Students come to this building to see an 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 assessment and advising, new and former students may apply, register in person, and get their student information at the Registration Window or online through the My OASIS system at www.whatcom.ctc.edu. Current students can register through My OASIS.
- **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, have access to free disability support services, receive personal counseling, and learn more about co-op programs and internships.

- **Career Center (LDC 116)**
 - Advisors and trained staff are available by appointment and will help students on an individual or group basis with career exploration and up-to-date information. Students looking for a job can receive assistance in resume writing, interviewing, networking and other job readiness skills.

- **Veterans Office (LDC 116)**
 - Professional staff and VA Work Study students are available to meet with students in this office.
 - 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 and off campus work study, loans, etc.
 - March 1st is the priority deadline to receive most of the eligible funds available.

- **Running Start (LDC 134A, C, D, E)**
 - Running Start is a statewide partnership between high schools and community/technical colleges in Washington.
 - High School Seniors and Juniors may enroll simultaneously in high school and college classes, or solely at the college.
 - Students receive both high school and college credit for classes completed at the college.
 - Running Start students do all of their advising in the RS 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 & 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)**
 - Whatcom requires placement tests in Math, English, and Reading. Students should call Entry & Advising and set up an appointment for group testing.
 - Occasionally, individual tests may be completed in the Testing Center. There is a one time \$20 fee for all 3 placement tests.
 - Photo ID is required for all testing. Some fees may apply.
- **Health Labs (LDC 216 (RN), LDC 218 (MA))**
 - WCC's Nursing Lab (RN) and Medical Assisting (MA) Lab are located in this building

If Laidlaw is open, you can walk through the building and exit facing the **SYRE STUDENT CENTER (SSC)**. If it is closed, head around Laidlaw and walk through the brick courtyard towards SSC. Many student events and club activities are held in the courtyard. The Syre building is designed to be student centered, where you can find information on student government, the activities committee, athletics, the bookstore, food services, the Horizon newspaper, International Programs and the drama department. This is where productions and live entertainment play, with lots of space upstairs for students to hang out. Key areas in this building include:



- **Bookstore (SSC 101)**
 - Students can purchase textbooks and school supplies 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 (SSC Servery on the main floor)**

- This is where students can purchase food. They are open most days from 7:30-5:00.
- **Student Info Desk (SSC 208)**
 - The Student Info Desk is on the 2nd floor of Syre. Students can get their ORCA cards (Student IDs), check the lost and found, or ask other general questions. First ID cards are free, and after that there is a \$15 charge for replacements.
 - The ORCA card is a full service card students can use to purchase items at the bookstore, in eateries on campus, in vending machines, check out books, etc... We are the first two year college to offer a full service card like this.
 - This is also where students go to get information on Student Government, Student Clubs, Activities Committee, and other student programs
 - The Athletics Department located upstairs in Syre. WCC offers M & W Basketball, M & W Soccer, and W Volleyball.
 - For more information, check <http://student.whatcom.ctc.edu>.
- **Baker Reading Room (SSC 217)**
 - The Baker Reading room is a quiet place for students to study, with couches and a fireplace with views overlooking the mountain
- **International Programs (SSC 210)**
 - The International Programs office is also located on the 2nd floor of this building. 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.
 - Students can also find information about the International Friendship Club and sign up for club events in this office

Take the sidewalk that runs alongside the courtyard, in front of **BAKER HALL (BKR)** to head to Heiner Center. Most classes taught in this building are related to the **Business** and **Computer Information System** programs. Baker Hall is also the home of WCC's new Hospitality & Tourism courses.

- The Computer labs found in Baker Hall are only for business students.
- **The Language Lab** for World Languages and English as a Second Language (ESL) programs is found here.

Continue walking and just ahead you'll come to **HEINER CENTER (HNR)** on your right. This building houses WCC's library, auditorium, music rooms, and classrooms downstairs on the first floor.

- **Auditorium (HNR 209)**

- This is where many plays and music productions are performed. The side classrooms are often used for various music classes.



- **Library (HNR 215)**

- The Library boasts a number of services for Whatcom students and the greater community.
- Students can access the library computer lab for studying, personal use, and research.
- Printing is free for students and copies are 5¢ per sheet.
- Students can check out flash drives for up to 3 days, calculators for math classes, and class textbooks and videos for the allotted time given by the instructor.
- Students are also able to use WWU's library with Whatcom student ID card. In addition, Whatcom has a partnership with Bellingham Public Library to check out books or resources we don't have on site.

- **Student Access Lab (HNR 104/105)**

- On the bottom floor is the Student Access Lab (SAL). This is the largest computer lab on campus is in this building, just across from the Learning Center and strictly for student use.

Now, walk past the Orca Fountain towards the Laidlaw Building and turn right at the flagpole to the crosswalk. Cross the street towards the levitating rock sculpture in front of **KULSHAN HALL (KUL)**.

This building is used primarily for Science courses, however a variety of classes are taught in classrooms upstairs. This is where our Biology and Chemistry labs are located. Students will also find the Kulshan Corner, serving coffee, beverages, and snacks.



Walk around Kulshan and head North towards the Signature Rock Sculpture in the mini courtyard (also called "Rock on a Stick" by students). On your right will be **KELLY HALL (KLY)**. Community

Education Courses, Early Childhood Education, English, History, and other classes are held here.

A key area in this building is:

- **Pathways to Health Careers (KLY 103A)**
 - The Pathways Program assists and supports eligible students as they work toward a career in the healthcare industry. The program offers services such as free tutoring, study groups, workshops, mentoring, and advising.

From Kelly, turn Left towards the gray **CASCADE BUILDING (CAS)**. This building is where most of Whatcom's Health, Art, and Visual Communications (Graphic Design) classes take place. Two of Whatcom's health labs are located here, as well as the Visual Communications Lab. Students can get free tutoring, use the student computer lab, or sign up for a wireless account here. Key areas in this building include:



- **Health Labs (CAS 136 (PTA), CAS 106 (MT))**
 - WCC's Massage (MT) Lab, and Physical Therapist Assistant Lab (PTA) are located in this building.
- **Learning Center (CAS 113)**
 - The Learning Center offers free tutoring and has a Writing Center and Math Center for students, as well as other help.
 - Students receive 2 hours of free tutoring per week per class.
- **Computer Help Desk (CAS 136)**
 - Students go here to sign up for wireless accounts, if they have a laptop they'd like to use on campus. The entire campus is wireless.
- **ABE/ESL and Transitional Learning Office (CAS 167C)**
 - Here students can get information about taking classes for basic reading, writing and math brush-up, and GED test preparation.
 - Students can also get information from this office about our IBEST program, which provides extra support for ABE students in professional/technical programs such as Medical Assisting, Billing & Coding, NAC & Business courses.

To the West of Cascade hall, next to WCC's premier soccer field, Orca Field, and WCC's student tennis courts is **ROE ART STUDIO (ROE)**. If you make your way to Kellogg Road ahead and turn right to go behind Cascade Hall at the parking lot, 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. There are two kilns located in the back of this building where students fire their work when they are finished.

From Cascade, walk straight along the path to the street and cross to make your way back to the other side of campus. Straight ahead you will see stairs that lead up to the **PAVILION (PAV)**. This is where Whatcom's gym and fitness center is located.



- Students can borrow equipment with their student ID cards and spend open gym time on the court.
- There are typically late hours depending on the quarter to make it easy for students to use the gym or fitness facilities before or after classes.
- Whatcom's basketball and volleyball teams compete here as well
- Many of Whatcom's P.E. courses are held in this building, which also has one classroom.

Whatcom's **FOUNDATION BUILDING (FND)** is home to Whatcom's Office for Advancement, the Whatcom Community College Foundation, and the Community Education program. The Foundation Building is located next to the main campus across from Cordata Station and Cruisin Coffee. The WCC Foundation strengthens educational opportunities by providing student scholarships, supporting faculty and staff development, and assisting with key college initiatives. Assistance from the Foundation helps the College achieve its mission in ways not possible with state funds alone.

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 feel free to contact us at admit@whatcom.ctc.edu.