

CONSENT ITEM (RESOLUTION 25-02-07)

February 6, 2025

Tab 4

Bates Technical College – Proposed Bachelor of Applied Science in Computer Information Security and IT Project Management

Brief description

In September 2014, the State Board adopted a revised approval process, selection criteria, and application materials for community and technical colleges seeking to offer an applied baccalaureate program. The final step in the approval process requires State Board action on the college's application to offer the proposed bachelor's degree.

How does this item link to the State Board's Strategic Plan?

In June 2023, the State Board adopted an updated strategic plan, which focuses on four goals: increase access and retention among populations who can benefit the most from college; improve completion and transfer rates for students across all program types; provide flexible career-training options that are responsive to the needs of businesses and industries; and secure resources and develop systemwide strategies to support colleges' financial sustainability and resiliency. Colleges offering baccalaureate degrees meet the needs of changing economies by increasing the number of skilled employees in the areas of greatest demand. Through bachelor-level degrees, colleges create greater access to higher education by enrolling underserved populations, particularly place-bound working adults, and ensure community and technical colleges are affordable and accessible for students. Community and technical college bachelor's degree programs provide access for students who have been historically underserved by and had limited access to bachelor's-level education. They also meet the local workforce needs and allow students to remain in their home communities.

Background information and analysis

In today's landscape, the importance of information security is paramount to organizations as cybercrime and attacks become more frequent. The Bachelor of Applied Science in Computer Information Security and IT Project Management at Bates Technical College is designed to prepare students for the occupations of Information Security Analyst, Computer and Information Systems Managers, and/or Network and Computer Systems Administrator, in which national and local shortages remain and are predicted to continue to grow. In addition to the building technical competencies required of cybersecurity professionals, such as risk analysis, auditing, and compliance, the proposed program helps students develop business acumen and project management skills that are increasingly valued by organizations of all sizes and industry sectors.

Although demand for cybersecurity professionals remains high and shortages continue to persist, employers struggle to find experienced workers and new college graduates can struggle to secure entry-level employment in a technical role. To help address this gap, the proposed program intends

to help students bridge from college to career using several strategies, including:

- Through IT-business focused courses, students are exposed to a variety of roles, sectors, and organizations that are often overlooked by new graduates.
- Incorporation of experiential learning to help students develop practical experience through project-based learning, work-based learning, and capstone project experiences.
- Connecting with industry partners to collaborate on capstone projects and mentorship opportunities to assist students in building experience and navigating IT hiring processes

The proposed bachelor's degree program builds upon students' prior educational and professional experiences. The bachelor's degree is built upon four of Bates Technical College's technical associate degree programs that serve as foundations. Students who earn an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Cloud Computing and Networking Technology, AAS in Cybersecurity, AAS in Information Technology Specialist, or AAS in Software Development can continue into the proposed BAS Computer Information Security and IT Project Management program. Students who earn a technical associate degree from neighboring colleges are also eligible to continue their studies in this BAS program. An accelerated pathway is made available for students who already have work experience in information technology and/or information security.

Program marketing and student recruiting efforts will target three primary groups: (1) IT professionals who work across various sectors (government, healthcare, community organizations) who are currently working and seeking opportunities to advance into technical leadership roles, (2) prior military servicemembers looking to transition into civilian roles in information security and technical leadership, and (3) graduates of community and technical colleges who have earned an associate degree in IT and seek to expand their career opportunities and options with a bachelor's degree credential. To serve these audiences, the program design and the support services are designed with flexibility in mind, offering students options to access the program in-person (at Central Campus), hybrid, and online modes of delivery.

The Statement of Need for the Bachelor of Applied Science in Computer Information Systems and IT Project Management was presented by Bates Technical College at the October 2024 board meeting. This program would mark Bates' second bachelor's degree offering.

Recommendation/preferred result

These proposals meet criteria established by statute and Board policy based on staff review and feedback from peer reviewers from the community and technical college system. Staff recommends State Board action on the following:

- Resolution 25-02-07 approving Bates Technical College's Bachelor of Applied Science in Computer Information Security & IT Project Management

Policy Manual Change Yes ☐ No ☒

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STATE OF WASHINGTON

STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES

RESOLUTION 25-02-07

A resolution to approve Bates Technical College's application to offer a Bachelor of Applied Science in Computer Information Security and IT Project Management upon recommendation of State Board for Community and Technical College staff.

WHEREAS, Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 2483, passed by the 2012 Washington State Legislature, authorizes the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges to approve all applied baccalaureate degree programs offered by community and technical colleges; and

WHEREAS, consistent with the Washington State Legislature's requirement, the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges developed objective criteria for the approval of community and technical college applied baccalaureate degrees; and

WHEREAS, the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges staff found that Bates Technical College's application provided evidence that met or exceeded all objective selection criteria and will expand baccalaureate degree capacity in the state;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges approves the recommendation to authorize Bates Technical College's Bachelor of Applied Science in Computer Information Security and IT Project Management;

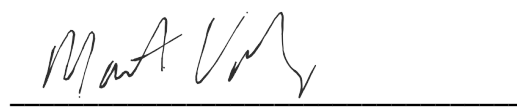
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges authorizes the Executive Director to make adjustments to this action, including any necessary changes to the state board's policy manual, as necessary, for actions taken by the Governor, Legislature, data corrections, externally imposed restrictions or guidelines, uniform accounting and reporting requirements, and unanticipated changes in state or federal law.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED on (02/06/2025)

Attest



Chris Bailey, interim secretary



Martin Valadez, chair