

CONSENT ITEM (RESOLUTION 25-10-46)

October 16, 2025

Tab 5

Skagit Valley College - Proposed Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN-BSN)

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

Skagit Valley College's RN-BSN Program mission is to promote excellence in nursing education, increase nursing responsiveness to the health and healthcare needs of the community, share and promote best practices in nursing, and develop successful graduates who are practice ready and are engaged in lifelong learning to transform nursing. The goal during development is to provide a consistent experience with other Washington BSN programs with aligned coursework to maximize opportunities for curriculum and course sharing.

The proposed BSN program curriculum was developed to meet requirements specified by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) and Washington Administrative Code (WAC) for BSN prepared nurses. Prior to implementation of the program, Skagit Valley College will seek program approval from the Washington Board of Nursing (WABON). WABON is aware and supportive of this program development.

Students will have two options for BSN program entry: (1) as a Registered Nurse (RN) or (2) through concurrent enrollment as an ADN Nursing student in their third quarter or beyond in their program.

The application process to the program has been developed to reduce barriers to admission by not requiring selective testing, but rather assessing applicants based on a clear and transparent rubric with criteria that evaluates applicants' resume, GPA, goal statement and accounts for students who are bilingual or multilingual, who are military veterans, and/or are first generation college students.

The clinical preceptorship (program capstone) provides RN-BSN students with a guided opportunity to apply baccalaureate-level competencies in a real-world healthcare setting. Under the mentorship of an experienced nurse preceptor, students will integrate leadership, evidence-based practice, and patient-centered care into their clinical decision-making. Emphasis is placed on professional growth, interprofessional collaboration, and the transition into broader nursing roles within diverse healthcare environments.

The RN-BSN program will be offered to students at Skagit Valley College's Mount Vernon and Whidbey Island campuses and has hybrid-flexible, online, and in-person components to provide flexibility while also providing access to the college's simulation and skills labs, with the college recently receiving an allocation to support mobile simulation services to students residing on the western slope. Graduates of the RN-BSN program at Skagit Valley College have pathway options beyond the baccalaureate degree, with opportunities in state (either in person or online) to pursue a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN), Master of Nursing (MN), or Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP).

The Statement of Need for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing was presented by Skagit Valley College at the February 2025 board meeting, which indicated that the program proposal was developed with local employers and partner organizations to serve students and meet workforce needs in Skagit, San Juan, and Island counties. This program would mark Skagit Valley College's seventh bachelor's degree offering and Skagit Valley College would be the eighth college in our system to offer a BSN program.

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 25-10-46 approving Skagit Valley College's Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Policy Manual Change Yes ☒ No ☐

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**STATE OF WASHINGTON
STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES
RESOLUTION 25-10-46**

A resolution to approve Skagit Valley College's application to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing 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 Skagit Valley 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 Skagit Valley College's Bachelor of Science in Nursing;


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 October 16, 2025

Attest



Nate Humphrey, secretary



Martin Valadez, chair