



Whatcom County  
**Construction Careers Academy**  
**Enrollment Fact Sheet**

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**Program Description:** This program was developed in partnership with local construction industry organizations and employers. The *Construction Careers Academy* is a year-long program designed to prepare students for careers in the construction industry. Students study a nationally recognized construction trades curriculum and participate in hands-on building related activities. Career preparation is emphasized through industry presentations and worksite tours. Students learn about worksite safety, construction math, use of hand and power tools, reading blueprints and rigging techniques. Construction projects include, but are not limited to, framing, roofing, siding, stairs, rafters, and some finish work. The program helps students explore a variety of construction-related career opportunities, develop appropriate work readiness skills and prepare to enter construction-related apprenticeships, postsecondary education programs or entry-level jobs. During the last 12 weeks of the school year students participate in industry quality internships. With successful completion of the program, students will receive a national industry-recognized certificate of training completion. Students successfully completing all course outcomes with a B or better grade may qualify to earn college credit through the Tech Prep program.

**Interdistrict Program:** *Construction Careers Academy* program is offered to students through an interdistrict cooperative agreement with the Tech Prep Consortium schools' *Community Classroom* program. The following high schools support this program: Bellingham, Blaine, Ferndale, Lynden, Lynden Christian, Meridian, Mount Baker, Nooksack Valley, Options, Sehome, Squalicum and Windward. In 2010-2011, CCA will also be a recognized satellite program to the Northwest Career and Technical Academy of Skagit County.

**Classroom Location/Transportation:** The CCA program is located on the Meridian High School campus. Students are responsible for their own transportation to/from Meridian High School. Due to the nature of this program (construction site internships), students are required to have their own reliable transportation, a drivers license and car insurance.

**Length of Course:** The curricular program is divided into two semesters. Students must enroll for a full year sequence. The class meets two and a half hours daily from 1:00pm-3:30pm.

Semester One (270 hours)

- ❖ Introductory Craft Skills (safety, construction math, hand & power tools, blueprint reading, rigging)
- ❖ Work Readiness Skills (career awareness, communication, teamwork, problem-solving)
- ❖ Orientation to the Trades (application of construction skills)

Semester Two (270 hours)

- ❖ Orientation to the Trades (continued / 6-8 weeks)
- ❖ Industry Quality Internships (10-12 weeks)

**Credits Earned:** 2.0 Satisfies credit for occupational education  
*Students are expected to maintain a C or better grade average in each semester of the course.*

**Industry Quality Internships:** Students must maintain a C grade or better, demonstrate a good attendance history and good classroom attitude to be considered for an internship experience. Internships are supported by affiliated training providers. Students may be asked to interview for internship opportunities. If a student is "fired" from the worksite, then the student fails the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester portion of the class and is withdrawn from the program. Students must have flexibility in their afternoon schedule to accommodate the internship – some employers may ask students to extend their internship beyond 3:30p.m.

### Prerequisites:

- ❖ 1 year sequence of math (Algebra I or equivalent & higher) with a C or better grade
- ❖ At least one semester of a construction-related “technical course” with a C or better grade. The following course options are acceptable: Woodworking, Design & Construction, or Building Construction, CAD/Rhino, Drafting, Engineering Tech, Ag Mechanics, Manufacturing Tech, Architecture, or Welding
- ❖ Recommended: at least one additional semester of a construction-related course

### Eligibility Requirements:

- ❖ High school juniors or seniors (qualified seniors are given priority)
- ❖ Must be 16 to enroll
- ❖ Access to reliable transportation, valid drivers license & car insurance
- ❖ Valid social security number
- ❖ Provide evidence of medical insurance
- ❖ Ability to pass drug test prior to internship experience
- ❖ History of good attendance with minimal tardies and good attitude

**Application Required for Admission:** Students may obtain additional program information and application materials from guidance counselors or the Career Center at their high school. Class size is limited – students must complete and submit their application by the deadline and be selected to participate in the academy program. Application packets will be reviewed & screened at the high school, then forwarded to the CCA Advisory Committee for final candidate selection. Each high school is allocated a minimum of 2 slots for their student enrollment. Any slots not used by schools will be open to schools having additional applicants. To learn more about the CCA program students & parents are encouraged to attend the evening information session (see Timeline for meeting date and location).

**Website:** Visit the Tech Prep website for application timeline, forms and meeting date information. Application materials are updated & posted to the website in early March. [www.whatcomtechprep.org](http://www.whatcomtechprep.org) (Student section – then Community Classroom)

**Enrollment:** As an *interdistrict* program, one school district is designated as the “enrolling” district. Meridian High School will provide this service. Students will be “enrolled” in the Meridian School District for .4 FTE (full time equivalency) for the 2 hour block class period. All school holidays, vacation days, late arrival days, semester breaks, etc. will be based on Meridian’s school calendar. Students and parents need to be aware that not all of these days will coincide with their “home school” calendar (similar to Running Start considerations).

**Progress Reports:** Mid-term progress reports, and final grades will be sent to the student’s home high school for transcript purposes. The reporting schedule will be the same as for other Meridian School District programs. Attendance reports will be maintained by the Meridian School District.

**Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco Policies:** The CCA program complies with the Meridian School District’s policies regarding possession & use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco. As an extension of the classroom & instructional program, the policy is also enforced at the worksite internships.

**The following organizations support this program:**

