

Bachelor of Applied Science Degree Programs

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Central Washington University was the first public university in Washington state to develop and offer a Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) degree. A BAS degree allows people with a two-year applied technology degree and a certain amount of work experience to apply their education toward a bachelor's degree.

Central developed the BAS programs in response to community colleges, employers, and students, who pointed out the lack of upper-division pathways for people employed in technical fields. They wanted applied science degree programs that would develop the critical thinking and analytical skills that are required of workers in the "knowledge economy."

CWU's Bachelor of Applied Science degrees respond to the needs of employers by developing employees' technical expertise and providing them with important communication, management, and teamwork skills. The degree programs will help employees gain the competencies and credentials often needed to advance in their careers. Until now, employees with technical degrees who wished to earn a bachelor's degree simply had to set aside their technical degrees and start over.

Four BAS degree programs have been approved for CWU:

- Safety and Health Management,
- Industrial Technology,
- Food Service Management, and
- Information Technology and Administrative Management (ITAM).

Specific funding for delivery of these programs has allowed the expansion to the CWU-Des Moines campus co-located on the Highline Community College campus, with some program delivery extended to Everett Community College. Central began enrolling students in the BAS Safety and Health Management in fall 2005 at CWU-Lynnwood, the University Center co-located at Edmonds Community College.

To be eligible for Central's BAS programs, people need an associate's degree in a related field and at least one year (about 2,000 hours) of full-time work. Students can complete their bachelor's degree within six quarters of full-time enrollment.

BAS in Food Service Management

Students seeking this degree are interested in obtaining the skills for managing a food service operation located in establishments such as a restaurant, hotel, university dining facility, hospital, public school district or resort. The degree combines knowledge of the dietetic and nutrition field with business management skills. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that job openings in this field will grow by 9 to 17 percent through 2014.

CWU currently offers this program at CWU-Lynnwood, which is co-located with Edmonds Community College.

BAS in Industrial Technology

Industrial Technology is a field of study that prepares technical and/or management-oriented professionals for employment in business, industry, education, and government. Industrial Technology is primarily involved with management, operation, and maintenance of complex technological systems. The U.S. Department of Labor predicts that job opportunities in this field will grow by as much as 8 percent between 2004 and 2014.

CWU currently offers this program at CWU-Des Moines, which is co-located with Highline Community College.

BAS in Information Technology and Administrative Management

This degree is designed to prepare information technology workers with the management, communication, and leadership skills necessary in a variety of businesses. Students will develop and demonstrate project management, human resource management, and strategic management concepts and skills related to information technology applications, systems, and environments. Employment in information technology management is expected to increase faster than average for all occupations through 2014, by 18 to 26 percent.

Central currently offers the program at two University Centers: CWU-Des Moines and CWU-Lynnwood which extends the program to Everett Community College.

BAS in Safety and Health Management

The Safety and Health Management program graduates will be able to provide technical assistance in identifying, evaluating, and controlling workplace and other industrial hazards. Graduates of this program take jobs in a variety of areas: environmental and industrial safety, industrial hygiene, fire protection, ergonomics, risk management, and construction and transportation safety. According to the Board of Certified Safety Professionals, about a third of safety professionals work in manufacturing and production; 23 percent take positions in insurance; and the balance are employed in government, transportation, construction, and other industries.

Central currently offers the program at two University Centers: CWU-Des Moines and CWU-Lynnwood.

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