



Office of Community Colleges
and Workforce Development (CCWD)

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POLICY GUIDE:

Proposals for New Applied Baccalaureate Programs

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A new program at the baccalaureate level will require significant investment of time and resources to plan before presenting the program proposal to HECC for approval. Consequently, the College's Board of Education (or Board of Directors) must formally adopt the applied baccalaureate as a new program level for the college. There must be a proposal submitted at a regularly scheduled Board meeting, and members must vote to approve it, in a manner consistent with the Board's existing board operations policies and bylaws.

Documentation of the Board's approval of the new **degree level** may be submitted to HECC **before or concurrently** with documentation of the Board's approval of the **first** program proposal for an AB program. (See Section C for submission details.)

B. HELPFUL RESOURCES FOR NEW PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

CCWD's investigation of AB program designs benefited from a strong advisory committee, including members who had experience with Washington and Florida AB implementations. Additionally, NWCCU leadership highlighted several steps in Washington's process that strengthened Washington colleges' subsequent substantive change review by the agency. Therefore, Oregon's new process was modeled on Washington's strengths, but adapted for Oregon.

There is a growing body of information about applied degree programs. Specifically, the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) has been investigating applied baccalaureate programs since 2005 and as of January 2019, Washington has initiated 3,960 applied baccalaureate programs across 29 colleges. Learn more here:

- a. Applied Baccalaureate Degrees ([Overview](#))⁸
- b. Applied Baccalaureate Degrees by Program / College ([Chart](#))⁹
- c. Examples of Model AB Proposal documents ([Links](#))¹⁰
- d. Community College Baccalaureate [Association](#)¹¹ .
- e. Community College Research Initiatives ([Univ. of Washington](#) ¹²)

⁸ <https://www.sbctc.edu/resources/documents/about/facts-pubs/applied-bachelors.pdf>

⁹ <https://www.sbctc.edu/resources/documents/colleges-staff/programs-services/applied-baccalaureate/applied-bacc-by-category.pdf>

¹⁰ <https://www.sbctc.edu/colleges-staff/programs-services/applied-baccalaureates/bachelors-program-approval-application.aspx>

¹¹ <https://www.accbd.org/>

The Community College Baccalaureate Association's members, staff or Board of Directors can help you network with others informally, or at their annual conference. Link: <https://www.accbd.org/board-of-directors/> Similarly, the Washington State Board of Technical and Community Colleges provides information on AB programs in community colleges in WA: <https://www.sbctc.edu/>

Articles span topics such as enrollment, completion, and subsequent earnings related to community college baccalaureate degrees.

¹² <https://www.washington.edu/ccri/research/publications/>