

College of the Desert introduces their offering of the Building and Energy Systems Professional (BESP) Associate of Science Degree. The program anticipates its initial offering for the fall semester of 2019.

The BESP AS Degree is a Meta-Major that begins with a core set of courses that serve a common foundation for fourteen certificates already currently being offered at COD. The BESP core courses introduce students to building architecture, building envelope materials, building energy usage, and the ideal building design. According to George Brown, Applied Science Department Chair and Assistant Professor, the purpose of the program core is to provide “a solid foundation in the building sciences for continuous career expansion... The core courses develop the students’ interest and understanding of buildings the same way health career students are required to learn anatomy and physiology before pursuing their majors.”

All fourteen certificates are associated with the advanced energy industry and building sciences and have common courses that allow students to stack their certificates and create multiple career pathways. The BESP AS Degree specialty certificates include: Building Automation Control; Building Commissioning; Building Inspection; Construction Management; Green Residential HVAC; Facilities Maintenance, Solar Technology, and more.

The development of the BESP program drew from three sources: the team of instructors’ experience in the building trades, a solid industry advisory committee, and other community college building automation and energy management programs such as the BEST Center through Laney College and the California Community College HVAC Collaborative. Their advisory committee played a central role in providing the learning outcomes required for employability. According to Brown, one outcome of the BESP Meta Major is to “align the trades, teach students to work together, and carry those skills into the workplace.”

Programs interested in exploring the BESP Meta-Major concept should contact George Brown at gjbrown@collegeofthedesert.edu