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## SVC sees jump in degrees awarded

MOUNT VERNON — The number of degrees, certificates and diplomas awarded by Skagit Valley College this year has jumped from last year by about 25 percent, with 1,277 students earning their credentials.

By August 2011, students had earned 1,018 degrees at Skagit Valley College for that year.

“Typically, when the economy is weak, we see an increase in enrollment at SVC,” Arden Ainley, the college’s public information officer, wrote in an email.

“So, the numbers at commencement this year are a reflection of the economy where, during the last two years, people came to us to train for a new career, to upgrade their skills, or to begin their college experience close to home,” she said.

A total of 1,023 credentials are expected to be awarded this year from the Mount Vernon campus, with another 254 from the Oak Harbor campus. At Mount Vernon, students earned 605 professional or technical degrees and certificates, 380 transfer degrees and 38 high school diplomas.

There may be even more graduates this year, specifically from the Northwest Career and Technical Academy, as final numbers are not available until early August, Ainley said.

— Erinn Unger