

WHITMAN COLLEGE

PARENT

HANDBOOK



2011-2012

Dear Parents,

We in the Dean of Students Office would like to welcome you to Whitman College. We look forward to acquainting you with our campus and the people who make this an exceptional living and learning community. This is an exciting and challenging time for both new students and their parents. Your son or daughter will receive a lot of information from us in the coming weeks to help him or her plan and prepare for college. This booklet is designed especially for you as you assume the role of a Whitman parent. It contains information about the academic requirements, the residential life of the campus, and contact information in case you have a question or concern.

As is written in the college mission statement, “Whitman offers an ideal setting for rigorous learning and scholarship and encourages creativity, character, and responsibility.” Students will be challenged inside and outside of the classroom to expand their knowledge and explore new ideas. In this booklet you will learn about the myriad of programs and activities available for students to discover their passions and talents, and to connect the academic curriculum to experiential and transformative learning opportunities. What sets Whitman aside from other places of learning is the mentoring, support, and encouragement students will receive to match their demanding aspirations.

We commend you for the significant role you played in making it possible for your son or daughter to attend Whitman College. You will continue to be an important source of support for them in the next four years, and we hope that we can work together to make this a rewarding experience.

Sincerely,

Chuck Cleveland, Dean of Students
Clare Carson, Associate Dean of Students
Donna Cummins, Assistant to the Dean of Students
Juli Dunn, Director of Academic Resources

**Check out the Web page at
www.whitman.edu/parents**

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Whitman's Guiding Principles

Diversity Statement

"Diversity is fundamentally important to the character and mission of Whitman College. Diversity enriches our community and enhances intellectual and personal growth. We seek to provide a challenging liberal arts experience for our students that prepares them for citizenship in the global community. By sustaining a diverse community, we strive to ensure that all individuals are valued and respected and that intellectual and personal growth are enriched because of our differences."

Statement Endorsed November 4, 2005

The Trustees of Whitman College

Nondiscrimination

Whitman College has a strong commitment to the principle of nondiscrimination. In its admission and employment practices, administration of educational policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs, Whitman College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, gender, religion, age, marital status, national origin, disability, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other basis prohibited by applicable federal, state, or local laws.

Environment

Recognizing the impact Whitman College has on the environment and the leadership role Whitman College plays as an institution of higher learning, the college affirms the following environmental principles and standards, which shall be consulted to explore the practical ways Whitman College can promote an environmentally conscious campus.

- To reduce the amount of nonrecyclable materials, to reuse materials when possible, and utilize recycled materials.
- To consider the eco-friendliest science and technology available to decrease our environmental impact.

- To continue to build an energy-efficient campus in the 21st century.
- To patronize companies active in their defense of the environment from further degradation.
- To encourage individuals' environmental accountability through programs of environmental education.
- To consider environmentally friendly options, when practical, in decisions regarding developmental projects.
- To further the use of reused materials, recyclable materials, and the Internet for campus communications.
- To encourage and request food service to make environmentally friendly decisions in purchasing food and supplies, reducing waste, and reusing materials.
- To maintain campus grounds through the employment of bio-friendly substances and services.
- To strive to improve upon current practices so we may harmonize the trends of the industrial world with the natural environment.

Student Affairs

The primary components of the philosophy of Student Affairs include providing excellent services for students, encouraging community development, involving students in life beyond the classroom, and providing leadership opportunities, all in an environment characterized by challenge and support.

Academic Resource Center

The Academic Resource Center (ARC), home to academic counseling, the Student Academic Advisers (the SAs), the Tutor Program, premajor advising, and disability support services, is the place to go to for academic support. At the ARC students can pick up planners to help them schedule their semester, lay out major requirements, and create a tentative four-year plan. The ARC staff also can provide personalized guidance in study skills, schedule planning, goal definition, concentration, motivation, and test preparation.

Bookstore

As your Walla Walla resource for textbooks, the Whitman College Bookstore welcomes you and your student to campus. The Bookstore carries the textbooks required for Whitman classes, as well as school supplies, art supplies, incidentals, and Whitman merchandise.

Typically, the first contact a student has with the Bookstore is during the first days of the semester when he or she spends \$400-\$600 for textbooks and supplies. Students can pay with cash, check, bankcard, or they can charge purchases to their Whitman ID card. Students may use this charge privilege throughout the year to purchase anything in the store. These charges appear on the college's itemized statement at the end of each month (a small interest charge will apply on all unpaid balances). We suggest working with your student to set any desired limits on the card's use; you can remove the limit if you wish.

Additionally, most students arrive at Whitman from states that charge sales and use tax on purchases. However, for those arriving from Alaska, Montana, New Hampshire, or Oregon it can come as a shock to find an additional 8.6 percent added on to a sale. State law requires that we collect sales and use tax from out-of-state students. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact the Bookstore at: bookstore@whitman.edu.

Intercultural Center

The Intercultural Center seeks to foster intercultural awareness, inclusiveness, and respect. We are committed to the enhancement of a positive Whitman experience for students, staff, and faculty, especially those from culturally and ethnically diverse communities, and to strengthen partnerships with academic and administrative offices. We facilitate and encourage ongoing dialogue regarding issues of diversity in order to move toward a more inclusive campus climate.

The Intercultural Center Team provides mentoring, academic and social support for multicultural and international students. The center also plays a key role in bringing diverse perspectives and experiences to the campus by sponsoring various speakers and events.

A collection of books, videos, and information about internship and scholarship opportunities related to diversity and multicultural issues are available at the center. Additionally, translation services for more than 30 languages can be accessed through the center's Language Bank.

The center also provides assistance and resources to Whitman's student-led diversity organizations. Among the most active clubs on campus, they provide leadership opportunities for students and promote diversity and multiculturalism by sponsoring discussion panels, musical events, dances, festivals, and dinners. There are 15 active diversity groups: Wakilisha Africa Club; American Indian Association (AIA); Asian Cultural Awareness (ACA); Black Student Union (BSU); Club Latino; Coalition Against Homophobia (CAH); Feminists Advocating Change and Empowerment (FACE); Hui Aloha; Muslim Students Association; International Students and Friends Club (ISFC); South Asian Student Association (SASA); Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning (GLBTQ); Hillel-Shalom; Vietnamese Culture Club (VCC); First Generation Working Class (FGWC).

For more information on the Intercultural Center, please visit our Web site at: www.whitman.edu/intercultural_center, call us at (509) 527-5596, or stop by the center offices at Reid Campus Center, Room 216.

Student Engagement Center

The Student Engagement Center encourages students to take advantage of the vast array of experiences available outside of the classroom. These experiences will enrich students' academic programs as well as help them refine their interests and develop their passions for an overall more meaningful learning experience at Whitman. The Student Engagement Center fosters personal and intellectual development by promoting student engagement in academics, in community service, internships, campus and summer employment, leadership opportunities, and career exploration. The Student Engagement Center's staff collaborates with offices and academic departments throughout the Whitman

community to help students assess their skills, interests, and abilities to promote involvement in activities that will advance them toward their future goals.

Student Engagement Center programs include:

- **Major Connections** — Offered in collaboration with the Academic Resource Center, Major Connections is an interactive fair that allows students to meet seniors from each academic department to learn more about the major. The SEC staff offers interest inventories, introduces students to internships, community service opportunities, and the career choices made by Whitman alumni who have majored in that field.
- **Internships** — Internships can add to a student's college experience by allowing them to practice professional skills and obtain a deeper understanding of the world of work. Students are encouraged to apply for one of thousands of internships listed on the SEC Web site or to develop an experience that best suits their interests.
- **Student-Led Community Service Programs** — Student interns coordinate five service programs: Whitman Mentor Program, Adopt-A-Grandparent, Youth Adventure Program, Story Time Project, and Service Trips.
- **Community Service Consultations** — The SEC's staff connects individuals and groups with volunteer opportunities and supports Greek philanthropy and the Community Service House.
- **America Reads/Counts** — The Student Engagement Center employs work-study eligible Whitman students each year to tutor in the Walla Walla schools. This program provides Whitman College students the opportunity to give back to their community, gain work experience, and earn money.
- **The Virtual Career and Internship Fair** — The Student Engagement Center hosts a Virtual Career and Internship Fair. Participating employers and nonprofit organizations post full-time jobs, internships, and summer jobs for Whitman students to view.

- **The Graduate School Fair** — Each fall semester, regional graduate school representatives come to campus to meet students and discuss their academic programs. In addition, a Law School Panel, consisting of six law schools, provides an overview of testing and the application process.
- **Alumni Networking** — The SEC provides networking opportunities for students and alumni to communicate about careers, internships and jobs. The Career Consultant Network is a database of about 1,300 alumni who have volunteered to speak with students or other alumni about career issues. Alumni lists can be searched by location, and/or career field and sent to students as an Excel file. Several times a year the SEC hosts networking receptions in conjunction with Alumni Relations.

Welty Health Center

The Welty Health Center, which is staffed by licensed nurses 24 hours a day, offers 12 overnight student beds as well as an outpatient clinic for the care and prevention of illness. Welty Health Center services are available to all Whitman students, not just those carrying Whitman insurance.

A team of physicians rotates to provide medical services to registered students. There is no charge for this routine physician care or overnight stays. (Cost of any medical services outside of the college facility must be borne by the student.) The director of the Welty Health Center, a registered nurse, also is available to see students for a nursing assessment and referral. Women's health care can be provided by our female physicians during clinic hours.

Before any student may enter the college, a Student Health History, physical exam, and record of immunizations must be submitted. Final class registration will be held pending compliance with all health requirements. All students under the age of 18 years old must have a Treatment Authorization signed by a parent or guardian, and submitted to us before any treatment procedures (i.e., X-rays, prescriptions, labs) may be obtained.

Student health records are for the use of the Welty Health Center only, and all information is held in strict confidence. The medical record is not part of the academic record, and no information will be released without signed permission from the student. The Welty Health Center staff is unable to discuss your student's health concerns without his or her expressed permission. In the event of a medical emergency, the notification of parents/guardians will be done by a physician, the Welty Center Director, or the Dean of Students. A consent form is part of the medical history and is to be signed by your son or daughter to facilitate communication between you and medical personnel.

Health Insurance

Every student is required to have adequate medical insurance and hospitalization coverage. It is important that your student carry an insurance identification card and know the provisions of their coverage. Preferred provider and access information is essential in the case of outside referral.

Whitman College offers a student group medical insurance plan at a reasonable cost. If your student is *not* covered under your present policy, she/he must purchase the student group policy. The Insurance Enrollment Form or the Waiver Form allows you the opportunity to verify your student's personal insurance or to purchase the school insurance. Insurance Waiver or purchase of Whitman College Student Insurance must be completed prior to registration.

Welty Counseling Center

Everyone has probably experienced a week when every day seems like a Monday. In the life of a student, the "avalanche effect" might sound something like this: "I slept through my Spanish test this morning because I was up till 5:30 a.m. writing a paper, and my roommate and I are in a huge fight, I haven't gotten any mail for two weeks, and I miss my dog and . . . and . . . and . . ." When all this is happening at once, in addition to adjusting to a new environment and new pressures, the results can truly seem overwhelming.

The Counseling Center is available to help students work through the stresses of college life. Professionally trained counselors offer personal and psychological counseling at no charge. They work with individuals as well as groups, and also present workshops and programs on areas pertaining to personal growth, including listening and communication skills, stress management, relationship issues, sexuality, and assertiveness training. All counseling is entirely confidential. So, should your son or daughter mention that they are utilizing these services, it doesn't mean they are falling apart at the seams. They are simply finding healthy ways to cope with the changes in their lives.

Residence Hall Life

Living in a residence hall is a big part of being a Whitman student, and chances are you'll be hearing quite a bit about residence hall life in the next couple of years. At Whitman we have a two-year residency requirement and have established this policy for some very important reasons.

We feel that the residence halls offer students valuable opportunities for growth and self-discovery. After all, students spend the majority of their time in the hall — studying, sleeping, socializing, and figuring out the meaning of life at 2 a.m. over pizza. Residence hall life offers students the opportunities to build friendships with a wide variety of people, grasp the subtle art of give and take, and learn who they are and what they have to offer the community. In short, the residence halls are where friendships are made and where independence and adulthood take shape.

The residence hall experience is a vital part of learning about community. If the community is to function successfully, residents must learn that their actions affect those living around them. This is where personal responsibility begins. We hope and expect that the community connections that start in the residence halls will continue to grow as students move through their years at Whitman.

Residence halls allow students to engage in learning outside the classroom. The entire Residence Life staff is dedicated to bringing the concept of education into everyday life. The liberal arts philosophy regards nearly every experience as an opportunity for education and seeks to develop well-rounded individuals. Each hall has a distinct “personality” created by its residents. Each residence hall staff member provides educational programs during the semester on topics ranging from love and relationships to balancing the inevitable stresses of college life. Staff members also organize social activities such as hikes, study breaks, and dances. These programs are designed to provide valuable experiences and opportunities.

Residence halls are staffed by resident assistants (RAs), student academic advisers (SAs), senior residents (SRs), and resident directors (RDs). RAs, SAs, and SRs are students themselves. They are trained to handle emergencies, help with conflicts, and plan educational and social programs. The Resident Director in each hall is a college graduate.

Laundry rooms equipped with washers and dryers are provided in each hall at no charge. The residence halls contain a main lounge for large gatherings and several smaller lounges for TV, studying, visiting, meetings, and recreation. Kitchen facilities are located in all of the halls. Bike storage is available either outside, or in the basement of most halls.

Security

Protecting Whitman College students, faculty, staff, and visitors is the primary purpose of the Security Office. To keep the campus a safe place, Whitman employs a full-time director, five full-time security employees, and several students.

The staff responds to reports of fire, medical, and criminal emergencies. Though the staff is trained to handle various types of criminal offenses, they are not empowered law enforcement officers. When a crime occurs on the campus, the Walla Walla Police Department is called.

To ensure that buildings are safe from fire and other hazards, routine measures are taken on a monthly basis, including fire alarm testing, fire extinguisher checks, and

building inspections to eliminate any unsafe conditions. Maintenance, custodial, and housing staffs are trained in fire safety and evacuation techniques. The Walla Walla Fire Department responds to all fire calls.

During the academic year, security staff will escort faculty, staff, students and visitors anywhere on campus and within a two-block radius of the college. The security officers are on campus 24 hours a day and provide safety and security checks for campus buildings, including the residence halls.

Should you have any questions regarding the safety and security of a family member attending Whitman, please feel free to contact the Security Department at (509) 527-5777.

ID Cards

Students receive their Whitman ID cards (WID) during Orientation Week. This card is an essential tool for each student, and costs \$15 to replace. The WID acts as a meal ticket at all dining halls, and can contain flex dollars to be used at Café '66, the espresso stand, and Café '41 in the library. Additionally, the WID allows students card-swipe access into most computer labs and buildings after normal building hours. Students must have their WID in-hand to utilize the Sherwood Athletic Center and Baker Ferguson Fitness Center facilities. Penrose Library uses the WID as a library card, and it can be used as a charge card at the cafés as well as the Whitman Bookstore. Any charges made on the card will be included on your son or daughter's monthly statement.

Food Service/Bon Appétit

Whitman College has contracted with Bon Appétit to provide a quality food service program. Bon Appétit views their mission of providing food service to Whitman students as an important part of the educational program of the residential college.

Bon Appétit's Executive Chef plans menus to change with both the season and the student's academic calendar. Bon Appétit's philosophy revolves around purchasing the best-quality groceries and making fresh, flavorful cuisine

that balances restaurant-quality entrees with the students' favorites. They purchase the freshest regional products available, cook from scratch, and make our own soups, sauces, and salad dressings. The typical lunch or dinner will have two or three primary entrees (one of which is always vegetarian), a full salad, soup, and fruit bar, and a selection of fresh-baked desserts. Students can choose their meals from a pasta bar with our own freshly made sauce, a sandwich station, or a grill with burgers, chicken breast sandwiches, and cheese quesadillas made to order.

While in the dining room, students may eat as much as they wish. Students also are allowed to take food for their current meal out of the dining hall to eat outside or back in their room. The three dining halls, the café in the campus center, and the late-night espresso shop in the library are all components of the food service at Whitman. The hours of the dining halls are offset from one another to provide your student with the broadest possible range of mealtime hours. Special events are scheduled during the holidays and as "monotony breakers" during lulls in the regular campus calendar. We also provide meals to the Welty Health Center for students not feeling well enough to come to the dining room, and sack lunches for those with class or job related mealtime conflicts.

They strive to involve students in the meal program by encouraging them to use the comment card section in every dining room, talk to the dining hall managers about what they would like to see, and e-mail or talk to the General Manager. They regularly accommodate students facing a variety of food-related issues ranging from food allergies to medical conditions that require a special diet or eating time. Should your student have any special needs it is important that they contact their dining hall manager to discuss their needs.

They welcome parents and families in the dining halls and hope that you will share a meal with them when you are on campus. For birthdays or special occasions that call for a cake or a dozen cookies, give the catering department a call at (509) 527-5127. Feel free to call the General Manager of Bon Appétit at Whitman College at (509) 527-5508 if you ever have any food service questions or

concerns. Current information, including the weekly menu and hours of operation, can be found at our Whitman Web site: www.whitman.edu/bon_appetit. For more information about Bon Appétit visit www.bamco.com.

Campus Activities

Stuck in the wheat fields with nothing to do? Not at Whitman! Rather than complain about a lack of choices, more often we hear Whitman students talking about having to choose from a number of attractive options on any given day. Activities include college-sponsored events, such as lectures, concerts, art exhibits, and outdoor activities. In keeping with our philosophy of educating the whole student, the college values the out-of-class experiences for the lessons they teach.

ASWC (Associated Students of Whitman College)

In addition to college-sponsored activities, student interest and initiative generates many activities at Whitman. The student government association, ASWC, is the umbrella organization for most student groups and activities, and fosters student participation in college governance, provides leadership opportunities, and supports the development of new interest groups. In addition, ASWC appoints students to college trustee committees, which add a student voice in the governance of the college. With a \$470,000 budget, ASWC helps to sponsor speakers and campus events such as Winterim, Choral Contest, Renaissance Faire, and other concerts, speakers, and special events. ASWC also supports the student newspaper, the literary magazine, and the student-operated radio station.

Greek System

Another popular option for students is participation in the Greek system. One-third of Whitman students affiliate with the national fraternities and sororities on campus. The four men's groups operate houses near campus. The

three women's groups occupy residence hall sections in Prentiss Hall. All Greek groups govern themselves and involve students in academic achievements, leadership opportunities, community service projects, and social affiliation.

Outdoor Program

An extremely popular hangout in the Reid Campus Center is the Outdoor Program office, which houses a well-equipped rental shop and a bicycle repair shop. Here students can participate in a variety of outdoor activities for all ability levels: hiking, biking, climbing, rafting, skiing, kayaking — you name it and we do it! In addition to planned trips for groups, the Outdoor Program provides equipment, resources, and information to assist students in planning their own adventures.

Intercollegiate Sports

For the highly competitive student athlete, Whitman offers varsity sport opportunities. Men compete in baseball, basketball, cross-country, golf, soccer, swimming, and tennis. Women's sports include basketball, cross-country, golf, soccer, swimming, tennis, and volleyball. On the national level, we hold membership in NCAA III. At the conference level, we are members of the Northwest Conference (NWC). Athletes, like all Whitman students, receive financial aid based on need as computed by the College Scholarship Service.

Intramural and Club Sports

For those not interested in varsity athletics, Whitman sponsors an extensive intramural program, which offers basketball, bowling, flag football, soccer, softball, ultimate Frisbee, volleyball, and dodge ball. Our club sport program currently includes, among other options, cycling, lacrosse, rugby, snowboarding, and ultimate Frisbee teams, which compete with other college teams in the Northwest. Participants in this program take a significant role in organizing game schedules, transportation, and funding. Consequently, the programs rely on student interest and initiative to succeed.

It is tempting to counsel students to wait to get involved in campus activities: "See how things go with your academic load. If you have extra time, then get involved." What we find, and what research supports, is that students who do get involved outside the classroom show higher satisfaction with their college experiences and are more likely to complete their degrees. Active students learn to budget their time, make friends, and acquire skills and abilities which enhance their personal development. Most Whitman students fall into the category of "busy and involved;" their energy and contributions are a vital part of Whitman life.

Academic Information

Academic Advising and Assistance

The importance of academic advising is immediately apparent to new students. Each student is matched with a premajor adviser before his or her arrival to campus and will meet with him or her during Opening Week. Academic advisers provide information and assistance, help students plan balanced academic schedules, and monitor students' progress toward their goals. Once students declare a major, an adviser from their chosen field of study assumes the advisory role. Students can also work with special advisers to select preprofessional courses in preparation for graduate and professional study.

In addition to assistance from an academic adviser, Whitman provides a variety of support services to assist students in their academic endeavors. The **Academic Resource Center** assists students who wish to improve study skills and academic effectiveness, or who need assistance accessing appropriate accommodations for physical or psychological challenges. The Academic Resource Center staff meets with students on an individual basis to determine which resources might be most helpful and to connect students with tutors if necessary. The Academic Resource Center also coordinates the Student Academic Adviser program.

Student Academic Advisers are sophomores and juniors who live in first-year residence halls to help new students get acquainted with Whitman's academic programs, opportunities, and expectations. SAs introduce study skills and offer workshops on analytical reading, note taking, and examination preparation. SAs are selected on the basis of their proven academic performance. The SA staff receives extensive training over the summer to transition new students into Whitman academics. For additional information, check out our Web page at www.whitman.edu/content/academic_resources/

If your son or daughter has a disability . . .

Disability is defined as some form of physical or psychological impairment that substantially limits a major life activity. Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact Juli Dunn, Director of Academic Resources. After review of the documentation, and a discussion with the student, Ms. Dunn will arrange accommodations for access to Whitman College's programs and activities.

Please contact the Academic Resource Center if you would like more information about the types of accommodations provided for students with disabilities. You also can download the *Removing Barriers* brochure through the Academic Resource Center's home page.

The **Writing Center** is available to all Whitman students for individualized assistance with writing essays and research papers. Students can bring papers to Writing Center tutors for organization, revision, and editing help. Hours and additional details are available at www.whitman.edu/content/english/writing-center.

Off-Campus Studies (OCS)

Studying in a foreign country or U.S. urban setting provides students with a rich opportunity for intellectual and personal development. The college encourages qualified students to study off campus either internationally or domestically for one semester or a full academic year during their third year at Whitman.

Whitman also typically offers several short-term faculty-led off-campus studies opportunities in specific fields each year. Our aim in promoting off-campus studies is to provide a foundation for Whitman students to develop intercultural skills and global understanding that will serve them throughout their lives.

Whitman OCS offers a broad range of off-campus studies programs worldwide and two US-based Partner Programs. In order to facilitate access to study abroad opportunities, students may apply their Whitman need-based aid and merit scholarships to the fees of any of the college's Partner Programs. There are currently 42 off-campus study programs on Whitman's Partner Programs list with locations in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Europe and Oceania.

Planning ahead is important for a successful off-campus study experience. New students who think they might want to study off campus during their Whitman career should attend our *Off-Campus Study Informational Meeting* during Opening Week, which provides important course prerequisite information and planning tips. Then, during the first semester of their second year, interested students should attend one of our weekly *First Step Toward Off-Campus Studies* meetings to learn about how to select a program that best suits their academic needs and about how to apply. Detailed information about course offerings, application procedures, fees, and deadlines is available for students and parents in the OCS Office, Memorial Hall, Room 204, or online at www.whitman.edu/content/ocs.

Graduation Requirements

The information in the following two sections is intended to provide a general review. Because of the volume and the technicality of the questions that arise, students should refer to the Whitman College catalog, which is the official document on matters of academic requirements and standards. The catalog is available as a link on the Whitman Web site: www.whitman.edu/content/catalog.

A minimum of 124 credits is required for a bachelor's degree with at least 54 of those credits being earned in residence in the on-campus programs of the college. A minimum cumulative grade-point average of 2.0 (on a 4.0 scale) is required for all work attempted at Whitman College.

Students normally take 12 to 18 credits each semester. Students participating in programs such as varsity athletics or speech and debate are often subject to additional enrollment requirements. Students who wish to complete a degree in eight semesters take an average of 15.5 credits per semester. Students may take more than 18 academic credits per semester if they petition the Board of Review.

General Studies Requirements:

The goal of the General Studies Program is to provide the student's undergraduate education with a structure and consistency that complement and broaden the major study programs. Whitman recognizes that flexibility is necessary in order to accommodate differences in background, interest, and aptitude. General Studies is Whitman's method of ensuring that student programs have overall coherence and that the wide range of the college's intellectual resources are utilized without enforcing lockstep requirements.

Specifically, the General Studies Program is intended to provide: 1) breadth and perspective to allow exposure to the diversity of knowledge, 2) integration to demonstrate the interrelatedness of knowledge, 3) a community of shared experience to encourage informal continuation of education beyond the classroom, and 4) a context for further study in the many areas appropriate for a well-educated person. To achieve these goals, the faculty has devised the following curriculum:

- I. The First-Year Experience: Encounters: two four-credit courses to be completed by all students during their first year of study.
- II. Distribution Requirements for new students
 - a. Minimum of six credits in each of the following areas

- i. Social Sciences
 - ii. Humanities
 - iii. Fine Arts
 - iv. Science (including at least one course with a laboratory)
- b. One course of three or more credits in quantitative analysis
 - c. Two courses, totaling at least six credits, in Cultural Pluralism

Declaring a Major

The choice of a major can be made at any time after a student has been admitted to the college, but must be made prior to registration for the student's fifth semester. Some students declare a major early in their academic career as they know their interests and intentions early on. Others are intrigued by the many disciplines found in the college curriculum and want to do a little exploring before they decide which major field of study to pursue. Finding a good academic fit takes time and effort, and it is not uncommon for Whitman students to change their minds at least once.

In addition to established departmental majors, students can design a major to incorporate work in two or more fields of study. Some established interdepartmental majors include mathematics-physics and biology-environmental studies. Students also have the option of indicating minor fields of study. It is important to remember that undergraduate majors might not have the link to career pursuits that graduate studies typically do. Critical thinking, academic performance, experience, transferable knowledge and skills — beyond the choice of a major — are the keys to a productive life beyond Whitman. Students are more likely to perform well in an area that interests them.

There are many resources available to assist students in the major selection process. The selection of a major should be made in consultation with the student's premajor adviser and with the adviser or advisers of the proposed major study. Other faculty, staff in the Academic Resource Center, staff in the Student Engagement Center, SAs and RAs can be helpful in the decision making process.

Major Studies Requirements:

A major study program is a coherent array of courses designed to develop mastery of the basic ideas and skills in a particular field or area. Every candidate for a Bachelor's Degree must complete such a program. Approximately one-third of a student's coursework will be in major requirements. The major study may be an established departmental program, an established combined program, or an individually planned program.

Regardless of whether the student declares a standard, combined, or individually planned major, a minimum of two-thirds of the specific course and credit requirements for the major must be completed in the on-campus program of the college, and a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 2.000 must be earned by a student in all of the courses taken within the department or departments of his or her major study. A program of study is prepared with the advice and consent of the student's major adviser or advisory committee to ensure that all major and degree requirements are completed.

Comprehensive Examination in Major Study:

Whitman was the first institution of higher education in the United States to require an oral defense of the comprehensive examination in a student's field of major study, and that tradition continues today. Every candidate for a Bachelor's Degree must complete a senior assessment in the field of their major study with a passing grade. The examination might be entirely oral, or it might be part written and part oral. Major examinations when passed are graded "passed" or "passed with distinction." A student who fails to pass the major examination may, at the discretion of his or her examining committee, be given a second examination, but not before two weeks after the first examination. A candidate who fails to pass the second examination is not eligible to take another until three months have elapsed.

Academic Standards

To maintain good academic standing a student must meet the following requirements:

- I. Earn a grade-point average of at least 1.700 each semester.
- II. Earn a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.000 during the second semester of the first year, and subsequently.
- III. Subsequent to the first year earn a minimum of 24 credits in the two immediately preceding semesters.
- IV. Complete successfully the First-Year Experience: Encounters in the first full academic year after entrance.
- V. Maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.000 beginning with the end of the fifth semester of college-level work.
- VI. Transfer students, to be in good standing, must meet the minimum GPA requirements appropriate to their class standing as determined by the number of transfer credits accepted.

If a student does not achieve these minimum academic standards, his or her case is referred to the Board of Review and the Curriculum Committee. The student will be placed on academic probation or be recommended for suspension or dismissal from the college for low scholarship. All cases of academic suspension and dismissal are formally reviewed and voted on by the Academic Standards committee.

A student placed on academic probation is no longer in good academic standing and may be suspended or dismissed from the college if his or her performance in the next semester in residence fails to meet the minimum requirements for good standing, or fails to demonstrate sufficient progress toward that goal. Normally, a student will not be continued on probation for more than two consecutive semesters. A student on probation is restored to good standing when he or she completes the semester of probation with accomplishments that meet the minimum standards listed above.

The Board of Review also will warn students who fail to make satisfactory progress toward their degree. A progress deficiency may result from earning fewer than 24 credits in the previous two semesters, a major grade-point average of less than a 2.0, a semester GPA of less than 1.7, or failure to complete the Encounters course sequence. Failure to

correct the deficiency during the next semester in residence might result in his or her being suspended from the college.

Students who have failed to achieve good academic standing will be contacted by the Academic Resource Center. The Academic Resource Center staff will work closely with the student, utilizing various campus resources to assist him or her in getting back on track academically.

The Right to Privacy

The transition from high school to college poses many challenges for the student. Research tells us that at this stage in the life of a young person, one of the primary tasks to be accomplished is that of achieving self-mastery and personal autonomy. We accept this concept at Whitman and recognize that one of our primary goals is to provide support so that students can develop personal responsibility and independence. This objective is in harmony with the total liberal arts experience, outside of, as well as within, the classroom. Just as students must learn to think, write, research, analyze, and synthesize complex notions and ideas on their own, so too must they be able to make personal life decisions that help them achieve their own goals and for which they are solely accountable.

Upon reaching the age of majority (18 years), people (including students) obtain the rights and responsibilities afforded by the law, with few exceptions. Among those rights is that of the right to privacy granted by the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA). This right extends to all students in post-secondary institutions whether or not they have reached the age of 18. While not requiring total student confidentiality of all student records in all situations, the law does provide a framework within which the college has developed attitudes and policies concerning student information. Briefly, the act requires that the college not release education records without the written consent of the student. In general, this also is the college's policy, and we apply these standards to all students and not just those 18 years of age and over. This means that parental requests for confidential student information will be denied on most occasions unless the student has

given permission to release it. Of course, it is ideal for the college if the student voluntarily shares confidential information openly with his or her parents. Thus, the best and quickest source of such information should be your son or daughter.

The college is always riding a fine line between being helpful and caring to concerned parents, and simultaneously encouraging student autonomy and self-reliance. We assure you, however, in special situations where a student is a threat to others, themselves, or where other conditions warrant, parents will be notified. Sometimes consultation between the family and the college is beneficial in determining what course of action to take, or what type of help is indicated. This might include the decision of whether or not the student should remain in school.

We strive to develop a trusting and cooperative relationship with you, the parents of Whitman students. We trust that parents understand that our primary goal is education, and that this means our primary focus is on the young adult. On most occasions we will deal directly with the student. If at any time parents have a concern about their student or a question about this issue, they should feel free to call the Dean of Students Office.

Parents of incoming students each receive a hard copy of this year's handbook. For future years please refer to the online version of the Parents Handbook or the Student Handbook for policy updates.

College Expenses

Charges for the 2010-2011 academic year are listed below. Figures for books and personal expenses are approximate and vary widely depending on the classes taken and the lifestyle of the individual student.

Tuition and Fees	\$ 40,180
ASWC (student association)	\$ 316
Board (21 meals per week)	\$ 5,460
Room (standard rate)	\$ 4,700
Estimated books and supplies.....	\$ 1,400

Some courses (such as art, music instruction, dance, and some physical activity classes) require a special course fee. The approximate budget of \$52,056 includes all of the expenses detailed above but does not include any course fees or incidentals.

The charges made by Whitman College are due and payable prior to registration for each semester. **Students must pay all semester costs or set up a payment plan with the Business Office before they are allowed to register for classes.**

Financial Aid

A college education should be a priceless experience for all qualified students. Every year the college budgets aid funds to meet the expected need of a great number of students. Today more than 80 percent of our students receive some form of financial assistance (scholarships, grants, loans, and part-time employment).

To be eligible for need-based financial assistance, parents of continuing students must submit a Financial Aid PROFILE form to the College Scholarship Service and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to the federal processor by April 15. These forms may be completed online at www.collegeboard.com (PROFILE) and www.fafsa.ed.gov (FAFSA). Whitman's CSS PROFILE code is 4951, and our FAFSA code is 003803. In addition to the PROFILE and the FAFSA, you must forward a complete signed copy of your current tax return directly to the Office of Financial Aid Services by May 15.

In order to retain financial aid funding, students must maintain good academic standing (cumulative GPA of 2.0 and a minimum of 24 credits in the two immediately preceding semesters). For further details, please refer to the college online catalog: www.whitman.edu/content/catalog/financial-aid. If you would like additional information, please don't hesitate to contact us at (509) 527-5178 or financialaid@whitman.edu.

Refund Policy

If a student withdraws during the semester, the refund policy schedule below applies to tuition and fee

charges and special course fees. A student who moves from a residence hall after the semester begins, or fails to move into a room reserved for second semester, will be refunded room charges for the smaller of 40 percent or as determined by the refund schedule below. Board charges will be prorated on a weekly basis as of the date of withdrawal, except for a minimum charge of \$100 per semester.

<i>Date of Withdrawal</i>	<i>Percentage of Charges Refunded</i>
Up through the first day of classes	100%
From day two through day 11	80%
From day 12 through day 16.....	60%
From day 17 through day 21	40%
From day 22 through day 26.....	20%
After day 26	0%

Ways to Support Whitman

Parents are encouraged to attend special events throughout the year, such as Parent Orientation, Family Weekend, and regional programs. Parents who desire a deeper level of involvement are encouraged to become a **Parent Admission Representative (PAR)**. Parent Admission Representatives contact parents of potential Whitman students to answer questions and encourage compelling applicants to attend Whitman. Members attend local admission functions and may help host events in their region for prospective students and their parents, including a January gathering for applicants and a summertime send-off party for entering students.

To be a Parent Admission Representative please contact: Maureen Vollendorff, Office of Admission, at (509) 527-5176 or vollenme@whitman.edu

Student Referrals

Mention Whitman to high school students who are considering college. Also maintain relationships with your student's favorite teachers, coaches, and counselors.

Support Local Events

Host or attend a Whitman event in your area. Whitman sponsors thought-provoking and entertaining events throughout the year, and parents are always welcome to attend. Whitman sports teams and musicians often are on the road and love your support. See the Whitman Web site (www.whitman.edu) for event dates and times.

Whitman benefits from the wide-ranging talent, effort, and achievements of parent volunteers, who are rewarded with a stronger connection to Whitman and the college community. If you are interested in local volunteer opportunities, please contact the Student Engagement Center at (509) 527-5183.

Family Weekend October 21-23, 2011

Whitman College is best experienced in person. While the college's literature and Web site may be informative, a visit to the campus will give you a better understanding of your student's daily life. Family Weekend is a wonderful opportunity to bring the entire family to campus.

The Family Weekend schedule is filled with a variety of activities and events. There will be musical performances, gallery exhibits, kids' activities, and sporting events. You will have a chance to experience all the campus has to offer.

The majority of activities are planned for Saturday, October 22. There also will be some Family Weekend events both Friday (beginning in the late afternoon) and Sunday (until early afternoon). You may access the Family Weekend schedule online at www.whitman.edu/family_weekend. If you do plan to attend Family Weekend 2011, it is wise to make hotel reservations and travel arrangements as soon as possible. If you are not able to attend Family Weekend, there are many other great weekends to visit campus; talk with your student and plan a visit to campus any time during the academic year.

Getting to Campus

Although Walla Walla is a bit off the beaten path, the city is still very accessible.

By air: Horizon Air, a subsidiary of Alaska Airlines, provides regional air service to Walla Walla with several flights daily. Connections are available with many major airlines through Seattle. Car rentals from Hertz and Budget are available at the terminal. A taxi to campus, costs about \$12.

Delta Airlines, United Express, and Alaska/Horizon Air all fly to Pasco, Wash. (47 miles west of Walla Walla), and have service from California and Denver, as well as connections through Seattle and Portland. Several major car-rental agencies are located in the Pasco terminal.

By car: If you are arriving by U.S. Highway 12, take the Clinton Street exit to the south. Follow the signs to campus, taking a right turn onto Boyer Avenue.

For additional information on resources and services within the Walla Walla area, please visit the Chamber of Commerce Web site (www.wvchamber.com) or call toll-free 1-877-WWVISIT.

Contacting Students in an Emergency

If you have an emergency and need to contact your daughter or son when she or he is in class, you may call the Dean of Students Office at (509) 527-5158. The Dean's staff will obtain a copy of your student's class schedule and deliver a message as soon as possible. In the evenings or on weekends, if you are unable to reach your son or daughter at their residence, you may call Security (509) 527-5777 and request their assistance in locating your student.

Fast Reference College Phone Numbers

For offices not listed below, call the college's general information number (509) 527-5111.

Security: 527-5777 **TDD Phone:** 522-4415

Fast Reference Phone Numbers

You need:	You will contact:	At: (509)
Academic Support / Tutors / Student Problems	Dean of Students	527-5158
After-hours emergency	Security	527-5777
Campus Activities / Student Organizations	Reid Campus Center	527-5208
Computer services	Technology Services	527-5415
Disability Support Services	Academic Resource Center	527-5213
Financial Aid	Financial Aid Services	527-5178
Finding transportation at break times	Reid Campus Center	527-5208
Food Service	Bon Appétit	527-5508
Health Care / Health Insurance	Health Center	527-5281
Housing and Residence Halls	Residence Life	527-5297
International Student Services	Intercultural Center	527-5596
Internships and Careers	Student Engagement Center	527-5183
Miscellaneous questions and concerns	Dean of Students	527-5158
Off-campus rentals	Business Office	527-5143
Policies and Procedures	Dean of Students	527-5158
Questions regarding Curricula or Faculty	Dean of the Faculty	527-5397

Resident Directors:

Anderson Hall (Kendra Vandree).....	527-5501	College House (Bryce McKay).....	527-5683
Douglas Hall (Bryce McKay).....	527-5683	Interest Houses (Anastasia Zamkinos).....	524-2002
Jewett Hall (Heather Ferguson).....	527-5477	Lyman Hall (Justin Daigneault).....	527-5427
Marcus House (Bryce McKay).....	527-5683	North Hall (Caitlin Moore).....	527-5361
Prentiss Hall (Danielle Gross).....	527-5601	Tamarac House (Caitlin Moore).....	527-5361

The 2011-2012 Academic Calendar

Fall Semester, 2011

August 25, Thursday	Residence halls open at 9 a.m. for new students. Check-in is from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
August 26, Friday	Residence halls open at 9 a.m. for all students. Convocation at 3 p.m.
August 30, Tuesday	Fall semester classes begin.
September 12, Monday	Last day to add classes.
October 10-11	Midsemester break; no classes.
October 12, Wednesday	Last day to withdraw from classes or the college without record.
October 21-23	Family Weekend.
November 4, Friday	Final day to withdraw from classes or the college with W grades. Close of P-D-F registration period.
November 3-9	Spring semester preregistration period.
November 18, Friday	Thanksgiving vacation begins at 6 p.m., Friday, and ends at 8 a.m., Monday, November 29. All residence halls remain open.
December 9, Friday	Last day of classes, fall semester. Honors theses due in library for December '10 candidates.
December 12-16	Final examination period.
December 16, Friday	Fall semester ends. All residence halls close at noon Saturday, December 17.

Spring Semester, 2012

January 13, Friday	Orientation for new students and parents begins.
January 15, Sunday	Residence halls open at 9 a.m. for returning students.
January 16, Monday	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; no classes.
January 17, Tuesday	Spring semester classes begin.
January 30, Monday	Last day to add classes.
February 20, Monday	Presidents' Day; no classes.
February 24, Friday	Last day to withdraw from classes or the college without record.
March 9, Friday	Spring vacation begins at 6 p.m., Friday (all residence halls close at 9 a.m., Saturday, March 12) and ends at 8 a.m., Monday, March 28 (all residence halls open at noon, Sunday, March 27).
April 6, Friday	Final day to withdraw from classes or the college with W grades. Close of P-D-F registration period.
April 10, Tuesday	Whitman Undergraduate Conference; no classes.
April 13-18	Preregistration period for the fall semester 2011.
May 8, Tuesday	Last day of classes, spring semester.
May 9, Wednesday	Reading day; no classes. Honors theses due in library for May '11 candidates.
May 10-15	Final examination period.
May 20, Sunday	Commencement. Residence halls close at 6 p.m.