

# Chapter II

## The Curriculum and Courses of Study

### Preamble: The Purposes of the College

Whitman College provides a liberal arts curriculum and a residence experience which are designed to encourage students to develop their potential as sensitive individuals and as leaders in society. The College serves these ends by encouraging students to develop certain habits of mind. One of these is the habit of objective analysis; another is sympathy developed to the point that it becomes habitual awareness of the needs and interests of others.

Such habits of mind are fostered by studies and experiences which enlarge the intellectual, esthetic, social, emotional, and moral capacities. Development of these capacities liberates by freeing the mind from the narrow constraints of ignorance and prejudice, by opening new paths to understanding oneself and the world.

Whitman seeks to assist each student in the development of these capacities and these habits of mind through an education that is both liberal and pre-professional, an education that progressively releases the individual from external direction and supervision of his or her studies and personal life in the hope that he or she will become self-directed in meeting personal and social commitments.

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.

### Section 1. Courses

- a. Courses are offered within the structure of departments in the following areas:  
 Anthropology, Art (History and Studio), Astronomy, Biology, Chemistry, Chinese, Classics, Economics, Education, English, French, Geology, German, History, Japanese, Latin, Mathematics and Computer Science, Music, Philosophy, Physics, Politics, Psychology, Religion, Rhetoric and Film Studies, Sociology, Spanish, Sports Studies, Recreation and Athletics, and Theatre.
- b. Courses are offered also in the extra-departmental areas of: Race and Ethnic Studies, Asian Studies, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Dance, Environmental Studies, Gender Studies, General Studies, Interdisciplinary Studies, Library, Linguistics, Science, and Studies in World Literature.

## Section 2. Major Programs

- a. A major program is a coherent program of courses designed to develop mastery of the basic ideas and skills in a particular field or area, and every candidate for a Bachelor's Degree must complete such a program. (See Ch. IV, Art. VI, Sec. 6.)
  - 1) The catalog will make clear how many credits a student would have to complete if he or she had absolutely no prior college-level preparation in the field. It will also state what distribution requirements can be fulfilled by completing the major.
  - 2) A standard major program may be either a departmental or a combined program.
    - a) A standard departmental program involves courses mainly in one Department, and it is under the supervision of that Department.
    - b) A standard combined major program involves comparable numbers of courses in two or more standard major Departments or in one standard major Department and one or more other Departments or areas of course offerings, or two appropriately related areas of course offerings (see Ch. II, Sec. 1); it is under the combined supervision of the Departments and areas concerned.
    - c) A major program shall require a minimum number of credits but shall not require more than 36 credits from any one Department.
    - d) No standard major will require more than a total of 72 credits, including supporting classes outside the major areas and courses that are prerequisites for the major.
    - e) Standard major programs are established by the general faculty (as specified in Ch. II, Sec. 4) and are listed below:

Standard Departmental Programs: Art (History and Studio), Astronomy, Biology, BBMB (Biochemistry, Biophysics, and Molecular Biology), Chemistry, Classics, Classical Studies, Economics, English, Environmental Humanities, Environmental Studies, Foreign Languages and Literatures-French, Foreign Languages and Literatures-German, Foreign Languages and Literatures-Spanish, Gender Studies, Geology, German Studies, History, Latin American Studies, Mathematics, Music (Standard, Performance, Music History, Theory/Composition, and Jazz), Philosophy, Physics, Politics, Psychology, Race and Ethnic Studies, Religion, Rhetoric and Film Studies, Sociology, and Theatre.

Standard Combined Programs: Asian Studies; Astronomy-Geology; Biochemistry; Biology-Environmental Studies; Biology-Geology;

Biophysics; Chemistry-Environmental Studies; Chemistry-Geology; Economics-Environmental Studies; Economics-Mathematics; Environmental Humanities; Gender Studies; Geology-Environmental Studies; Geology-Physics; Latin-American Studies; NMS (Natural Mathematical Sciences); Mathematics-Physics; Molecular Biology; Physics-Astronomy; Physics-Environmental Studies; Politics-Environmental Studies; Race and Ethnic Studies; Sociology-Environmental Studies.

3) Guidelines for the Construction of an Individually Planned Major.

- a) The individually planned major permits the development of a concentrated study in some area which crosses two or more disciplines or which currently does not offer a standard major, thus permitting an area of concentration not available in other major study programs.
- b) The process of establishing an individually planned major involves creating an individually planned major committee. With the committee, the student develops a proposal consisting of a title, rationale and a schedule of coursework. The proposal is submitted to the Board of Review for approval and is subject to review by the Academic Council.
- c) Individually Planned Major Committee: The first step in establishing an individually planned major is selecting at least three faculty members, including at least two tenure-track or tenured faculty, to form an individually planned major committee, which will oversee the construction of the major, the student's progress and the comprehensive examination. One of the tenure-track or tenured faculty, or a visiting faculty with a contract extending through the student's senior year, must be designated chair of the committee. Students need to confirm that the members of the committee, or suitable replacements, will be present throughout the entire course of study. The designated chair of the committee must write a letter in support of the application and include therein an indication of his/her willingness to be on campus throughout the student's senior year.
- d) Title and Rationale: With the advice and consent of the major committee, the student must develop a title and rationale for his or her individually planned major.
  - (1) The title should be clear, concise, and accurately describe the content of the individually planned major; it should be sufficiently different from existing major programs.
  - (2) The rationale must clearly establish the need for constructing an individually planned major as opposed to a double major, an established

combined major or an departmental major plus a minor. It must also include an intellectual justification for the coherence of the proposed program as an academic discipline appropriate to the liberal arts context.

- (3) The statement should include a clear justification of the appropriateness of each course for the individually planned major.
- (4) The program must contain work of an interdisciplinary nature.
- (5) In order to insure the rigor of the major, the following guidelines should be observed.
  - (a) There must be a minimum of 32 credit hours.
  - (b) There should be a full range of courses from the introductory to the advanced level. A minimum of 12 credits should be in 300 and 400 level courses.
  - (c) There should be a fully justified capstone course consisting of at least four hours of integrative work. (This course may be one of the courses above the 300 level).
  - (d) At least 12 hours should not yet be completed at the time of application.
  - (e) No more than 2/3 of the courses should come from any one department or program. The individually planned major is not intended to substitute for an established major less one or two courses.
  - (f) No more than 2/3 of the courses may be taken off campus and no more than 1/3 of the courses may be independent studies. Students need to reflect realistically on whether Whitman has the ability to offer an individually planned major in the proposed field. Will the faculty who share the student's interests be available to teach the courses needed for their major? Are there enough regularly offered courses (excluding independent studies) to provide sufficient credit for an in-depth, coherent course of study in the proposed individual major?
- (6) Proposal: After securing approval of the individually planned major committee, the student must submit an application for an individually planned major with the title and schedule of courses listed by semester, and rationale for applying for an individually planned major to the Board of Review for approval. The Academic Council will subsequently assess the actions taken by the Board of Review.

- (7) Oversight: The chair of the individually planned major committee has responsibility for overseeing the progress of the student. A student with an individually planned major must maintain a grade point average of 2.0 in the courses specified for the major.
- (8) Changes: The individually planned major committee evaluates proposed alterations to the individually planned major and submits them to the Board of Review for approval.
- (9) Senior Assessment: As with any other major, the individually planned major must include a plan to complete a senior assessment. The individually planned major committee will administer the examination. The student should work in consultation with the individually planned major committee to determine that a sufficient number of qualified faculty will be available to administer the examination at the appropriate time in the student's course of studies.
- (10) Honors: The student requesting honors in the individually planned major must meet the same requirements (concerning grade point average, etc.) as students in other majors. An honors proposal must receive the support of the individually planned major committee, and be filed with the Registrar by the date specified in the official College calendar.
- (11) Diploma and Transcript: Upon successful completion of the course of study in an individually planned major, the student will receive a diploma stating that he or she has graduated with an Individually Planned Major, listing the title of the major. The transcript will list the major as an Individually Planned Major, noting the actual title of the major in the notes.

### Section 3. Minor Programs

- a. A minor program is a coherent program of courses designed to develop knowledge in some depth of the basic ideas and skills in a particular field or area. Candidates for a Bachelor's Degree may elect to complete a minor program. A minor program shall require between 15 and 20 credits. The required and optional courses in the minor shall be specifically designated.
- b. Minor programs are established by the general faculty (as specified in Ch. II, Section 4) and are listed below:

Anthropology	English	Physics
Art	French	Politics

Art History & Visual Culture	Gender Studies	Psychology
Astronomy	Geology	Race & Ethnic Studies
Biology	German Studies	Religion
Chemistry	History	Rhetoric and Film Studies
Chinese	Japanese Latin American Studies	Sociology
Classics	Latin American & Caribbean Studies	Spanish
Computer Science	Mathematics	Theatre
Economics	Music	World Literature
Educational Studies	Philosophy	

Section 4. Adoption, Deletion, and Alteration of Courses and Standard Major and Minor Programs

- a. Adoption, deletion, and alteration of courses and standard major and minor programs must be approved by the Faculty as a whole acting upon the recommendation of the Division or the General Studies Committee and the Academic Council.
  - 1) All proposals for adoption, deletion, and alteration of courses and standard major and minor programs shall be submitted to the Academic Council by the Division or the General Studies Committee with its recommendation before February 1, if the changes are to become effective in the following academic year. Proposals must be distributed by the Academic Council to the faculty as a whole at least two days in advance of the faculty meeting in which they are to be considered.
  - 2) No change shall become effective in the academic year in which it is approved by the faculty. The requirements in this paragraph may be waived by the Academic Council if warranted by unusual circumstances.
- b. Proposals concerning adoption, deletion, and alteration of courses and standard major and minor programs shall be accompanied by a rationale and a consideration of demands on staff time and college resources. Proposals for the establishment or alteration of courses shall also contain a complete course description, and any restriction on registration, for subsequent inclusion in the college catalog. A special topics course that has resource or staffing implications must be voted on by the faculty each time the course is offered.
- c. Proposals for minor alterations in number, title, and prerequisites of courses may be submitted without a rationale. If such proposals are recommended by the Division or General Studies Committee and receive the concurrence of the Academic Council, they may be reported to the faculty without ratification, unless requested by a member of the faculty.

Section 5. General Studies Committee

- a. The General Studies Committee shall supervise and administer the General Studies Program.
  - 1) The General Studies Committee shall function as a Division for the purposes of the introduction of new courses, substantive changes in existing courses, and the alteration of rules and requirements for the General Studies Program.
  - 2) The General Studies Committee shall advise the Academic Council on these matters and shall also advise the Board of Review on waivers of General Studies requirements in the cases of continuing or transfer students.
- b. The General Studies Committee shall consist of a representative from each Division, a representative from each of the offered General Studies Courses, 2 non-voting students, and the Provost and Dean of the Faculty, *ex officio*.
  - 1) The 3 divisional representatives shall be elected by the Faculty as a whole, and may or may not be instructors in a General Studies course. The divisional representatives shall serve 3-year terms.
  - 2) A course representative shall serve a 1-year term.
  - 3) The student members shall be appointed annually by the Provost and Dean of the Faculty from nominations by ASWC.
  - 4) The Committee Chair shall be elected annually by the Committee members.

## Section 6. Special Programs

- a. Foreign and Domestic Off-Campus Programs
  - 1) Whitman College may maintain an affiliation with the colleges and organizations listed below under whose guidance, direction and regulations a program of study may be undertaken:
    - American University in Cairo, Egypt
    - The Associated Kyoto Program
    - The Associated Colleges of the Midwest-Urban Semester Program in Chicago
    - The American University Washington Semester Program as available
    - Butler University's Institute for Study Abroad (Galway, Ireland; Buenos-Aires, Argentina; and Merida, Mexico programs)
    - College Year in Athens
    - Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) in Taiwan and Senegal
    - Great Lakes College Association-Urban Semester Program in Philadelphia
    - Intercollegiate Sri Lanka Education Consortium (ISLE)
    - Institute for the International Education of Students (IES)
    - Kansai Gaidai University, Japan

Middlebury College in Spain  
Pitzer College Botswana Program  
University of Kansas Program at the University of Costa Rica  
University of Minnesota Toledo, Spain-Program  
The School for Field Studies  
School for International Training (SIT) in Delhi, India  
Studio Art Centers International in Florence, Italy  
Syracuse University in Florence, Italy  
The University of Otago (Dunedin, New Zealand)  
University of St. Andrews (Scotland)  
The University of York (U.K.)  
The University of East Anglia (U.K.)  
Whitman Summer Studies in China  
The Associated China Program.

- 2) A student participating in any of the affiliated programs shall be considered officially enrolled in an off-campus program of Whitman College and credit will be granted for work successfully completed as reported by the reporting agency of the program concerned, subject to limitations as to certain types of credit (activity, experiential) imposed by the College and provided that the specific program of study was approved by the student's advisor, the program advisor, and the Registrar prior to participation. Acceptance of work completed in these programs toward major requirements is subject to the approval of the department concerned.
- 3) Work undertaken in these programs shall be recorded as is work at Whitman College including grades reported by the program but with the exception that these grades will not be used in the calculation of semester and cumulative grade averages.
  - a) The general regulations of Whitman College concerning registration, withdrawal, and grading will apply in the absence of similar regulations and procedures for the program.
  - b) Whitman College procedures shall apply for the use of Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit grade options.
- 4) Enrollment in an affiliated program may not be used to meet the minimum residency and credit requirements for the degree (Ch. IV, Art. VI, Sec. 1 and 3) or for honors in course (Ch. IV, Art VII, Sec. 2). Registration in any of these programs during the final semester for completion of degree requirements requires the prior approval of the Board of Review.
- 5) Study Abroad Programs fall into two basic categories: those that are consortial or bilateral in nature and those that are administered independently of Whitman by another institution or agency.

- a) In the case of consortial-type programs or a bilateral relationship with a foreign university (such as the Associated Kyoto Program or our relationship with St. Andrews), affiliation with Whitman requires the approval of the faculty as a whole.
  - 1) Benefits from affiliation with this type of program generally include preferential treatment for admission and financial aid for Whitman students who wish to attend the program.
  - 2) Affiliation benefits of consortial-type programs include having a Whitman representative on a board that supervises the program. In the case of universities abroad, benefits may include some reciprocity such as faculty or student exchanges.
- b) In the case of Study Abroad Programs that are independently run through a sponsoring university or an agency (such as the University of Kansas' programs in Costa Rica) and in which Whitman's relationship is limited primarily to financial arrangements for study abroad students, the decision to affiliate may be made based on the recommendation of the International Studies Planning Committee with the approval of both the Provost and Dean of the Faculty and the Treasurer.

b. Programs Requiring Inter-Institutional Study Plans

- 1) Whitman College may maintain an affiliation with School of Engineering of Columbia University for the joint offering of a 5-year program in the field of engineering.

This program shall lead to the degree of Bachelor of Arts with major study in Natural and Mathematical Sciences and concurrently to the degree of Bachelor of Science in Engineering awarded by Columbia University, with the requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree under this program established by Whitman College. (Ch. IV, Art. VI, Sec. 7.)

- 2) Whitman College may maintain an affiliation with the California Institute of Technology for the joint offering of a 5-year program in the field of engineering. This program shall lead to the degree of Bachelor of Arts with major study in Natural and Mathematical Sciences awarded by Whitman College, and concurrently to the degree of Bachelor of Science in Engineering awarded by California Institute of Technology, with requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree under this program established by Whitman College. (Ch. IV, Art. VI, Sec. 7.)
- 3) Whitman College may maintain an affiliation with the School of Engineering of Duke University for the joint offering of a 5-year program in the field of engineering. This program shall lead to the degree of Bachelor of Arts with major

study in Natural and Mathematical Sciences awarded by Whitman College, and concurrently to the degree Bachelor of Science in Engineering awarded by Duke University, with requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree under this program established by Whitman College. (Ch. IV, Art. VI, Sec. 7.)

- 4) Whitman College may maintain an affiliation with the School of Law of Columbia University for the joint offering of a 6-year program in Accelerated Interdisciplinary Legal Education. This program shall lead to the degree of Bachelor of Arts awarded by Whitman College, and concurrently to the Juris Doctor degree awarded by Columbia University, with the requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree and the major under this program established by Whitman College. (Ch. IV, Art. VI, Sec. 7.)
- 5) Whitman College may maintain an affiliation with the Monterey Institute of International Studies (MIIS) for the joint offering of a 5-year program in the field of international studies. This program shall lead to the degree of Bachelor of Arts awarded by Whitman College, and concurrently the Masters Degree at MIIS. (Ch. IV, Art. VI, Sec. 7.)
- 6) Whitman College may maintain an affiliation with the University of Washington for the joint offering of a 5-year program in the field of engineering. This program will lead to the degree of Bachelor of Arts with major study in Natural and Mathematical Sciences awarded by Whitman College and concurrently to the degree of Bachelor of Science in Computer Science or a field of engineering awarded by the University of Washington, with requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree under this program established by Whitman College. (Ch. IV, Art. VI, Sec. 7.)
- 7) Whitman College may maintain an affiliation with the School of Oceanography of the University of Washington for the joint offering of a 5-year program in the field of oceanography. This program shall lead to the degree of Bachelor of Arts with major study in either Biology or Geology awarded by Whitman College, and concurrently to the degree of Bachelor of Science in Oceanography awarded by the University of Washington, with the requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree under this program established by Whitman College. (Ch. IV, Art. VI, Sec. 7.)
- 8) Whitman College may maintain an affiliation with Washington University for the joint offering of a 5-year program in the field of engineering. This program shall lead to the degree of Bachelor of Arts with major study in Natural and Mathematical Sciences awarded by Whitman College, and concurrently to the degree of Bachelor of Science in Computer Science or a field of engineering awarded by Washington University, with requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree under this program established by Whitman College. (Ch. IV, Art. VI, Sec. 7.)

- 9) Whitman College may maintain an affiliation with the Nicholas School of the Environment and the School of Business of Duke University for the joint offering of 5- and 6-year programs in the field of forestry and environmental management. The 5-year program shall lead to the degree of Bachelor of Arts with major study in either Biology or Geology awarded by Whitman College, and concurrently to the degree of Master of Forestry or Master of Environmental Management awarded by Duke University. The 6-year program shall lead to the same degrees plus a Master of Business Administration awarded by Duke University. For both programs, the requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree under this program are established by Whitman College. (Ch. IV, Art. VI, Sec. 7).

#### Section 7. Numbering of Courses

- a. Lower numbered courses are designed primarily for students in the early stages of learning and the higher numbers indicate courses with a greater degree of sophistication.

The Academic Council shall scrutinize proposed course numbers to achieve a reasonable degree of equivalence between disciplines.

- b. In accordance with the above, courses offered by Whitman College shall be numbered 100-499 consistent with the designations which follow:

10-199	Introductory level courses
200-399	Intermediate level courses
400-499	Advanced level courses

- c. The first digit of the course number is to indicate the general level of the course and the second digit may be used by a Department to designate type or level of courses within the general level. The third digit is to be used to differentiate individual courses and indicate course sequences as follows:

1,2,3,4: Used for courses which are part of a year-long sequence in which the first course is not the prerequisite for the second.

5,6: Used for year-long courses in which the first semester course is a prerequisite for the second.

7,8,9,0: Used for one semester non-sequence courses

Thesis courses shall be numbered 491 and/or 492 and honors thesis courses shall be numbered 498.

#### Section 8. The Academic Calendar

- a. The calendar concerning the opening and closing of the college sessions and the beginning and ending of the college vacations shall be determined by the Board of Trustees upon the recommendation of the President. (Const., By-Laws, Art. IV, Sec. 2.)

- b. The Academic Council may set particular dates within Board of Trustee rulings and make recommendations for changes in the college calendar to the general faculty for transmission to the Board through the President of the College.

Section 9. Interim Period

- a. The calendar shall consist of two semesters and an intervening period of up to two weeks, following winter vacation and preceding the beginning of the second semester. This intervening period shall be designated as "The Interim Period."
  - 1) During this period students may initiate their own programs providing educational opportunities of a voluntary nature.
  - 2) No academic credit shall be given for programs undertaken during the Interim Period but, upon request, a student may have an indication of such activity entered in his permanent file.
  - 3) A student coordinator may be appointed jointly by the President of the Associated Students and the President of the College to undertake the direction of programs during the period.
- b. No student who has been dismissed for low scholarship at the end of the first semester may participate in activities of the Interim Period. To be eligible to reside on the campus during the Interim Period a student must register for activities which are part of the program in a fashion prescribed by the Provost and Dean of the Faculty.