

Whitman College

Whitman College's programs in the arts, humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences have earned a national reputation for excellence. In the classroom and the laboratory, as well as through participation in the college's residential and extracurricular programs, Whitman students acquire the knowledge and talents to succeed in whatever careers and life paths they choose.

What students from across the United States and from many other countries find at Whitman today, as students did a century ago, is a close-knit community of dedicated teachers and students working together to achieve intellectual vitality, moral awareness, personal confidence, social responsibility, and the flexibility to adapt to a rapidly changing world.

Recruiting and celebrating professors who are committed to excellence in teaching, advising, and scholarship has always been a top priority of the college. As Whitman's third president, Stephen B. L. Penrose, said, "It's the faculty who make a college great." Whitman's 13th president, George S. Bridges, says, "Whitman offers a colorful mosaic of experiences, relationships and opportunities. We are proud of our campus and the diversity and accomplishments of our students, staff, and faculty."

In addition to maintaining a faculty of the highest caliber, Whitman College is strongly committed to:

- fostering the intellectual depth and the breadth of knowledge essential for leadership;
- supporting mastery of critical thinking, writing, speaking, presentation, and performance skills;
- integrating technology across the liberal arts curriculum;
- promoting a strong faculty-student collaborative research program;
- promoting a rich appreciation for diversity and tolerance and an understanding of other cultures; and
- encouraging a sense of community by offering a vibrant residential life program and extensive athletic, fitness, and outdoor opportunities.

The primary evidence of any college's successes can be found among its graduates. Whitman's alumni include a Nobel Prize winner in physics; a U.S. Supreme Court justice; an ambassador to Iraq; leaders in law, government and the foreign service; respected scholars; presidents of major corporations; renowned artists, entertainers and writers; prominent journalists; leading physicians and scientists; and thousands of active, responsible citizens who are contributing to their professions and their communities.

The Mission of the College

This mission statement, approved by the Whitman College Board of Trustees, guides all programs of the college:

Whitman College is committed to providing an excellent, well-rounded liberal arts and sciences undergraduate education. It is an independent, nonsectarian, and residential college. Whitman offers an ideal setting for rigorous learning and scholarship and encourages creativity, character, and responsibility.

Through the study of humanities, arts, and social and natural sciences, Whitman's students develop capacities to analyze, interpret, criticize, communicate, and engage. A concentration on basic disciplines, in combination with a supportive residential life program that encourages personal and social development, is intended to foster intellectual vitality, confidence, leadership, and the flexibility to succeed in a changing technological, multicultural world.

Statement on Diversity

The Board of Trustees endorsed the following statement on the value of diversity at Whitman. Many individuals and groups — trustees, overseers, alumni, students, faculty, and staff — contributed to the final version of this statement, which was developed by the Diversity Committee:

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.

Environmental Principles for Whitman College

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 will be followed while exploring practical ways Whitman College can promote an environmentally conscious campus.

- To reduce the amount of nonrecyclable materials, 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 that are active in their defense of the environment.
- To encourage individuals' environmental accountability through programs of environmental education.
- To consider environmentally friendly options when they exist and are practical when making 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 when 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 engage the trends of the industrial world with the natural environment.

The Faculty

Whitman College's full-time faculty currently numbers 127. In addition to their dedication to teaching and advising, Whitman faculty members conduct an impressive amount of original research.

Believing that an active professional life supports enthusiasm in teaching and advising, the college encourages faculty members' scholarly work through a generous sabbatical program, the faculty scholarship fund and other resources. In the past several years Whitman faculty members have received awards, honors and fellowships from the National Science Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Battelle Northwest Laboratories, the Battelle Research Institute, the Fulbright Fellows Program, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the PEW Charitable Trust, Research Corporation, Sigma Xi, the Washington Commission for the Humanities and the Washington State Arts Commission.

The faculty, with the president and the provost/dean of the faculty, is responsible for basic academic policy and for the formulation of the curriculum. The faculty also has a responsibility for student life and welfare.

Facts about Whitman

In 1836, a few miles from the current city of Walla Walla, Marcus and Narcissa Whitman established a mission and a school to teach the Cayuse Indians to read and write their native language. Later, the Whitmans provided assistance to Oregon Trail travelers. After the Whitmans were killed in 1847, Rev. Cushing Eells resolved to establish a school in their honor. The Washington Territorial Legislature granted a charter to Whitman Seminary on Dec. 20, 1859. College courses were first offered at Whitman in 1882 and on Nov. 28, 1883, the Legislature issued a new charter, changing the seminary into a four-year, degree-granting college.

Whitman prizes its independence from sectarian and political control. The college has remained small in order to facilitate the close faculty-student interaction that is essential to exceptional higher education. In 1914, Whitman became the first college or university in the nation to require undergraduate students to complete comprehensive examinations in their major fields. The installation of a Phi Beta Kappa chapter in 1919, the first for any Northwest college, marked Whitman's growing reputation.

One of Whitman's most recognizable campus landmarks is the clock tower atop Memorial Building, which was constructed in 1899. Among recent construction projects are the renovation and expansion of Penrose Library and the Science Building. New buildings include the Reid Campus Center, the Baker Ferguson Fitness Center, the Welty Center, and the Fouts Center for Visual Arts.

Located in the center of campus, the library serves an important role in the life of Whitman students. Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week during the academic year, Penrose Library provides resources, spaces and services to support the academic community. The library has more than 18,000 journals and houses more than 400,000 catalogued volumes. In addition, the Orbis Cascade Alliance, via the Summit online catalog, gives students and faculty prompt access to more than 26 million volumes from more than 30 colleges and universities throughout Washington and Oregon. Penrose Library is a 23 percent federal depository library and houses more than 200,000 United States and Washington state government documents, dating back to 1789. The Whitman College and Northwest Archives comprise approximately 3,500 linear feet of historical materials, including both college records and Walla Walla Valley manuscripts. Library staff provides professional services that include library orientations, individual research consultants, and formal classroom instruction. Staff members are committed to insuring the success of students as they pursue their information needs.

Whitman is committed to providing information technology tools for all members of the college community. All residence hall rooms have connections to the campus network. The college provides all students with computer accounts, e-mail addresses, and access to the Internet through wired or wireless connection. Computers are available for use in the library and in several computer labs around campus.

Whitman College has a measure of financial stability unusual among private colleges and universities. It has eliminated all deferred maintenance on its physical plant, and the market value of its endowment and outside trusts is close to \$400 million. Such success is largely due to the continuing interest and

support of business and financial leaders, to loyal alumni whose percentage of giving to the college is among the highest of any college or university in the nation, and to sound financial management.

The campus is one block from the downtown area of Walla Walla, a city of 30,000 in southeastern Washington. The town's setting in golden wheatlands shadowed by the Blue Mountains provides countless opportunities for skiing, hiking, bicycling, fishing, rock climbing, and white water rafting. Recently named one of the nation's top 25 "small town cultural treasures" and cited by *Sunset* magazine as having the best main street in the West, Walla Walla is known for its art galleries, its symphony orchestra, its community theater, and its premium wineries. Whitman sponsors dance groups, opera, musical soloists, fine arts film series, and performances by the college's excellent music and theater departments. The college hosts nationally recognized lecturers in science, letters, politics, current history, and other fields.