

## Careers and Professions

While social trends and economic pressures may bring emphasis on “job training” in many types of institutions, Whitman remains confident that its role as a liberal arts college meets many crucial needs of society.

For students who can identify their own interests and abilities, inform themselves about opportunities, and do some careful planning, an educational foundation in the liberal arts has proved to be the best of resources.

A large percentage of Whitman graduates continue their education in graduate or professional schools. For those who seek careers immediately after graduation, positions have been found in such fields as journalism, sales, teaching, library work, publishing, radio and television, research, advertising, personnel, public relations, insurance, banking, transportation, production and manufacturing, retailing, and government.

Advisers in the academic departments, in the Office of the Associate Dean of the Faculty, and in the Career Center talk regularly with students about advanced study and about immediate and long-range occupational opportunities. In addition, the college has selected special preprofessional advisers, listed below, to help in those areas of interest which warrant particular attention because of their general appeal.

### Business Management

*R. Pete Parcels (Economics)*

The best opportunities for career-long advancement in modern business come to those who have acquired a knowledge of the underlying principles of economics, finance, statistics, and communication with society. A background in the sciences to prepare for the changing world may be beneficial. An understanding of the relation of business to government and the position of business in society also is essential. Strong oral and written communication skills are important.

The recommended courses are designed to give the student a general rather than a technical preparation. The guiding principle of the program is the recognition that technical training in the field of business administration

is best achieved in graduate school or through on-the-job training. (A site which provides additional information is [www.mba.com](http://www.mba.com)). Such a preparation qualifies Whitman graduates for many forms of business management training programs and provides a foundation for study in graduate schools of business.

#### Suggested Courses:

Economics 101, 102, 227, 268, and 327

Mathematics 125, 126

Major study in economics, politics, and/or the sciences

### Dentistry

*Jim Russo (BBMB)*

Dental schools recommend that the pre-dental student acquire as broad and liberal an educational background as possible before entering the highly specialized professional courses given in dental school.

Students interested in the study of dentistry should familiarize themselves as early as possible with the specific requirements of the schools to which they plan to apply. These requirements are contained in the ADEA *Official Guide to Dental Schools*. Dental schools in Colorado, Oregon and Washington give preference to residents and students of WICHE states (Alaska, Arizona, Hawaii, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming). These are states that lack dental schools. You can find the American Dental Education Association home page at [www.adea.org](http://www.adea.org). It has links to dental schools. The site of the American Dental Association is [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org).

Minimal requirements of all dental schools are usually a year each of English, biology, physics, general chemistry, and organic chemistry.

Pre-dentistry students should contact the adviser early in the first year of study at Whitman and confer with the adviser on a regular basis. Participation in a dental observation program is highly recommended.

#### Suggested Courses:

Biology 111, 112, 205, 329<sup>1</sup>, 339<sup>2</sup>

Biology 259 or 310<sup>1, 3</sup>

Chemistry 125, 126, 135, 136; or Chemistry 140

Chemistry 245, 246, 251, 252 organic chemistry and laboratory. Some schools, including the University of Washington, require only one

semester of organic chemistry; however, the University of Washington and OHSU require biochemistry (BBMB 325).

Physics 155 or 165, 156 or 166

<sup>1</sup>Highly recommended by University of Washington Dental School

<sup>2</sup>Required by University of Washington Dental School

<sup>3</sup>Required by Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU)

## Foreign Service

*Chair, Department of Politics*

Today many departments and agencies of the United States government offer a variety of overseas employment, both in career positions and in staff support work. Positions may be secured through general entrance examinations for the public service, through special recruiting (as is generally the case for the intelligence services, the Peace Corps, and aid and technical assistance programs), or by special examinations, as those for the Diplomatic Service and the Consular Service of the Department of State and the Information Service of the U.S. Information Agency.

No special set of courses is recommended, but demonstrated aptitude in foreign language study, history, and politics is generally essential for overseas career positions. Information on recruitment procedures and examinations is available, as is information on employment with private organizations abroad.

## Law

*Timothy Kaufman-Osborn (Politics)*

Whitman does not have and does not recommend a formal prelaw major as preparation for law school, believing that no specific series of courses can be considered correct for every student who intends to enter the legal profession. Major law schools and the Association of American Law Schools agree that a broad liberal arts program is the best general preparation.

Law schools want evidence that its applicants can think, read, write, express themselves orally, and have some understanding of the forces which have shaped human experience, developed its institutions, and ordered its values. A wide variety of courses in the social sciences, history, literature, philosophy, and rhetoric deal with such matters, though in

different ways and with different emphases. The study and practice of law also requires analytical reasoning skills which are fostered by certain courses in mathematics and the natural sciences, economics and philosophy.

Students planning a legal career are welcome to discuss their plans with a prelaw adviser. Those interested in the combined program with Columbia University that will permit them to obtain a law degree and a bachelor's degree at the end of six years rather than the normal seven should read provisions for such a program in the *Special Programs* section of this catalog. It is essential to plan for this program as early as possible in order to meet all requirements.

The P-D-F grade option should be used by prelaw students with caution. Students who hope to attend law school the fall following graduation should take either the October or December Law School Admission Test during their senior year in order to meet most law school admission deadlines. A reason to take the earlier October test: scores will be reported prior to most law school admission deadlines, an advantage when judging one's chances for admission to various schools.

## Library Science

*Lee Keene (Library)*

A Master of Library Science degree is a prerequisite for a professional career in librarianship, and a broad liberal arts education is excellent preparation for the master's program. One library school seeks applicants with "an inquiring mind, initiative, the flexibility to accommodate change, and a sense of responsibility to the public and to colleagues." While librarians traditionally have been educated in the humanities, a background in the social or physical sciences has become valuable as the number of specialized libraries increases. Emphasis is increasingly placed on computer applications within libraries, and the allied field of information science. Courses in one or more foreign languages, while not required by all library schools, are useful.

Penrose Library offers student employment, and the librarian listed above is available to discuss graduate school preparation and career possibilities with interested students.

## Medicine

*Jim Russo (BBMB; Chair, Premedical Advisory Committee)*

See the Health Professions Web site: [www.whitman.edu/content/career\\_center/healthprofs](http://www.whitman.edu/content/career_center/healthprofs). The medical profession seeks individuals from a variety of educational backgrounds. Although a strong foundation in the natural sciences is essential, a major in the sciences is not. A broad, liberal arts education should enable future physicians to gather and assess data, to continually update their knowledge and skills, and to apply this new information to the medical, scientific, and ethical problems they will face.

Because much of the practice of contemporary medicine is preventative as well as curative, medical school admissions committees also look for well-developed communication skills and an ample exposure to the social sciences and humanities. They are concerned with both the breadth and quality of the undergraduate course work.

Students interested in the study of medicine should familiarize themselves as early as possible with the specific requirements of the medical schools to which they plan to apply. The requirements for each U.S. and Canadian allopathic (MD) medical school, as well as other useful information, are provided in the book *Medical School Admission Requirements*. See the Association of American Medical College (AAMC) Web site at [www.aamc.org](http://www.aamc.org).

Students considering a career in medicine should attend the premed orientation meeting during the opening week of their first year. The following courses will satisfy the requirements for admission to most U.S. medical schools:

Biology — One year of introductory biology (Biology 111 and 205); one additional course; two semesters of laboratory

Chemistry — One year of general chemistry with laboratory (Chemistry 125, 126 and Chemistry 135, 136; or 140). One year organic chemistry with two credits of laboratory (Chemistry 245, 246 and Chemistry 251, 252)

Physics — One year of physics with laboratory (Physics 155 or 165, 156 or 166)

Mathematics — One year of college mathematics (Mathematics 125, 126 and 128 are recommended)

English — Two semesters of English (110, 210, 310 or any English writing or literature

course)

Biochemistry and molecular biology have become a central component of contemporary medical education. The University of Washington requires students to demonstrate course work in biochemistry (BBMB 325).

Since writing ability is assessed as one of the four major Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) areas, and Verbal Reasoning is one of the quantified MCAT areas, classes that stress serious analysis of written material are also recommended.

At least one year of social science (e.g., Psychology 110 and one additional course in anthropology, economics, sociology or psychology) is recommended.

The following is a sequence of steps that can help you be prepared to apply to medical schools during your senior year:

1. After the opening week orientation meeting, contact an adviser at least once a semester through the sophomore year.
2. In the junior year, make an appointment with Jim Russo and set up a candidate file.
3. Prepare to take the MCAT between January and June of your junior year.
4. Obtain evaluation forms and contact people you plan to ask to write letters of evaluation for you.
5. Complete the American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS) application online no later than July 30 ([www.aamc.org/students/amcas/start.htm](http://www.aamc.org/students/amcas/start.htm)).
6. Contact Jim Russo between July 1-September 1 to set up an interview time. An interview with the advisory committee is required for the college to provide the committee letter requested by the medical schools. Interviews are held between the first day of fall classes and October 30. The committee cannot guarantee an interview if you do not schedule a time before September 1. A copy of your AMCAS application and all letters of evaluation must be sent to the chair no later than two weeks prior to your interview time. Many students apply after graduation. See Jim Russo for more details.

## Ministry

*Walter Wyman (Religion)*

The American Association of Theological Schools recommends a broad liberal arts education as the most desirable undergraduate preparation for the ministry. English, history, philosophy, and the social sciences are all appropriate as undergraduate majors. Some experience in the sciences and in the fine arts is recommended. A religion major or a religion minor, while not an essential prerequisite for graduate study, would provide a solid basis for seminary or graduate school and would enable the student to move more quickly into advanced studies. Foreign languages (especially French, German, and possibly Greek or Latin or Chinese or Japanese) are highly advisable for students contemplating doctoral work in religion.

## Music

*Robert Bode (Music)*

The department of music at Whitman College offers a Bachelor of Arts degree with possible special emphases in performance, theory/composition, history, or jazz. Recognizing its role in a liberal arts institution, the department offers applied lessons and curricular choices for majors and nonmajors alike. More than 60 percent of the student body participates in the music program through performance, individual lessons, or academic classes.

The major ensembles on campus — Whitman Chorale, Symphony Orchestra, Jazz Ensembles, Wind Ensemble, and Whitman Chamber Singers — are open to all students by audition. Opera productions have included Bizet's *Carmen*, Gilbert and Sullivan's *Iolanthe* and *Gondoliers*, Mozart's *Magic Flute* and *The Marriage of Figaro*, Puccini's *La Boheme*, Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*, and Bernstein's *Candide*.

## Public Service

*Chair, Department of Politics*

Careers in public service have increased as a result of recent developments. To an ever greater degree, even county and city governments have realized they need professionally trained people to serve as researchers and planners as well as administrators. The expansion in the numbers and kinds of special interest groups and the

increased degree to which these groups are employing professionals have also meant new career possibilities for people with research, analytical, and political skills. These new career opportunities are in addition to the traditional public administration positions in federal and state agencies.

A person interested in a public service career should develop good research and analytical skills and an ability to write and speak effectively. A broad background in American government and society is necessary, with emphasis on politics, economics, and sociology. Statistical and computer skills are essential.

### Suggested Courses:

Economics 101 or 177, 102, 268  
 Environmental Studies 120  
 History 297  
 Mathematics 128  
 Politics 118, 179, 219, 309, 313, 317, 458  
 Sociology 110, 207, 208

## Social Work and Human Services

*Helen Kim (Sociology)*

Whitman College provides the basic social science training required for careers in social work and human services. There is a continuing demand for trained social and human services workers in such fields as child and family welfare work, neighborhood recreational and health service, and rehabilitation of youth offenders. Advanced positions in social work and human services require training at graduate school. However, the present demand for social workers makes it possible for students to obtain positions upon completion of their undergraduate training. The American Association of Schools of Social Work and leading schools in this field recommend a sound foundation in the social sciences with a background in other areas of a liberal arts education. Also recommended is some orientation to the specific problems dealt with by these fields.

Students interested in careers in social work and human services are well advised to major in psychology or sociology, though majoring in some other social science field is not inappropriate. In addition to major preparation in a particular field in the social sciences there are specific social science courses which contribute to preparation for a career in social service, depending in large part on the particular area

of social service work in which the student is interested. The best program is one worked out with the preprofessional advisers.

**Suggested Courses:**

Economics 101 or 177, 102  
 History 368  
 Philosophy 127, 128  
 Psychology 110, 210, 230, 240, 260  
 Sociology 117, 230, 257, 267, 300, 307, 317

## Sport Studies, Recreation and Athletics

*Dean Snider (Director of Athletics and Chair, Sport Studies, Recreation and Athletics)*

Whitman's program of activity and lecture classes, intramurals, and club and intercollegiate athletics is broad-based and flexible. The program is designed to meet the physical and recreational needs of the college community and to enhance the quality of life and learning of all who participate.

Career opportunities in sport studies, athletics, leisure and recreation are expanding rapidly. With a strong liberal arts background, an academic major, and a sport studies minor, a student will be prepared to pursue graduate studies or a career in sport studies.

Courses in sport studies, recreation and athletics are divided into two categories: theory and activity. Theory courses are designed for students who wish to study the theory and methods used in physical education and recreation. Practicums allow students to design and pursue supervised teaching, coaching and other sport leadership experiences. Activity courses are designed to provide experience and training within a diverse mix of physical education, recreation, fitness, and individual and team sport offerings.

**Suggested Courses:**

Biology 120  
 Sport Studies, Recreation and Athletics 200,  
 308, 328, 335, 357, 380, 385, 390, 395, 490,  
 495

A broad range of activity courses

## Teacher Certification

*Kay Fenimore-Smith*

A strong liberal arts education is perhaps the best preparation for a career in teaching. Whether a student is interested in elementary or secondary education, a liberal arts

education provides teachers with a broad understanding of the interrelated nature of the academic disciplines beyond their own area of expertise.

The education department at Whitman offers a minor in education that prepares students for graduate-level programs that award both a master's degree and teacher certification. Education faculty will assist students in exploring and applying to fifth-year programs.

## Theatre

*Nancy Simon (Theatre)*

For the student planning a career in professional theatre, the opportunities at Whitman are threefold:

1. A strong liberal arts background, necessary because the theatre may deal with anything and everything about being human.
2. Rigorous training in a variety of theatre disciplines, necessary because theatre is collaborative and the quality of our work depends on understanding that of our colleagues.
3. Frequent opportunity to participate in performance, necessary because performance is the language of theatre.

In addition to its courses of study, the theatre department annually presents eight major productions in its two theatres as well as numerous informal performances. Participation in theatre productions is open to all Whitman students.

## Veterinary Medicine

*Kendra Golden (Biology)*

Schools of veterinary medicine recognize the importance of a liberal arts education with a strong foundation in the sciences. The states of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho have joined in a regional program in veterinary medical education. The program also serves the states of Alaska, Arizona, Hawaii, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming through the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education compact.

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You can find the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges home page at <http://aavmc.org>. The site of the American Veterinary Association is [www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org).

Preveterinary students should contact the adviser early in their first year of study and learn the preveterinary requirements of the veterinary school in their resident state.

**Suggested Courses:**

Biology 111, 112\*, 205\*, 259, 310, 329, 339

Chemistry 125\*, 126\*, 135\*, 136\*, or Chemistry 140; and 245, 246, 251, 252, BBMB 325\*

Mathematics 125\*, 126\*, 128\*

Physics 135\*, 136, 155\* or 165, 156 or 166

\*Designates specific requirements for Washington State University, University of California-Davis and Colorado State.