# Whitman College Parent Handbook 2015-2016

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Letter to 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 has received a lot of information from us over the summer and will continue to receive information over the first few weeks of the semester to ensure his or her smooth transition to college life at Whitman. 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 apart 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, Vice-President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students
Juli Dunn, Associate Dean of Students
Donna Cummins, Associate to the Dean of Students
Rebecca Frost, Director of Student Success and Disability Support Services
Antonia Keithahn, ARC Program Coordinator
Bridget Jacobson, Administrative Assistant
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, Study Skills Workshops, 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.

The Academic Resource Center, in collaboration with the Student Engagement Center, offers an **Academic Majors Fair** which is an interactive fair that allows students to meet seniors from each academic department to learn more about the major. During the Fair, ARC and SEC staff introduce students to academic resources, internships, community service opportunities, and the career choices made by Whitman alumni who have majored in that field.

**Bookstore**

As your Whitman 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, electronic accessories, incidentals, and Whitman clothing and gifts. Please ask us about our WhitCoin Loyalty Program.

Typically, the first contact a student has with the Bookstore is during the first days of the semester when he or she shops 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 Business Office’s itemized statement at the end of the 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 by contacting the Business Office.

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 underrepresented communities, and to strengthen partnerships with academic and administrative offices as well as organizations in the larger Walla Walla community. 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 and co-curricular, social support for students from underrepresented, international and multinational backgrounds. The center also plays a key role in bringing diverse perspectives and experiences to campus by sponsoring various speakers and events. A collection of books, films and information about internship and scholarship opportunities related to diversity and multicultural issues are available at the center. The center also manages and maintains the Glover Alston Center for the entire campus community.

The center provides assistance and resources to student organizations focused on culture and identity. Among the most active clubs on campus, they provide leadership opportunities for students and promote diversity, inclusion and multiculturalism by sponsoring discussion panels, musical events, lectures, dances, festivals and more. Currently, there are 15 active organizations: American Indian Association; Atheists, Humanists and Agnostics; Beyond Borders Club; Black Student Union; China at Whitman; Club Latino; Feminists Advocating Change and Empowerment; First Generation Working Class; Hillel-Shalom; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning (LGBTQ); Hapa and Mixed Race Club; Namasté Meditation Club; South Asian Student Association; Wakilisha Africa Club; Whitman Christian Fellowship.

**Glover Alston Center**

The Glover Alston Center is a resource to facilitate Whitman’s commitment to sustaining a diverse community. By providing a safe space for meaningful conversation and interaction, the Glover Alston Center welcomes and supports differences, collaborates with academic departments, encourages input from
divergent perspectives, enhances intercultural and international awareness, and models respect for all in the Whitman community. The Glover Alston Center achieves this by serving as:

- A unique place for programs to develop education, understanding and community involvement.
- A safe place where conversations about diversity, difference, multiculturalism and social justice occur.
- A social and academic space for collaboration between members of the Whitman community.
- A meeting place and home for campus organizations and clubs.
- An open space for meditation, reflection, and spiritual and religious practices.

With this facility, the Whitman community hopes to foster meaningful exchanges between individuals and groups for the greater understanding and mutual respect of one another by encouraging engagement, leadership development and learning.

All members of the Whitman community are invited and encouraged to use this nonresidential space.

**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:

- **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 the many 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 seven service programs: Whitman Mentor Program, Adopt-A-
Grandparent, Whitman Teaches the Movement, Green Park Bilingual Tutoring Program, Story Time Project, Alternative Spring Break and Summer Community OutReach Excursion (SCORE) Trips Programs.

• **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 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, education and business school programs, 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. Whitman Connect is a database of about 1,600 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 registered 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 degree-seeking students.

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, an immunization record including two doses of MMR and an on-line tuberculosis screening questionnaire are required. 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.

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.

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.

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.

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 a community. In short, the residence halls are where friendships are made and where independence and
adulthood take shape. Our goal is that these connections continue to grow as students move through their years at Whitman.

At its core, the residence hall experience is about fostering community, and part of this is residents learning that their actions affect those living around them. This is where personal responsibility begins. We work with students to help them learn how to live in a positive community such as this.

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, dances, movie nights, games, and much more. These programs are designed to provide valuable experiences and opportunities that complement students’ interests.

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 who leads these groups in supporting the residents.

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 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 their 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 Whitman ID card 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. 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 interests and initiatives generate 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, providing a student voice in the governance of the college. ASWC helps sponsor speakers and campus events such as The Power and Privilege Symposium, Choral Contest, Renaissance Faire, and other concerts, speakers, and special events. ASWC also
supports the student newspaper, the literary magazine, the yearbook, 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 four 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, lacrosse, 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, flag football, soccer, softball, table tennis, 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. 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 (SAs) 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.

The Academic Resource Center also provides assistance in accessing the appropriate accommodations for physical or psychological disabilities. 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 Rebecca Frost, Director of Student Success and Disability Support Services, Memorial 327, (509) 527-5213, frostr@whitman.edu. After review of the documentation, and a discussion with the student, Ms. Frost 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 find information on the Academic Resource Center’s home page: www.whitman.edu/content/academic_resources/

The Writing Center

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 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 four U.S.-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. Whitman students studying off campus are able to choose from more than 80 partner programs with locations in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Europe, the Middle East, Oceania, and the United States.

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. This meeting provides important course prerequisite information and planning tips. Then, during the first semester of their second year, interested students should attend one of our 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 205, 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 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. After their first semester, students may be eligible to take more than 18 academic credits per semester with Board of Review approval.

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:

a. The First-Year Experience: Encounters: two four-credit courses to be completed by all students during their first year of study.

b. Distribution Requirements for new students
   i. Minimum of six credits in each of the following areas
      1. Social Sciences
      2. Humanities
      3. Fine Arts
      4. Science (including at least one course with a laboratory)
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, student academic adviser, or staff in the Student Engagement Center 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. Any deficiency must be removed no later than the end of the fourth semester of college-level work or by the time the student has accumulated 57 degree credits, whichever occurs first.
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. 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 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 Parent Handbook or the Student Handbook for policy updates.

**College Expenses**

Charges for the 2015-2016 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition and Fees</td>
<td>$45,770</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASWC (student association)</td>
<td>$368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Room and Board</td>
<td>$11,564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated books and supplies</td>
<td>$1,400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some courses (such as art, music instruction, dance, and some physical activity classes) require a special course fee. The approximate budget of $59,102 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 officially enroll 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, the Financial Aid Office may ask for a copy of the parents’ tax return.

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 financial aid@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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of Withdrawal</th>
<th>Percentage of Charges Refunded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up through the first day of classes</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From day two through day 11</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From day 12 through day 16</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From day 17 through day 21</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From day 22 through day 26</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After day 26</td>
<td>No refund</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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: Heather Dygert, Office of Admission, at (509) 527-5176 or dygerthk@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 Abby Juhasz at the Student Engagement Center at (509) 527-5183.

Family Weekend – October 23-25, 2015

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 24. 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/offices-and-services/residence-life/calendar/family-weekend. If you do plan to attend Family Weekend 2015, 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 $15.

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 Salt Lake City, 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.wwchamber.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 at (509) 527-5777 and request their assistance in locating your student.
# Fast Reference College Phone Numbers

For offices not listed, please call the college’s general information number at (509) 527-5111.

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

## You need information about:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information</th>
<th>You will contact:</th>
<th>At: (509)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student issues and concerns</td>
<td>Dean of Students</td>
<td>527-5158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After-hours emergency</td>
<td>Security</td>
<td>527-5777</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus activities / student organizations</td>
<td>Reid Campus Center</td>
<td>527-5208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer services</td>
<td>Technology Services</td>
<td>527-5415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability support / academic support</td>
<td>Academic Resource Center</td>
<td>527-5213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial aid</td>
<td>Financial Aid Services</td>
<td>527-5178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finding transportation at break times</td>
<td>Reid Campus Center</td>
<td>527-5208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food service</td>
<td>Bon Appétit</td>
<td>527-5508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health care / health insurance</td>
<td>Health Center</td>
<td>527-5281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing and residence halls</td>
<td>Residence Life</td>
<td>527-5297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International student services</td>
<td>Intercultural Center</td>
<td>527-5596</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internships and careers</td>
<td>Student Engagement Center</td>
<td>527-5183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous questions and concerns</td>
<td>Dean of Students</td>
<td>527-5158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off-campus rentals</td>
<td>Business Office</td>
<td>527-5143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policies and procedures</td>
<td>Dean of Students</td>
<td>527-5158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Questions regarding curricula or faculty</td>
<td>Dean of the Faculty</td>
<td>527-5397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex- or gender-based misconduct</td>
<td>Title IX Administrator</td>
<td>524-2049</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Resident Directors

**Residence:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Residence</th>
<th>You will contact:</th>
<th>At: (509)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anderson Hall</td>
<td>Colleen Bell</td>
<td>527-5427</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College House</td>
<td>Halley McCormick</td>
<td>527-5683</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Douglas Hall</td>
<td>Halley McCormick</td>
<td>527-5683</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest Houses</td>
<td>John Lee</td>
<td>524-2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewett Hall</td>
<td>Jane Carmody</td>
<td>527-5477</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lyman Hall</td>
<td>Louise Fix</td>
<td>527-5477</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marcus House</td>
<td>Halley McCormick</td>
<td>527-5683</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Hall</td>
<td>Melanie Medina</td>
<td>527-5361</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prentiss Hall</td>
<td>Sara Portesan</td>
<td>527-5601</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamarac</td>
<td>Melanie Medina</td>
<td>527-5361</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The 2015-2016 Academic Calendar

Fall Semester, 2015

August 27, Thursday  
Residence halls open at 9 a.m. for new students. Check-in is from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

August 28, Friday  
Residence halls open at 9 a.m. for all students. Convocation at 3:30 p.m.

September 1, Tuesday  
Fall semester classes begin.

September 11, Friday  
Last day to add classes.

October 8-9  
Midsemester break; no classes.

October 14, Wednesday  
Last day to withdraw from classes or the college without record.

October 23-25  
Family Weekend.

November 5-10  
Spring semester preregistration period.

November 6, Friday  
Final day to withdraw from classes or the college with W grades. Close of P-D-F registration period.

November 20, Friday  
Thanksgiving vacation begins at 6 p.m., Friday, and ends at 8 a.m. Monday, November 30. All residence halls remain open.

December 11, Friday  
Last day of classes, fall semester. Honors theses due in library for December ’15 candidates.

December 14-18  
Final examination period.

December 18, Friday  
Fall semester ends. All residence halls close at noon Saturday, December 19.
**Spring Semester, 2016**

January 15, Friday  
Orientation for new students and parents begins.

January 17, Sunday  
Residence halls open at 9 a.m. for returning students.

January 18, Monday  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; no classes.

January 19, Tuesday  
Spring semester classes begin.

January 29, Friday  
Last day to add classes.

February 15, Monday  
Presidents’ Day; no classes.

February 26, Friday  
Last day to withdraw from classes or the college without record.

March 11, 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 8, Friday  
Final day to withdraw from classes or the college with W grades. Close of P-D-F registration period.

April 12, Tuesday  
Whitman Undergraduate Conference; no classes.

April 22-26  
Preregistration period for the fall semester 2016.

May 9, Monday  
Last day of classes.

May 10-11  
Reading day; no classes. Honors theses due in library for May ’16 candidates.

May 12-17  
Final examination period.

May 17, Tuesday  
Spring semester ends.

May 19, Thursday  
Residence halls close at 5 p.m. for summer.

May 22, Sunday  
Commencement