

# Admission

Whitman's admission process is selective to assure a student body with excellence in both academic and extracurricular pursuits and with varied ethnic and geographic backgrounds. To achieve this balance, the Admission Committee evaluates scholastic records, the quality of written expression, test scores, extracurricular activities, and letters of recommendations. Evidence of motivation, discipline, imagination, creativity, leadership, and maturity also are considered.

Although most of the entering first-year students graduated in the top 10 percent of their secondary school classes, there are no arbitrary entrance requirements or quotas. It is recommended that candidates complete four years of secondary school English and mathematics, three years of laboratory science, and two years each of history/social sciences and foreign language. The Admission Committee looks for those candidates who excel in the most demanding courses offered.

Whitman College is committed to providing access to an affordable education for as many admitted students as possible. About half of current students demonstrate financial need and approximately 80 percent receive some form of financial aid — scholarships, grants, employment, or loans. All students who need assistance are encouraged to apply for financial aid.

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, physical disability, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other basis prohibited by applicable federal, state, or local laws.

## Admission Procedures

Fall admission application due dates are November 15 and January 1 for Early Decision applicants; January 15 for Regular Decision first-year candidates; and March 1 for Regular Decision transfer applicants. Transfer students may only apply for Regular Decision. It is advantageous to complete admission credentials early. Qualified applicants who file credentials after the Regular Decision deadline dates may be admitted only to the extent that space is available.

Notification dates for admission are as follows: December 20 for Early Decision I, February 1 for Early Decision II, April 1 for Regular Decision candidates, and April 20 for Regular Decision transfer candidates.

The application deadline for spring semester is November 1. The notification date is December 1.

## Early Decision

### *First-Year Candidates*

Early Decision is an option for candidates who have selected Whitman as their first-choice college. Some students reach this decision early in the college search process. Others take more time to consider a variety of colleges before they arrive at a clear first choice. Whitman, therefore, conducts the Early Decision process in two rounds. The first-round deadline is November 15; the second-round deadline is January 1. Admission decisions for each date are rendered within five weeks of the deadline, and financial aid awards will be made as soon as each admitted candidate's financial aid file is complete. Whitman considers Early Decision applications before those of students who are making multiple applications to colleges. Candidates who are admitted Early Decision agree to withdraw their applications from other colleges and universities and notify them of their intention to attend Whitman.

## Applications for Admission

Whitman participates with a national group of nearly 800 colleges that encourages the use of the Common Application. The purpose of a Common Application is to reduce repetition in completing forms when filing applications to several selective colleges. The Common Application is available on the Web. A student may pay application fees and submit the Common Application online to multiple colleges.

## Admission Credentials

### ***First-Year Students***

Students applying for first-year standing must submit the following credentials:

- I. The *Common Application*.
- II. An *official transcript* of the secondary school record.
- III. A *School Report* completed by the applicant's secondary school counselor.
- IV. An academic recommendation from a secondary school teacher.
- V. A nonrefundable *application fee* of \$50, remittance made payable to Whitman College. (Using guidelines distributed by the College Board for test fee waivers, applicants suffering financial hardship may have this fee waived by written request substantiated by a counselor or principal.) This fee will also be waived for applicants who submit by December 1.
- VI. *Optional*: Scores on *either* of the following tests: the SAT, administered by the College Board, or the ACT, administered by ACT, Inc.
  - a) Whitman's Test-Optional policy allows most candidates to choose whether or not they would like to submit an SAT or ACT score for review in the admission process.
  - b) Candidates who were homeschooled or attended secondary schools that provide written evaluations rather than grades are strongly encouraged, but not required to submit SAT or ACT test results
  - c) Early Decision candidates who plan to submit test scores should take one of the tests no later than October (Early Decision I) of the senior year in order that score reports may reach the Office of Admission by November 15. (Scores from the November and December test dates may be submitted for Early Decision II applicants.)
  - d) Regular Decision candidates who plan to submit test scores should take one of tests no later than December in the senior year in order that score reports may reach the Office of Admission by January 15.

Arrangements for taking the SAT or the ACT must be made directly with the testing agency, and the responsibility for making these arrangements rests with the candidate.

- VII. If an Early Decision applicant, an *Early Decision Agreement* is available via the Common Application.

### ***Transfer Students***

Students applying for transfer standing must submit the credentials listed above for first-year applicants **and** the following credentials:

- I. *Official Transcripts* from each college or university attended.
- II. The *College Report Form* available as part of the Common Application for transfer students.

The following guidelines also apply:

- I. A *School Report* is not required of applicants who graduated two or more years prior to the time of application or who will have completed two years of college work by the time of enrollment at Whitman.
- II. Transfer applicants must submit an academic recommendation from a college instructor or high school teacher.
- III. The SAT, administered by the College Board, or the ACT, administered by ACT, Inc., are optional for transfer applicants.

## **International Students**

International students (students who are not U.S. citizens, U.S. permanent residents, green card holders, or refugees) must submit the credentials listed above for first-year or transfer applicants with the following additions:

- I. An *official score report* from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). A TOEFL score of 85 is required. The minimum IELTS score required is 7.0.
- II. To apply for financial aid, international students must complete and submit the CSS Profile application by January 15.

The following guidelines also apply:

- I. The SAT, administered by the College Board, or the ACT, administered by ACT, Inc., is strongly encouraged, but not required, of international applicants.
- II. The TOEFL OR IELTS can be waived for international applicants whose first language is English or if the primary language of instruction at the secondary school attended has been English.
- III. All credentials must be received in the Office of Admission at Whitman College no later than January 15.

## **Admission Provisions**

The college requires final transcripts of all high school and college work. Prior to enrollment, a first-year student must submit a high school transcript or equivalent academic credential demonstrating completion of a high school degree.

Space in a college residence hall is assured automatically with admission for all first-year students. A residence life questionnaire will be sent to candidates with the offer of admission.

An enrollment deposit of \$300 is required to reserve a student's place in the class. The deposit for Early Decision I candidates must be paid by January 15 and is nonrefundable. The deposit for Early Decision II candidates must be paid by February 15 and is nonrefundable. The deposit for Regular Decision First-Year admission candidates must be paid by May 1, the National Candidates Reply Date, and is nonrefundable. For transfer students, the deposit must be paid by May 20. Students entering spring semester must pay their deposit by December 15. When late applicants are admitted on a "space-available basis," the deposit is due by the date which is stipulated in the letter of admission and is nonrefundable.

Admission may be deferred for up to one full academic year, but the deposit must be paid by the date stated in the letter of admission and is not refunded if the student chooses not to enroll.

The \$300 enrollment deposit is held in reserve by the college for the student. This deposit is returned upon graduation or withdrawal from Whitman if there are no unpaid charges remaining on the student's account (see "Deposit" in the *Charges* section). Prior to the refund of the deposit, students with federal loans must have an exit interview with the Student Loans Manager. Additionally, an exit interview with a member of the administrative staff, scheduled through the Dean of Admission and Financial Aid, is required prior to the release of the enrollment deposit if the student leaves prior to graduation.

## **Nondegree-seeking Students**

A person may apply through the Office of Admission to attend Whitman as a nondegree-seeking student if they wish to take certain courses but not pursue a degree program. Nondegree-seeking students register on a space-available basis and must secure written permission from the professor after the first day of the semester. If a nondegree-seeking student wishes at any time to become a regular student (i.e., pursue a degree program), they must file all application credentials for consideration by the Admission Committee (see also “Nondegree-seeking students” under *Classification of Students*, and under *Tuition*).

## **Auditors**

A person may be admitted to the college as an auditor with the permission of the Dean of Admission and Financial Aid and of the instructor whose class they desire to attend. Auditors are not allowed in “activity” courses or in courses with studio or laboratory exercises. No credit is allowed for audited work, and no permanent record of audited work is kept. However, auditors must pay an auditor’s fee (see *Auditors* and *Auditor’s Tuition*).

## **Veterans**

Whitman College’s academic programs of study are approved by the Higher Education Coordinating Board’s State Approving Agency (HECB/SAA) for enrollment of persons eligible to receive educational benefits under Title 38 and Title 10, U.S. Code. The college may allow credit for military service activities which have educational content to students who present acceptable military records. Such documentation should be submitted as part of the admission credentials. The Registrar is the veteran’s benefits official for the college.

## **Gateway Program with Walla Walla Community College**

The primary purpose of the Gateway Program is to encourage low income and first generation, as well as other Walla Walla Community College students from diverse backgrounds, to pursue a liberal arts education at Whitman College.

To participate in the program, students must demonstrate the ability to meet the rigors of academic work at Whitman College. Students must submit an application to the Whitman Admission Committee and be approved by the committee for entrance into the program.

Participants enroll in one or two classes at Whitman College after their fourth quarter at Walla Walla Community College. These participants will then be considered for admission to Whitman College as full-time degree candidates after successful completion of their sophomore year. Participants complete a reduced class load at Walla Walla Community College while attending Whitman College during the trial period. The reduced load will be such that the participant will continue to receive financial aid at Walla Walla Community College. The courses at Whitman will apply to graduation requirements at both institutions and will be paid for by Whitman College.

If the Whitman Admission Committee finds the Gateway Program participant academically successful at both colleges, the participant will be given special consideration for admission to Whitman College as a regular degree-seeking transfer student under the provisions outlined in the operating agreement.