

Careers and Professions

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

Business Management and Finance

R. Pete Parcells (Economics)

The best opportunities for career 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 website which provides additional information is 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, 114, 227, 268, 327, 358, and 409
- Mathematics 125, 126
- Major study in economics, politics, and/or the sciences

Education

Nathan Boland (Chemistry), Barbara Hoffman (Assistant Director of Off-Campus Studies), and Erin Pahlke (Psychology)

While Whitman does not have an education major or minor, a broad program in liberal arts and sciences can prepare students for graduate or professional work in education. The recommended majors for post-baccalaureate work depend on the desired age group, specialty, and profession within education. Students interested in educational practice, theory, pedagogy, policy, or administration are encouraged to take a broad range of courses and to include courses dealing with philosophy, social inequality, social group relations, psycho-social conditions of family/childhood/adolescence, and courses that may include community-based learning with local schools or educational organizations. Students interested in the field of bilingual education should visit both the Language Learning Center and the Office of Off-Campus Studies to find out more about opportunities to get experience in this area.

Master's programs in teaching in the U.S. often have prerequisites that include a course in pedagogical theory and practice and a course in substantive areas, such as inequality in education, educational policy, or educational psychology. Whitman does not offer courses in pedagogical theory and practice (with classroom practice), but there are several courses that can serve as the substantive prerequisite, and there are some courses with applied components that may take place in local schools or educational organizations. Students interested in graduate school in education are encouraged to consult with the program of interest to see if particular courses at Whitman may count as a prerequisite.

Besides curricular offerings on topics in educational studies, Whitman offers numerous co-curricular opportunities for students who may want to gain practical experience in settings that are education-focused. These opportunities include mentoring and tutoring local students, student clubs, and summer internship opportunities. Information about these opportunities is available from the advisers listed above, from student clubs, and from the Student Engagement Center.

Because age group, specialty area, and geographic region influence the kinds of testing necessary to work in educational fields (and the timing of those exams), students are encouraged to investigate early the types of tests and majors that are

required or recommended to meet their career or graduate school goals and to consult with the education advisers and Student Engagement Center resources before deciding on a major.

Foreign Service

Chair, Department of Politics

Many departments and agencies of the U.S. government offer a variety of overseas employment, both in career positions and in staff support work. Applicants 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 is the case 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 generally is essential for overseas career positions. Information on recruitment procedures and examinations is available, as is information on employment with private organizations abroad.

Health Professions

Kimberly Mueller (Director of Health Professions Advising)

Careers in the health professions demand more than just achievement in the life sciences. Maturity, compassion, leadership, ethical practice, integrity, communication skills, and knowledge of healthcare policy are essential for the health-care professional. Since the health professions seek individuals with a broad liberal arts and science education in conjunction with a rigorous major area of study in the natural sciences, arts, humanities, or social sciences, Whitman College does not offer “pre-nursing”, “premed,” “prevet,” or any “prehealth” major. Although many students choose one of our life science majors — biology or biochemistry, biophysics, and molecular biology (BBMB) — more than one-third of our successful matriculants in medical or other health profession schools enter with majors beyond the life sciences, including anthropology, art, chemistry, English, foreign languages (Spanish, French), geology, history, music, philosophy, psychology, religion, sociology and theatre.

Whitman’s liberal arts curriculum provides students with both the breadth and depth necessary to excel as physicians, nurses, physician assistants, dentists, veterinarians, physical therapists, pharmacists, and public health specialists. Clinicians must have the ability to communicate by speaking and writing effectively, to gather and analyze data, to continually update knowledge and skills, to work with a team of professionals, and to apply new information to the solution of scientific, clinical, and public health problems — all skills that can be acquired from a liberal arts education.

Whitman College is a founding member of the Walla Walla Clinical Shadowing Program, a collaborative effort with Providence St. Mary Medical Center, Walla Walla Clinic, and Family Medical Center/Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic to facilitate pre-medical student shadowing in Walla Walla County. To date, physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants in the Walla Walla Valley are participating in student observations. See www.wwshadowing.org. Opportunities exist for students to shadow in other health professional fields such as dentistry, occupational and physical therapy, pharmacy, and veterinary medicine.

Students considering a career in a health profession should attend the health professions orientation meeting during the opening week of their first year and meet with the health professions adviser once per semester before application. Additional opportunities to explore the health professions are available through enrollment in the IDSC 100-Health Career courses, attending Health Speaker Series lectures by healthcare professionals, and participating in advising workshops sponsored by the Office of Health Professions Advising. Students should consider joining one of the pre-health student organizations.

For more information on becoming a competitive applicant and making an application, see the Health Professions Web page: www.whitman.edu/academics/careers-professions-and-the-liberal-arts/health-professions or contact Kimberly Mueller.

More details about select professions are given below:

Dentistry

Schools of dentistry recommend that students acquire a broad, liberal arts undergraduate education. Students interested in the study of dentistry should become familiar 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. See the American Dental Education Association website: www.adea.org. Participation in a dental observation internship program is required at some schools and highly recommended for all programs.

The following courses will satisfy the requirements for admission to most U.S. dental schools:

- Biology 111, 112, 205 *Genetics*, 310 or 330 *Physiology*, 339 *Microbiology*
- Chemistry — Two semesters of general/inorganic chemistry with laboratory (Chemistry 125, 126, 135, 136; or 140, 310). Two semesters of organic chemistry with two credits of laboratory (Chemistry 245, 246, 251, 252)
- Physics — Two semesters of physics with laboratory (Physics 145, 146, 175, 176)
- Biochemistry (BBMB 325)
- English and Writing — Two semesters of courses from English (literature or creative writing) or Composition (Composition 210).

Note: Requirements vary. Some schools accept Encounters as writing intensive courses for English. A course in human anatomy is required by some schools. If you have AP/IB credit for Chemistry 125, Chemistry 310 is not required.

Medicine

The allopathic (M.D.) and osteopathic (D.O.) medical professions seek 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 coursework. Students should strive to complete coursework beyond the minimum requirements.

The requirements for U.S. and Canadian allopathic medical schools are provided in the Medical School Admission Requirements (MSAR). See the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) website: www.aamc.org. The requirements for osteopathic schools are provided in the Osteopathic Medical College Information Book. See the Association of American Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) website: www.aacom.org.

The following courses will satisfy the minimum requirements for admission to most U.S. medical schools:

- Biology — (Biology 111, 205); one additional 300-level course (e.g. 303, 305 *Cell Biology*; 310, 330 *Physiology*; 320 *Neurobiology*; 323 *Neurophysiology*, 319, 328, 329 *Developmental*; 339 *Microbiology*); two semesters of laboratory
- Chemistry — Two semesters of general/inorganic chemistry with laboratory (Chemistry 125, 126, 135, 136; or 140, 310). Two semesters of organic chemistry with two credits of laboratory (Chemistry 245, 246, 251, 252)
- Physics — Two semesters of physics with laboratory (Physics 145, 146, 175, 176)
- Mathematics and Statistics — Two semesters of college mathematics (Mathematics 125, 126 *Calculus I* and *Calculus II*). Mathematics 128 *Elementary Statistics* or 247 *Statistics with Applications*. Psychology 210 also can fulfill statistics requirement.
- English and Writing — Two semesters of courses from English (literature or creative writing) and/or Composition (Composition 210). See note below.
- Biochemistry (BBMB 325)

- Social sciences — Three semesters in social sciences (Psychology 110, Sociology 110 or 117, and one additional course selected from Anthropology 201, Anthropology 328, Psychology 230, or Psychology 360).

Note: Requirements vary. Some schools accept Encounters as writing intensive courses for English. A course in anatomy (e.g. Biology 315) is required by some schools. If you have AP/IB credit for Chemistry 125, Chemistry 310 is not required.

Nursing

The opportunity for students to enter B.S.N. and M.S.N. programs with a bachelor's degree has expanded tremendously. Most of the programs are two to three years and lead to the RN licensure, with the opportunity to pursue advanced practice specialization and certification in such areas as family practice, midwifery, pediatrics, critical care, infectious diseases, or Doctor of Nursing programs. The schools vary greatly in terms of courses required for admission. See the American Association of College of Nursing website: www.aannursing.org.

The courses most frequently required for admission include:

- Biology — Nutrition (Biology 127), Microbiology + Lab (Biology 339); Human Anatomy and Physiology + Lab; (can be taken as 2 or 3 quarter sequence at most community colleges; see Kimberly Mueller for other options)
- Chemistry — Two semesters, to include general, organic, and biochemistry
- Mathematics and Statistics — Statistics (Mathematics 128 or 247)
- Psychology — Developmental Psychology throughout the Lifespan (Psychology 240)

Note: Requirements vary. Some schools require chemistry (e.g. general and/or organic), a genetics course (e.g. Biology 205), English composition (e.g. Composition 210), speech/public speaking, and additional humanities and/or social science courses. Some schools will accept Encounters as writing intensive courses for English.

Pharmacy

All pharmacy programs now result in the Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) degree. The requirements for U.S. pharmacy schools are provided in the Pharmacy School Admission Requirements (PSAR). See the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) website: www.aacp.org. The following courses will satisfy the requirements for admission to most U.S. pharmacy schools:

- Biology — Biology 111, 205 *Genetics*, 310 or 330 *Physiology*, 339 *Microbiology*
- Chemistry — Two semesters of general/inorganic chemistry with laboratory (Chemistry 125, 126, 135, 136; or 140, 310). Two semesters of organic chemistry with two credits of laboratory (Chemistry 245, 246, 251, 252)
- Physics — Physics 145, 146.
- Mathematics and Statistics — Calculus (Mathematics 125, 126) and Statistics (Mathematics 128 or 247)
- English and Writing — Two semesters of courses from English (literature or creative writing) or Composition (Composition 210).
- Social Sciences — Psychology 110 and Economics 101, plus two additional semesters, (Sociology 110 or 117, Anthropology 201 or 328, Psychology 230 or 360 recommended)

Note: Requirements vary greatly. Many schools require courses in anatomy and physiology, biochemistry (BBMB 325), and public speaking/speech. Some schools accept Encounters as writing intensive courses for English.

Physical Therapy

The opportunity for students to enter a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program with a bachelor's degree has continually expanded over the years. Most schools require three years for degree completion. Many DPT schools require applicants to observe a physical therapist in one or more practice settings prior to admission. Students interested in the study of physical therapy should become familiar with the specific requirements of the schools to which they plan to apply. These requirements are contained in the PTCAS Program Directory. See the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) website: www.apta.org. The following courses will satisfy the requirements for admission to most U.S. physical therapy schools:

- Biology 111, 112, 205 *Genetics*, 310 or 330 *Physiology*
- Chemistry — Two semesters of general/inorganic chemistry with laboratory (Chemistry 125, 126, 135, 136; or 140, 240).
- Physics — Two semesters of physics with laboratory (Physics 145, 146, 175, 176)
- Mathematics – Mathematics 128 *Elementary Statistics* or 247 *Statistics with Applications*.
- Social sciences – One semester of Psychology 110 *Introduction to Psychology* or 240 *Developmental Psychology* and one additional course selected from anthropology, sociology or psychology.

Note: Requirements vary. Many schools require a course in human anatomy. Some schools require courses in mathematics (Mathematics 125, 126), English composition (Composition 210), exercise physiology, medical terminology, and ethics (Philosophy 127 *Ethics*, Philosophy 217 *Bioethics*, Biology 405 *Bioethics*). Some schools accept Encounters as writing intensive courses for English. If you have AP/IB credit for Chemistry 125, Chemistry 240 is not required.

Physician Assistant

Many PA programs have expanded to select students completing bachelor's degrees. Most programs require two to three years to complete certification. The requirements are provided in the PAEA Program Directory. See the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA) website: www.paeaonline.org

The courses most frequently required for admission include:

- Biology — 111, 127 *Nutrition*, 205 *Genetics*, 310 or 330 *Physiology*, 339 *Microbiology*
- Chemistry — Three semesters, to include inorganic, organic, and biochemistry
- Mathematics and Statistics — Statistics (Mathematics 128 or 247)
- English and Writing — Two semesters of courses from English (literature or creative writing) or Composition (Composition 170, 210, 320).
- Social Sciences — Psychology 110 required. Psychology 230 or 360 recommended

Note: Requirements vary greatly. Many schools require courses in human anatomy. Some will allow Comparative Anatomy (Biology 315). Some schools accept Encounters as writing intensive courses for English.

Public Health

Many of the approximately 51 schools of public health offer M.H.S., M.P.H., or Ph.D. programs for students to enter directly with a bachelor's degree. Others require one to two years of health-care experience, which can include service in the Peace Corps, international health programs, internships with county/state public health departments, or work with the CDC. The five core academic disciplines of public health are biostatistics, epidemiology, health services, health education and behavior, and environmental health, with many schools offering additional focus in international health, maternal and child health, nutrition, and public health policy and practice. Since each program and track sets its own requirements, it is difficult to list a recommended set of prerequisite courses. Majors in mathematics and statistics, chemistry, or the life sciences are beneficial for students interested in environmental health, epidemiology, or biostatistics, while anthropology, psychology, or sociology are good preparations for health education and behavior and global health. Economics can provide a sound background for health policy. See the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) website: www.aspph.org.

Veterinary Medicine

Schools of veterinary medicine recognize the importance of a liberal arts education with a strong foundation in the sciences. The requirements are provided in the Veterinary Medical School Admission Requirements (VMSAR). See the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) website: www.aavmc.org.

The following courses will satisfy the requirements for admission to most U.S. veterinary medical schools:

- Biology 111, 112, 205 *Genetics*, 315 *Comparative Anatomy*, 310 or 330 *Physiology*, 339 *Microbiology*

- Chemistry — Two semesters of general/inorganic chemistry with laboratory (Chemistry 125, 126, 135,136; or 140, 310). Two semesters of organic chemistry with two credits of laboratory (Chemistry 245, 246, 251, 252)
- Physics — Two semesters of physics with laboratory (Physics 155 or 165, 156 or 166)
- Mathematics and Statistics— Three semesters of college mathematics (Mathematics 125, 126 *Calculus I* and *Calculus II* and 128 *Elementary Statistics* or 247 *Statistics with Applications*)
- English and Writing — Two semesters of courses from English (literature or creative writing) or Composition (Composition 170, 210, 320).

Note: Requirements vary. Some schools accept Encounters as writing intensive courses for English. If you have AP/IB credit for Chemistry 125, Chemistry 240 is not required. Some schools require courses in animal nutrition and public speaking/speech.

Law

Advisers: Jack Jackson (Politic-on Sabbatical, Fall 2018), and Noah Leavitt (Director of the Student Engagement Center),and Patrick Frierson (Philosophy-on Sabbatical 2018-19)

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 statistics and the natural sciences, economics, and philosophy.

Accordingly, 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.

Students planning a legal career are welcome to discuss their plans with a prelaw adviser.

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 and Information Science (LIS)

Lee Keene, Head of Instructional and Research Services (Penrose Library)

A Master of Library and Information Science degree from a graduate program accredited by the American Library Association is a prerequisite for a professional career in librarianship, and a broad liberal arts education is excellent preparation for the master's program. While librarians have traditionally been educated in the humanities, a background in the social, physical, or computer sciences is increasingly sought after by employers. Because of the growing emphasis on digital programs and resources in libraries, students interested in applying to MLIS programs should be prepared to focus on information science in a variety of research and instructional contexts. Many graduate programs offer opportunities to specialize in areas such as archives and record management and informatics. Successful applicants to MLIS programs also demonstrate intellectual curiosity, initiative, flexibility, and a commitment to service.

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

Ministry

Jonathan Walters (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, rabbinical school, or other ministerial training by setting ministry studies in a broad perspective. Foreign languages (such as French and German for academic purposes, but also the languages of sacred texts such as Hebrew, Greek, Arabic, Latin, Sanskrit, Pali, Chinese, or Japanese) are highly advisable for students contemplating doctoral work in religion.

Music

Doug Scarborough (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 non-majors alike. More than 30 percent of the student body participates in the music program through performance, individual lessons, or academic classes.

The major ensembles on campus — Chorale, Chamber Singers, Orchestra, Jazz Ensemble, and Wind Ensemble — are open to all students by audition. A wide variety of classes offer opportunities for music readers and non-readers alike.

Public Service

Chair, Department of Politics

To an ever-greater degree, federal, state, and local governments need professionally trained people to serve as researchers and planners as well as administrators. Expanding numbers and kinds of special interest groups as well as the increased degree to which these groups employ professionals, also have yielded new career possibilities for people with research, analytical, and political skills. New career opportunities can especially be found at the local level, in addition to the traditional public administration positions in federal and state agencies.

A person interested in a public service career should develop strong 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 helpful.

Suggested Courses:

- Economics 100 or 101, 102, 268
- Environmental Studies 120
- History 297
- Mathematics 128
- Politics 109, 124, 254, 287, 309, 311, 318, 319, 325, 334, 365, 369
- 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 pre-professional advisers.

Suggested Courses:

- Economics 100 or 101, 102
- Philosophy 127
- Psychology 110, 210, 230, 240, 260
- Sociology 117, 230, 257, 267

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.

SSRA courses are primarily a broad array of activity offerings designed to provide experience and training within a diverse mix of physical education, recreation, fitness, and individual and team sport offerings. Additionally, SSRA offers a handful of theory Classroom activity courses designed to more fully inform students about certain aspects of physical activity.

Suggested Courses:

- Sport Studies, Recreation and Athletics 137, 153, 200, 308, 390, 395.
- Try weight training, speed and agility training, yoga, Pilates, swimming, or one of several sport offerings.

Theatre and Dance

Daniel Schindler, Director of Theatre & Department Chair

Students planning a career in the performing arts will find that the program at Whitman College can provide them with a solid core of skills and knowledge as well as many opportunities to explore new facets of themselves and the art form. Our students gain skills that will prepare them for further study in graduate schools, professional training programs, and internships at major regional theaters and other arts organizations. We strive to instill in our students a sense that the performing arts take place in the larger context of the world and tie into the overall liberal arts education provided at Whitman College.

Our program provides the following to our students:

- Rigorous training in a variety of performance, design, and technical disciplines.
- Hands-on opportunities in many areas to participate in performances during the course of our season at the Harper Joy Theatre as well as access to resources to work on your own independent projects.
- Work study and paid employment in our shops and box office.
- A focus on theatre and dance as collaborative art forms which respects the work put forth by everyone involved in the production process.