

# Student Engagement Center

The Student Engagement Center (SEC) connects Whitman students and alumni to the communities and experiences that help them cultivate their futures. These experiences enrich students' academic programs as well as help them refine their interests, develop their passions, and foster civic engagement. They also help prepare students to be successful when pursuing opportunities for employment and graduate study.

## Student Engagement Center programs include:

**Alumni Networking** — The SEC provides numerous networking opportunities for students and alumni to communicate about careers, internships, and jobs. Whitman Connect is a searchable database of thousands of alumni who are resources for students or other alumni for professional development. Several times a year the SEC hosts networking receptions around the country in conjunction with Alumni Relations.

**Career Counseling** — Students can meet with SEC staff or search the SEC website for help with any part of a job application process (resumes, LinkedIn etiquette and profile, cover letters, interview skills, deciding between offers, negotiating a salary, etc.). Students and alumni can also schedule appointments with the career counselor to for career exploration and career assessment to help them with identifying their unique areas of focus.

**Internships** — Internships add to a student's college experience by allowing them to practice professional skills and obtain a deeper understanding of the world of work. They also allow a student to develop research questions for their major course of study. Students are encouraged to apply for paid internships available through SEC resources or to develop an experience that best suits their interests. The SEC also manages the Whitman Internship Grant Program, which provided funding for more than 170 students in 2018 who developed and secured unpaid summer internships throughout the academic year and summer. A small cohort of juniors and seniors participate in the Community Fellow Program, which funds about a dozen students to work part-time for an academic year on a project at a prominent local organization.

**Handshake**— Whitman's job and internship search platform includes thousands of postings for internships and full-time/part-time positions applicable to students and young alumni. Handshake allows students to schedule appointments with SEC staff and learn about various SEC-sponsored events.

**Community Service Programs** — Through collaboration with community partners, student leaders engage the Whitman community in service that addresses community needs and inspires social responsibility through experiential learning. Student interns coordinate numerous service programs that engage hundreds of student volunteers each year in weekly engagement and special events. These programs typically include: The Mentor Program, Adopt-A-Grandparent, The Story Time Project Classroom Connections, Events & Reflection, Bilingual United, Spring Break Engagement Trips, Summer Community Outreach Excursions (SCORE), Whitman Teaches The Movement, Men Making Meals, and the Buddy Program.

**Community Service Consultations** — Outside of the weekly student led programs, the SEC team provides opportunities for individuals and groups to meet with staff to connect with volunteer opportunities. Additionally, advising and support is provided to Greek organizations' philanthropy efforts and to the Community Service House.

**America Reads/Counts** — The SEC hires 30-35 Whitman students each year (most of whom are work study-eligible) to provide math and literacy support via individual and small group tutoring to students in Walla Walla public school K-8 classrooms. Whitman students with prior experience working with youth can pursue this professional and practical experience for testing their interest in a possible career in education.

**On-Campus Recruiting** – SEC staff plan many opportunities for students to hear from and connect with recruiters and alumni working in organizations around the country. With a focus on the West Coast, recruiters may be

represented in-person or virtually through small info sessions that allow direct student interaction with the teams of people hiring interns and soon-to-be graduates.

Much more information about the SEC can be found at: [www.whitman.edu/student-life/student-engagement-center](http://www.whitman.edu/student-life/student-engagement-center)