For the last seven years, Whitman has hosted a Summer Fly-In Program for incoming students—primarily first-years, plus a few transfers—who are the first generation in their family to attend college and/or students who come from a working-class household. For more information, contact Human Resources. While on campus, students have access to the resources available to them at Whitman and to ease them into the transition to college life.

Typically, Summer Fly-In students are provided flights to Walla Walla to meet their peers on campus and experience Whitman in person. For the past two years, the program has transitioned to an online setting in light of the coronavirus pandemic—but the virtual setting didn’t stop the program from being a real success, says Juli Dunn, senior associate dean of students.

“This summer was a blast,” she says. “We hosted it in Gather Town, which gave us some different options in terms of games, interactivity and building community.”

Campus COVID-19 Update

Beginning August 6, our campus vaccination statistics include incoming first-year and transfer students. Currently, 92% of staff, 98% of faculty and 88% of students have reported being fully vaccinated, totaling 88% of our campus community.

Beginning August 1, our campus vaccination statistics include incoming first-year and transfer students. Currently, 92% of staff, 98% of faculty and 88% of students have reported being fully vaccinated, totaling 88% of our campus community.

Any employee or student approved by exemption for campus access must take a coronavirus test every week. This week, 26 people were tested and there were no positive tests.

Submissions are welcome! If you have a professional or personal accomplishment to celebrate, please send us your information and applications for staff openings can be found on the Human Resources website.

How to Check Fall Campus Access Status

As we begin operating under our fall COVID-19 protocols, we know some of you are wondering how to check the campus access status of students in your classes, employees you supervise or campus community members attending meetings and events.

There are two ways you can do this:

1. Any person approved to be on campus will receive an email stating that they have been approved to be on campus this fall. You may request that they forward that email to you.

2. Any person approved to be on campus will get a gold sticker on their Whitman ID card. You may ask to view their ID card. The sticker will be placed on the front side of their Whitman ID card unless they are working in the OOC, in which case the sticker will be placed on the back of their ID card.

It is the responsibility of the entire Whitman community to work together to keep ourselves and each other healthy. Just as with the Daily Wellness Check badges in the spring and the Summer Campus Access Approval badges this summer, the full stickers on the Whitman ID card provide you with visual confirmation that a person is approved to indoor campus access.

Noteworthy

Whitman included in 2021 Best Colleges Lists

Whitman has been included in the Princeton Review’s annual Best Colleges lists. The alphabetical list, which is compiled based on strict data collection of more than 160 data points and student survey responses, includes 356 high-achieving institutions, including a 3% selectivity rate among all colleges and universities in the United States. Whitman was also included in the 2021 Best Western Colleges and Best Value Colleges lists. The latter focuses on three core principles: exceptional academics, affordability and strong career prospects.

Submit News of a Personal or Professional Achievement

Upcoming Events

TUESDAY, AUGUST 17
8:30–10 a.m.
Covid-19 Testing
Any student or staff who has campus access approval through a vaccination exemption must be tested weekly. Testing will take place at Welty Student Health Center.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18
8:30 a.m.
All Staff Breakfast
A gathering for all staff on the Reid Campus Center side lawn, including introductions of new staff and presentation of the Janice Abrahams Award.

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Submissions are welcome if you have a professional or personal accomplishment to celebrate and applications for staff openings can be found on the Human Resources website. Submissions should be 125 words or less. The deadline for submission is noon for the following day's newsletter, though submissions may be held for a later date according to space and editorial needs. By submitting to "Whitman Today" you also authorize us to use Whitman's social media unless otherwise specified.

Previous issues of "Whitman Today" are archived on our website.