



# Whitman Today

Thursday, August 12, 2021

## Summer Fly-In Goes Virtual



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. The program aims to make the students familiar with 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." [Read more](#)

## Campus COVID-19 Update



Beginning August 1, our campus vaccination statistics include incoming first-year and transfer students. Currently, 90% of employees and 88% of students have reported being fully vaccinated, totaling 88% of our campus community.

[COVID-19 Vaccination Reporting Form](#)

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.

### Campus Mask Requirement

All individuals at Whitman, including those who are fully vaccinated, are currently required to wear face masks when they are indoors in group settings or public spaces. Fully vaccinated individuals alone in a private office do not need to wear masks. Anyone who is not fully vaccinated must be masked at all times when indoors.

## Announcements

### Staff Employment Opportunities

Whitman is currently hiring for several open staff positions. Position descriptions and applications for staff openings can be found on the [Human Resources website](#). Please share these opportunities with potential candidates.

### 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 are 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 Whitman ID card. The sticker will be placed on the front side of their Whitman ID card unless they are approved to be on campus through an exemption, in which case the sticker will be on the back of their ID card.

It is a 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 fall stickers on the Whitman ID card provide you with visual confirmation that a person is approved for indoor campus access.

## Noteworthy

### Whitman Included in 2021 Best Colleges Lists

Whitman has been included in the Princeton Review's 2021 Best Colleges list. The alphabetical list, which is compiled based on strict data collection of more than 40 data points and student survey responses, includes 386 high-achieving institutions, yielding a 13% 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. [Read more](#)

[Submit News of a Personal or Professional Achievement](#)

## Upcoming Events

TUESDAY, AUGUST 17

8:30–10 a.m. **COVID-19 Testing**  
*Any employee or student 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.*

"Whitman Today" is produced by the Office of Communications and is emailed Monday and Thursday to Whitman College staff, faculty and students. All times are listed in Pacific Daylight Time.

Submissions are welcome! If you have a professional or personal accomplishment to celebrate, an event to publicize or other content to share with the Whitman community, email [whitmantoday@whitman.edu](mailto:whitmantoday@whitman.edu). Submissions should be 125 words or less. The deadline for submissions 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 use on Whitman's social media unless otherwise specified.

Previous issues of Whitman Today are [archived on our website](#).

