Whitman College

Our college, our community
2013-2014
WHITMAN AT A GLANCE

1,541
Student population

67%
Whitman students living on campus

144
Tenure-track faculty

45
Departmental majors

>100
Student organizations and clubs

9 to 1
Students to faculty ratio

88%
Graduation rate

77
Acres of campus

31,864
Population of Walla Walla
Whitman College abounds—with open vistas, open minds and open inquiry. Founded in historic Walla Walla, Washington in 1882, Whitman College is a private, independent, co-educational, non-sectarian liberal arts and sciences undergraduate college. At Whitman, students develop leadership skills, personal confidence and intellectual creativity in an environment that emphasizes community and cooperation—building the skills for lifelong learning and the adaptability to excel in an ever-more technological, multicultural world.

A tradition of rigorous study in the liberal arts, a nurturing and supportive residential life program and a wide range of extracurricular opportunities that enrich both mind and body provide a well-rounded educational experience. Whitman’s student-centered environment values the contributions of each individual while promoting a spirit of cooperation, support and deep social commitment.

Admissions are highly selective to maintain a diverse and talented student population, where 1,541 undergraduates learn alongside 144 faculty members in 45 majors leading to a Bachelors of Arts degree. The College has remained small to facilitate close faculty-student interaction, an integral aspect of exceptional higher education. Whitman College is consistently recognized by Washington Monthly, U.S. News and World Report, Forbes and The Princeton Review as one of the most desirable liberal arts colleges in the country.
On November 28, 1883, the Washington Territorial Legislature issued a new charter that changed the Whitman Seminary, established in 1859, into Whitman College, a four-year, degree-granting college. In 1913, Whitman became the first institution in the nation to require undergraduate students to complete comprehensive examinations in their major fields. A Phi Beta Kappa chapter was established in 1919, the first for any Northwest college.

MISSION STATEMENT

Whitman College is committed to providing an excellent, well-rounded liberal arts and sciences undergraduate education. It is an independent, nonsectarian and residential college. Whitman offers an ideal setting for rigorous learning and scholarship, and encourages creativity, character and responsibility.

Through the study of humanities, arts and social and natural sciences, Whitman students develop capacities to analyze, interpret, criticize, communicate and engage. A concentration on basic disciplines, in combination with a supportive residential life program that encourages personal and social development, is intended to foster intellectual vitality, confidence, leadership and the adaptability to succeed in a changing technological, multicultural world.

ACCREDITATION

The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities accredits Whitman College.
“The old-fashioned Whitman was ahead of its time in dedication to its version of a conscientious Western-U.S. temperament of environmental awareness, critical thinking and ability to think ‘deep thoughts’ even while gazing at the vast sky. The new Whitman retains this skyward intellectual pursuit, but adds a more diverse faculty and student body to shift the pursuit to other arenas that extend beyond the wheat fields and towards cities, global pursuits and even towards the lives of workers who can’t afford to gaze at the sky in a wheat field.”

–Michelle Janning, Garrett Fellow, Professor of Sociology
At Whitman, learning is a process of questioning, exploring and thinking critically. All students are challenged to write, debate, participate actively in small classes and seminars, conduct independent research, examine existing theories, tear ideas apart and put them back together again.

A Whitman liberal arts education requires both breadth and depth as demonstrated by rigorous major requirements with comprehensive assessments in major fields of study. The campus fosters close dialogue and collaborative research among students and faculty. The curriculum is tailored to challenge bright, involved, curious and passionate students. Faculty structure courses and class time in ways that encourage students to push boundaries and explore new directions. Students can choose from 45 majors, including 22 interdisciplinary majors, or create an independently planned major. In all areas of study, Whitman students learn to read carefully, think critically and communicate effectively.
WHITMAN’S SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

• **BBMB** – Biochemistry, Biophysics and Molecular Biology major

• **Encounters** – a year-long common seminar for first-year students

• **Global Studies Initiative** – interdisciplinary courses on complex global issues

• **Debate Team** – national champion parliamentary and policy debate program

• **Off-Campus Studies** – domestic and global programs integrated directly with academic majors

• **Outdoor Program** – nationally-acclaimed outdoor recreation opportunities

• **Prison Research Group** – inside look at a Washington State Penitentiary

• **Semester in the West** – unique interdisciplinary, experiential field program

• **State of the State for Washington Latinos** – intensive community-based research and public outreach course

• **Summer Read** – intellectual discussion with peers, professors and a chosen author

• **Whitman Undergraduate Conference** – celebration of scholarship and creativity in every academic discipline

“Encounters is a great opportunity for me to reflect not only on how I acquire and develop knowledge but also on how I write about that knowledge.”

–Elena Aragon ’15, Englewood, Colo.
“Right now I’m in a group called, “Post-natural histories of the Anthropocene” with faculty in politics, anthropology, art and environmental studies. This collection of experts has made my mind explode with possibilities for courses, research projects and community-oriented opportunities.”

–Matt Reynolds, Associate Professor of Art History and Visual Culture Studies

FACULTY
Whitman faculty members are experts in their fields and bring their passion into the classroom to inspire an excitement for learning. Faculty members engage and encourage students, and small class sizes allow students to know their professors personally as collaborators, mentors, advisers and lifelong friends.

TEACHING
Faculty members thrive at Whitman as teachers and scholars. The Cross Disciplinary Learning and Teaching Initiative and the Global Studies Initiative bring faculty from across the College together to create new courses at the cutting edge of their disciplines. Small group learning in the sciences is enhanced with specialized instruments more often found at research universities. The faculty is dedicated to innovations in pedagogy, assisted by the Center for Teaching and Learning, participation in the Northwest 5 Consortium and funding for conferences on student learning. Students recognize their professors’ value in The Princeton Review by rating Whitman #7 “Best Campus Experience” and #16 “Professors Get High Marks.”
“There is simply no substitute for the direct and deep interactions between a student and active faculty scholar working together to solve an original research problem.”

—**Ginger Withers,**  
**Dr. Robert F. Welty Associate Professor of Biology**

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**SCHOLARSHIP**

At Whitman, the teacher-scholar ideal is alive and thriving. We believe that faculty members who are actively engaged in the production of knowledge and forms of creative performance are better teachers. They model for our students what it means to cultivate and sustain a lifetime of intellectual curiosity, careful reflection and critical inquiry.

Undergraduate research at Whitman has been transformed by the enthusiasm and energy of the faculty – many holding new or recently reconfigured positions – who work with students on cutting-edge research. Numerous grants are available for faculty-student research, resulting in publications in journals and presentations at national conferences. Students regularly graduate as co-authors on peer-reviewed publications. Robust faculty scholarship in 2012-2013 resulted in an extraordinary array of publications, performances, exhibits, grants and awards.

The College encourages scholarly work through a first-rate sabbatical program, yearly Professional Development Accounts, and the Aid to Scholarship and Instructional Development fund support.
1541
Number of students

42/2/25
States, territories and countries students call “home”

56.8%
Women

43.2%
Men

10%
First-generation college students

Students
WHO ARE WHITIES?

Whitman students, known collectively as “Whitties,” are down-to-earth achievers with diverse backgrounds and interests. Competitive with themselves rather than their classmates, they come to Whitman to experience an intensely rewarding liberal arts education. Whitties care about each other, their teachers and their community, participating extensively in campus and community activities. What they find is a campus with a strong sense of community and belonging, a place where deep and meaningful connections, friendships and relationships are established and maintained.

CAMPUS DIVERSITY (2013)

- Caucasian: 72.2%
- Hispanic/Latino: 7.7%
- Asian: 6.5%
- Two or more races: 4.3%
- Unknown: 3.9%
- International: 3.5%
- Black/African-American: 1.2%
- Native American: 0.7%
- Pacific Islander: 0.1%

MEDIAN SCORES (CLASS OF 2017)

- GPA: 3.83 (on an unweighted 4.0 scale)
- SAT Reading: 670
- SAT Math: 660
- SAT Writing: 660
- ACT Composite: 30

ENROLLMENT BY HOME STATE, REGION OR COUNTRY (2013)

- Washington: 35%
- Oregon: 14%
- California: 20%
- Mountain region: 10%
- Other: 17%
- International: 4%
Whitman is less expensive than many top-ranked liberal arts colleges, and Whitman graduates owe less on average than graduates of many private college and public universities.

ADMISSIONS
Whitman College received a record 3,791 applications for the Class of 2018, a 38 percent increase over the prior year. The class of 2018 acceptance rate is the most selective in Whitman College history—39.5 percent.

FINANCIAL AID
Whitman College provides a comprehensive, diversified financial aid program — including scholarships, grants, employment opportunity and loans — to assist in financing a college education. Awards take into account a variety of circumstances: some are based on need alone, some on merit alone, but most are based on a combination of both elements. The College has a “discount rate” of approximately 34 percent. The average need-based grant is $24,837. About half of Whitman students graduated with debt in 2013, with an average of about $16,787. Grants, loans and self-help together meet 96 percent of a student’s demonstrated need.

Whitman College was named one of the 2014 Best Value Colleges by The Princeton Review and is regularly recognized by Forbes Magazine and Kiplinger’s Personal Finance for academic quality and affordability.
HOUSING

For first- and second-year students, nine residence halls housing approximately 860 students serve as the focus for integrating the academic experience with residential living. Residence halls and 11 interest houses are designed to bring what is learned in the classroom to real life.

Third- and fourth-year students live in college-owned or private rental apartments and houses that ring the campus, offering students greater independence while living close enough to remain fully integrated in campus life.

“I enjoy Whitman because everything is top-notch, but also super low key... excellence without the attitude.”

—Gladys Gitau ’16, Hometown: Lawrence, MA
ATHLETICS

Whitman College has undergone a recent renaissance in its athletic programs, with this year featuring Whitman’s first ever NCAA Division III national champion (in men’s swimming) and a women’s basketball team that played for the NCAA Division III championship. Whitman’s tennis, golf and swimming teams are also being recognized for ongoing regional and national success. Importantly, Whitman’s athletic programs have become extremely successful without compromising academic quality.

“Studying at Whitman is a privilege. Whitman emphasizes that the classroom is only part of what it means to be a student. Whitman ensures that you spend your four years here growing your relationships and your life skills, not just your intellect.”

—Riley Foreman ’15, Hometown: Bellevue, WA
INTERNSHIPS AND CAREER EXPLORATION

The Whitman community believes that a rigorous liberal arts education is the basis for excellence in all sectors of the economy: private, public, non-profit and academic. In 2009, Whitman brought together its career development, community service and internship programs under one umbrella – the Student Engagement Center (SEC) – whose broad purpose is to help students understand how Whitman’s intensive liberal arts training opens doors and prepares them for leadership and life after graduation. The SEC links service, internships and other community experiences with students’ academic courses, learning goals and career exploration.

Through the SEC’s Community Service arm, students can connect with over 100 community organizations, including student-led volunteer programs at the local schools and service organizations.

Whitman students are encouraged to explore potential careers, network with alumni, identify national and international internships and find out more about graduate schools at the SEC. New programs supporting entrepreneurship are helping meet growing student interest in starting businesses and organizations.

Whitman was recently selected by Washington Monthly as one of the top colleges in the nation for the percentage of its graduates that pursue public service opportunities, such as Peace Corps, Teach for America and Foreign Service. The Chronicle of Higher Education cited Whitman as one of the top producers of Fulbright fellowship recipients, and Whitman students are highly represented every year for fellowships from Humanity in Action, Rhodes, Watson, Truman, Udall, Beinecke, Trudeau and the National Science Foundation.

“My community service internship is preparing me for real world positions. It reminds me of the broader scope of my education.”

—Katie Steen, '16, Hometown: Boulder, CO
The 16,000 living Whitman College alumni are proud to call themselves “Whitties.” Ask them what they loved about their years at Whitman and you’ll hear the same qualities that you hear from students today: excellent learning opportunities, a close-knit community and lifelong friendships with faculty and peers.

Whitman alumni continue their passion for learning and making a difference by attaining graduate degrees, becoming leaders in their communities and staying involved with their alma mater. Most alumni are active, engaged members in their professional and civic lives.

Alumni are remarkably generous in supporting the College through their participation in the Overseer and Trustee governing boards, Alumni Board, W Club (athletics) and their widespread volunteerism in fundraising and admission activities. The Whitman College Alumni Association organizes many cultural, academic and athletic programs and events on campus and across the country to provide alumni the opportunity to connect with each other, share their common past and maintain a connection to the College. Alumni are welcomed back to campus for Reunion Weekend each September. Notable alumni are honored for outstanding achievement in their careers, community commitment or service to Whitman College with the Alumni Association Recognition Awards, which are presented during Reunion Weekend.

“Did the life of the mind at Whitman influence my thinking about the world? Definitely. It opened me up to the universe.”

—Dottie Metcalf-Lindenberger, NASA Astronaut, Class of 1997
Development

Half of Whitman’s living alumni have graduated since 1990 – forming a young, active, dynamic and committed constituency.

**NOW IS THE TIME CAMPAIGN**

Whitman College’s ambitious $150 million *Now Is the Time* campaign was publicly launched in November 2011 and is now nearing completion. The campaign builds on Whitman’s historic commitment to its students by providing an exemplary education that immerses them in ideas, confronts them with challenging problems and nurtures their ability to become leaders. The *Now Is the Time* campaign has focused on building the endowment and on strengthening the academic program, scholarship support and annual giving.

As of May 2014, the campaign is at 91% of its goal. Its impact can be seen across campus, including:

- 22 faculty positions created or upgraded
- 60 new scholarship endowments created
- 25 percent growth in unrestricted giving to the Annual Fund

An experienced development team and a strong show of enthusiasm from alumni and parents for strengthening the College makes Whitman well positioned for long-term fundraising success.

Among alumni donors to the Annual Fund in fiscal 2013, 73% had made gifts in three consecutive years and 47% had done so for ten consecutive years.
GOVERNANCE

Whitman College is governed by a self-perpetuating 18-member Board of Trustees that is responsible for the direction, mission and financial well being of the institution. Members of the Board of Overseers (currently 54 members) serve on governance committees and assist with admissions and fundraising programs. The faculty as a whole is in charge of the curriculum, and through the Committee of Division Chairs is responsible for faculty hiring. The Personnel Committee is in charge of decisions related to tenure and promotion. Trustees and faculty work together in a shared governance model to address issues of mutual interest. Student representatives serve on most governance committees and regularly meet with trustees in formal and informal settings.

The Board of Trustees appoints the President of the College. The President supervises seven officers who lead the College’s major functional areas:

- Provost and Dean of the Faculty
- Dean of Students
- Dean of Admission and Financial Aid
- Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer
- Vice President for Development and College Relations
- Chief Information Officer
- Chief Communications Officer
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Whitman College has enjoyed a long history of balanced budgets and maintains appropriate reserves to address financial contingencies. For 2014-15, the College’s total operating budget is $79.7 million, including auxiliary activities. The Education and General budget is $69 million, of which $20 million (29 percent) is funded by the endowment. In 2014-15 Whitman’s tuition will be $44,440 and room and board will be $11,228. Whitman’s $550 million in endowment and investment assets is one of the largest liberal arts college endowments in the West. The College holds a modest $58 million in long-term debt, and in 2013 Moody’s Investors affirmed Whitman’s Aa3 long term bond rating with a stable outlook.

DIVERSITY

A Whitman education involves deep and lasting learning in an academic community comprised of people with varied experiences and global perspectives. We seek students, faculty and staff who differ from one another to build a curriculum and community toward this vision. Through academics, campus life, and cultural and educational activities, Whitman community members participate in this vision of diversity. The Glover Alston Center and Intercultural Center are two campus spaces that are dedicated to fostering intercultural awareness and providing support to students from diverse communities, including undocumented students. Recognizing that undocumented students make important contributions to the intellectual and social life of the campus, Whitman College admits and enrolls students regardless of citizenship.

Diversity is fundamentally important to the character and mission of Whitman College. Diversity enriches our community and enhances intellectual and personal growth. We seek to provide a challenging liberal arts experience for our students that prepares them for citizenship in the global community. By sustaining a diverse community, we strive to ensure that all individuals are valued and respected and that intellectual and personal growth are enriched because of our differences.

– Whitman College Board of Trustees, November 4, 2005
 Ranked #3
Best College Campus
Business Insider

The Whitman College Campus
Whitman College is located in Walla Walla, a welcoming town in eastern Washington known for its beauty and booming wine industry, a 45-minute flight from Seattle or 4½-hour drive from Seattle or Portland. The campus blends a stunning natural environment with contemporary facilities, modern technologies and historic buildings. The rugged beauty of Whitman’s Pacific Northwest location helps define the College experience. The access to western mountains, rivers and open space draws many students, staff and faculty to Whitman. Whitman’s campus and Walla Walla personify a western ethos that is friendly, open and encouraging.

Whitman’s main 60-acre campus is located on the edge of historic downtown Walla Walla. The College has 17 acres of athletic fields three blocks from campus and 35 acres at the Johnston Wilderness Campus just 16 miles outside of town in the Blue Mountains. About 30 miles from campus, Braden Farm offers students unique access to the Wallula Gap Biological Field Station and the Pacific Northwest Regional Observatory, which contains the largest telescope in Washington State. The College also owns 15 farms in four counties comprising 21,200 acres that earn more than $1 million a year in revenue.

The main campus is beautifully landscaped with a mature canopy of trees and a substantial and growing collection of outdoor art sculptures. The main campus includes 40 buildings totaling over one million square feet with a replacement value of more than $300 million. In the past 10 years the College has completed close to $100 million in new facilities, along with additions and renovations to existing facilities. Highlights of construction projects over the past decade include the Welty
Health Center, the Fouts Center for Visual Arts building, the Baker Ferguson Fitness Center, and additions to the Hall of Science, Maxey Hall, Olin Hall and Harper Joy Theater. The College eliminated deferred maintenance 20 years ago and fully funds a life cycle budget for the renewal and replacement of facilities.

CAMPUS BUILDINGS AND SITES

MEMORIAL HALL ("MEM")
Completed in 1899, Memorial Building (upper left) is the oldest structure on campus. The clock tower is a landmark on campus and in Walla Walla. Mem serves as the administrative hub for Whitman College.

FOUTS CENTER FOR THE VISUAL ARTS
This 38,000-square-foot facility (middle left) provides space for the College’s visual arts program, including painting, drawing, digital arts, sculpting, drawing, ceramics, printmaking, photography and book arts.

PENROSE LIBRARY
Located at the heart of the Whitman College campus, Penrose Library (lower left) is open 24 hours, giving students unlimited time to peruse its 40,000 unique journal titles, 160 databases and 500,000-volume print collection.
ANKENY FIELD
Social hub, study spot and classroom, as well as an ultimate Frisbee®, flag football and lacrosse field, Ankeny Field is the heart of the campus. It is surrounded by academic buildings, residence halls and the library.

HUNTER CONSERVATORY
This stately 1910 brick building surprises all who enter it for its interior three-story atrium trimmed with white woodwork. The atrium, capped with a skylight, leads to offices and meeting rooms on all floors, as well as to the 250-seat Kimball Theatre.

REID CAMPUS CENTER
This handsome gathering place of brick and glass offers the whole community a welcome place to meet over food and drink. Many student services are conveniently located here.

“The Whitman campus is incredibly beautiful, and one of my favorite things to do is set up a blanket on Ankeny field and read a book.”

—Sayda Morales ’15, Hometown: New York, NY


SHERWOOD HOUSE

Sherwood House is the residence of the President of Whitman College. Located at 1107 Alvarado Terrace, the home was built in 1922 by O.D. Keen, a Walla Walla contractor. In 1939 the house was sold to Donald and Virginia Sherwood. After Mr. Sherwood’s death in 1994, the house became the property of Whitman College and the following year became the residence of the College president. The house provides ample public space for College gatherings along with comfortable private quarters.
CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY

Reflecting its distinctive eco-friendly Northwest location, Whitman College aims to cultivate an ethic of environmental stewardship and leadership in all students, staff and faculty. In 2014, Whitman was named to the Princeton Review’s list of most environmentally responsible colleges.

- Whitman’s Environmental Principles are designed to guide the College in promoting an environmentally conscious campus.

- The Sustainability Revolving Loan Fund (SRLF) is a $50,000 line of credit designated for campus improvements that significantly benefit Whitman’s sustainability efforts by conserving resources and improving efficiency. All loans are expected to generate savings that result in a 100% payback within no more than five years. Students, staff and faculty are eligible to apply.

- The president’s Sustainability Advisory Committee promotes a respect for and commitment to environmental awareness and responsibility within the Whitman College community.

- Almost 50 percent of power consumption is in Renewable Energy Credits, qualifying Whitman as an EPA Green Power Partner.

- Land is leased to NextEra Energy for 70 wind turbines.

- The photovoltaic array on the Bratton Tennis Center meets about 20 percent of the building’s energy needs and produced 24,000kW of solar energy in 2013.
Revitalized by the region’s burgeoning wine industry, Walla Walla puts the best of small-town America within easy reach. Its well-kept streets mix shops from earlier eras with trendy cafés and boutiques. Its wine tasting shops, restaurants and sidewalk sculptures provide ready destinations and distractions.

The Whitman College campus is located at the top of Main Street in downtown Walla Walla, and faculty, staff and students enjoy the quick and easy walk to local shops and restaurants. Most Whitman employees live only minutes from campus in one of the many historic and charming neighborhoods filled with Tudor, Craftsman, Cape Cod, Greek revival and Colonial-style homes.
The rivers, woods, hills, mountains and canyons that shape and surround Walla Walla offer a diverse range of activities. Residents and visitors enjoy an average of 270 sunny days per year by canoeing, kayaking, fly-fishing, hiking, skiing, rock climbing and bicycling around town and nearby.

The town of nearly 32,000 residents is famous for its sweet onions, vibrant yet historic Main Street, Chamber Music Festival, Walla Walla Symphony, annual hot air balloon festival, its locally sourced and farm-to-table restaurants, the Walla Walla Sweats baseball team and its wine industry. The area is home to more than 120 wineries, several of which have received top scores from national wine publications. Walla Walla has received international artistic acclaim as the home of the Walla Walla Foundry and many other accolades including:

- “One of the 10 best small towns in America,” 2013, Fodor’s
- “One of the world’s 10 best wine travel destinations,” 2014, Wine Enthusiast
- “One of 100 best modern courses,” 2013, Golfweek
- “Great places in America: Neighborhoods,” 2012, American Planning Association
- “Best Main Street,” Sunset Magazine
- “Best Small Town Foodie Haven,” Sunset Magazine
- “One of 20 best Western small towns,” 2009, Sunset Magazine
- “Friendliest small town in America,” 2011, USA Today
- “One of America’s prettiest winter towns,” 2011, Travel & Leisure