

# Admission

Whitman's admission process is selective to assure a student body with excellence in both academic and extracurricular pursuits and with varied backgrounds. To achieve this balance, the Admission Committee evaluates scholastic records, the quality of written expression, test scores, extracurricular activities, and letters of recommendations. Evidence of motivation, discipline, imagination, creativity, leadership, and maturity also are considered.

Although most of the entering first-year students graduated in the top 20 percent of their high school graduating classes, there are no arbitrary entrance requirements or quotas. It is recommended that candidates complete four years of secondary school English and mathematics, three years of laboratory science, and two years each of history/social sciences and foreign language. The Admission Committee looks for those candidates who take and excel in advanced level courses.

Whitman College is committed to providing access to an affordable education for as many admitted students as possible. More than half of current students demonstrate financial need and approximately 90 percent receive some form of financial aid — scholarships, grants, employment, or loans. All students who need assistance are encouraged to apply for financial aid.

Whitman College has a strong commitment to the principle of nondiscrimination. In its admission and employment practices, administration of educational policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs, Whitman College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, gender, religion, age, marital status, national origin, physical disability, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other basis prohibited by applicable federal, state, or local laws.

## Admission Procedures

Fall admission application due dates are November 15 and January 10 for Early Decision applicants; January 15 for Regular Decision first-year candidates; and March 1 for Regular Decision transfer applicants. Qualified applicants who file credentials after the Regular Decision deadline dates may be admitted only to the extent that space is available.

Notification dates for admission are as follows: by December 20 for Early Decision I, February 10 for Early Decision II, April 1 for Regular Decision candidates, and April 20 for Regular Decision transfer candidates.

The transfer application deadline for spring semester is November 1. The notification date is by December 1.

## Early Decision

Early Decision is an option for candidates who have selected Whitman as a top choice college. Some students reach this decision early in the college search process. Others take more time to consider a variety of colleges. Whitman, therefore, conducts the Early Decision process in two rounds. The first-round deadline is November 15; the second-round deadline is January 10. Candidates who are admitted Early Decision agree to withdraw their applications from other colleges and universities and notify them of their intention to attend Whitman.

## Applications for Admission

Whitman participates with a national group of more than 1,000 colleges that encourages the use of the Common App. The purpose of a Common App is to reduce repetition in completing forms when filing applications to several selective colleges. A student may pay application fees and submit the Common App online to multiple colleges.

## Admission Credentials

### First-Year Students

Students applying for first-year standing must submit the following credentials:

- I. The *Common App*.
- II. An *official transcript* of the secondary school record.
- III. A *School Report* completed by the applicant's secondary school counselor.
- IV. A recommendation letter from a secondary school teacher or counselor.
- V. A nonrefundable *application fee* of \$50, remittance made payable to Whitman College. (Using guidelines distributed by the College Board for test fee waivers, applicants suffering financial hardship may have this fee waived by written request substantiated by a counselor or principal.) This fee will also be waived for applicants who submit by December 1.
- VI. *Optional*: Scores on *either* the SAT, or the ACT.
  - a) Whitman's Test-Optional policy allows candidates to choose whether or not they would like to submit an SAT or ACT score for review in the admission process.
  - b) Early Decision candidates who plan to submit test scores should take one of the tests no later than October (Early Decision I) of the senior year in order that score reports may reach the Office of Admission by November 15. (Scores from the November and December test dates may be submitted for Early Decision II applicants.)
  - c) Regular Decision candidates who plan to submit test scores should take one of tests no later than December in the senior year in order that score reports may reach the Office of Admission by January 15.
- VII. Early Decision applicants must submit their *Early Decision Agreement*, which is available via the Common Application.

### Transfer Students

Students applying for transfer standing must submit the following credentials:

- I. The *Common App for Transfer*
- II. *Official Transcripts* from each college or university attended.
- III. The *College Report Form* available as part of the Common Application for transfer students.
- IV. An academic recommendation from a college instructor or high school teacher.
- V. *Optional*: Scores on *either* SAT or the ACT.

### International Students

International students (students who are not U.S. citizens, U.S. permanent residents, green card holders, or refugees) must submit the credentials listed above for first-year or transfer applicants with the following additions:

- I. An *official score report* from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), or the Duolingo English Test (DET). A TOEFL score of 85 is required. The minimum IELTS score required is 7.0. The minimum Duolingo score is 110. The TOEFL OR IELTS can be waived for international applicants whose first language is English or if the primary language of instruction at the secondary school attended has been English.
- II. To apply for financial aid, international students must complete and submit the Whitman International Student Financial Aid Application by the deadline for the admission application.

## Admission Provisions

The college requires final transcripts of all high school and college work. Prior to enrollment, a first-year student must submit a high school transcript or equivalent academic credential demonstrating completion of a high school degree.

Space in a college residence hall is assured automatically with admission for all first-year students. A residence life questionnaire will be sent to candidates with the offer of admission.

An enrollment deposit of \$300 is required to reserve a student's place in the class. The deposit payment deadlines are below:

- Early Decision I candidates January 15
- Early Decision II candidates February 15
- Regular Decision First-Year admission candidates by May 1.
- Fall semester transfer students May 20
- Spring semester transfer students December 10.
- When late applicants are admitted on a "space available basis," the deposit is due by the date, which is stipulated in the letter of admission.

Admission may be deferred for up to one full academic year, but the deposit must be paid by the date stated in the letter of admission and is forfeited if the student chooses not to enroll.

The \$300 enrollment deposit is held in reserve by the college for the student. This deposit is returned upon graduation or withdrawal from Whitman if there are no unpaid charges remaining on the student's account (see "Deposit" in the *Charges* section). Prior to the refund of the deposit, students with federal loans must have an exit interview with the Student Loans Manager.

## Nondegree-seeking Students

A person may apply through the Office of Admission to attend Whitman as a nondegree-seeking student if they wish to take certain courses but not pursue a degree program. Nondegree-seeking students register on a space-available basis and must secure written permission from the professor after the first day of the semester. If a nondegree-seeking student wishes at any time to become a regular student (i.e., pursue a degree program), they must file all application credentials for consideration by the Admission Committee (see also "Nondegree-seeking students" under *Classification of Students*, and under *Tuition*).

## Auditors

Community members admitted to Whitman College for the purpose of enrolling in a class for no grade/credit.

- Community members work with the Registrar to enroll in a course and are required to pay the Auditor's Tuition as indicated in the tuition section.

The college will keep a permanent record of all audited work, assigning an "AU" grade with no credit being awarded for successful completion of an audited course. The Registrar's Office will maintain oversight of completion of audited courses and will remove those students who have not met the requirements agreed upon with the instructor of the course before grades are transcribed.

## Veterans

Whitman College's academic programs of study are approved by the Washington State Achievement Council State Approving Agency for Veteran's Education and Training for enrollment of persons eligible to receive educational benefits under Title 38 and Title 10, U.S. Code. The college may allow credit for military service activities which have educational content to students who present acceptable military records. Such documentation should be submitted as part of the admission credentials. The Registrar is the veteran's benefits official for the college.

Whitman College in accordance with Title 38 US Code 3679 subsection (e), adopts the following additional provisions for any students using U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Post 9/11 GI Bill® (Ch. 33) or Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Ch.31) benefits, while payment to the institution is pending from the VA. Whitman will not prevent the student's enrollment, assess a late penalty fee, require student to secure alternative or additional funding, deny access to any resources (access to classes, libraries, or other institutional facilities) available to other students who have satisfied their tuition and fee bills.

GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the official U.S. government website at <http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill>.

**Veterans Benefits and Transition Act of 2018 – Section 103:** Public Law 115-407 Section 103 effective December 31, 2018, requires an educational institution have a policy in place that will allow an individual to attend or participate in a program of education if the individual provides the school with a "Certificate of Eligibility (COE)".

## Gateway Program with Walla Walla Community College

The primary purpose of the Gateway Program is to encourage low income and first generation, as well as other Walla Walla Community College students from diverse backgrounds, to pursue a liberal arts education at Whitman College.

To participate in the program, students must demonstrate the ability to meet the rigors of academic work at Whitman College. Students must submit an application to the Whitman Admission Committee and be approved by the committee for entrance into the program.

Participants enroll in one or two classes at Whitman College after their fourth quarter at Walla Walla Community College. These participants will then be considered for admission to Whitman College as full-time degree candidates after successful completion of their sophomore year. Participants complete a reduced class load at Walla Walla Community College while attending Whitman College during the trial period. The reduced load will be such that the participant will continue to receive financial aid at Walla Walla Community College. The courses at Whitman will apply to graduation requirements at both institutions and will be paid for by Whitman College.

If the Whitman Admission Committee finds the Gateway Program participant academically successful at both colleges, the participant will be given special consideration for admission to Whitman College as a regular degree-seeking transfer student under the provisions outlined in the operating agreement.