

Career and Community Engagement Center

The mission of the Career and Community Engagement Center (CCEC) is to connect Whitman students and alumni to the communities and experiences that help them cultivate their futures. The work of the CCEC is to help students identify experiences that enrich their academic programs, help them refine career/future interests, offer professional development, and foster community/civic engagement. The Center also helps prepare students to be successful when pursuing opportunities for employment and graduate study.

Career and Community Engagement Center programs include:

Alumni Networking — The CCEC 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 and mentorship. Several times a year the CCEC hosts Whitties Helping Whitties networking receptions around the country in collaboration with Alumni Relations.

Career Services — Students can schedule to meet with CCEC career coaches via Handshake or search the CCEC website for resources to help with any part of a job application process. Our career coaches can help students:

- create a career plan for their futures
- understand their career trajectories with our Career Pathfinder platform
- offer guidance with alumni networking, navigate LinkedIn
- review resume and cover letters
- review CVs, identify job resources
- start graduate school planning
- apply to CCEC internship programs
- learn about our Four-Phase Plan

In Fall of 2021, the Center launched Career Coaching for every first year student to learn about the resources and strategies to help them consider and connect to a wide array of professional trajectories.

Professional Development Programming — The CCEC designed the Craft Your Future: A Professional Development Series to create a space for generative presentations, workshops, and seminars about professional development. The Student Career Advisors are student liaisons in the CCEC who offer peer-to-peer career education, review resumes and cover letters, and help with Whitman Internship Grant applications. Our office launched Next Steps: Senior Programming that partners with off-campus organizations and other Whitman departments to develop events to strengthen senior preparation for post-college life.

Internships — Internships add to a student's college experience by allowing them to practice professional skills, obtain a deeper understanding of the world of work and develop research questions for their major course of study. Students are encouraged to apply for paid internships available using CCEC resources or to develop an experience that best suits their interests. The Center manages the Whitman Internship Grant Program, which provides funding for nearly 200 students annually to experience high-impact internships at organizations that are not able to pay them. Each year, a cohort of sophomores, juniors, and seniors spend the year working part-time on a community-based project with a partner organization in the Community Fellow Program.

Career Platforms – Whitman's job and internship search platform, Handshake, includes thousands of postings for internships/full-time/part-time positions applicable to students and young alumni. Handshake allows students to schedule appointments with CCEC staff and learn about events sponsored by the CCEC and employers from across

the country. Additionally, Career Pathfinder is our career assessment tool that gives students insights into their work preferences, industries that match their interests, and provides career search tools to identify opportunities.

Whitman Student Consulting Corps - Connecting Whitman College students and the local community, the Whitman Student Consulting Corps provides individualized, free of charge management consulting to non-profit organizations of the Walla Walla Valley. The WSCC provides education and mentoring for the Student Consultants as they facilitate administrative assessment and recommendations for improvement for nonprofit organizations. Student Consultants are paid positions and are supervised by the CCEC's Community Consultant Specialist. This program may not be offered every year.

Community Engagement Student Led Programs — Through collaboration with local organizations, 15 paid student leaders engage the Whitman community in volunteer direct action, education, and reflection opportunities that address social needs and inspire civic responsibility through experiential learning. Student leaders coordinate numerous programs that engage hundreds of student volunteers each year in weekly engagement and special events. These programs include: the Friends Mentor Program, Adopt-A-Grandparent, the Food Justice Project, the Buddy Program, and Story Time.

Community Engagement Consultations — In addition to the weekly student-led programs, the CCEC team provides opportunities for individuals and groups to meet with staff to connect with volunteer opportunities. The Center also consults with and supports Greek organizations' philanthropic efforts and to the Residence Life Community Service House.

America Reads/America Counts — The CCEC hires 20 work-study students each year 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 experience for testing their interest in a possible career in education.

Employer Engagement— CCEC staff plan many opportunities for students to hear from and connect with recruiters, professionals, and alumni working in organizations around the country. With a focus on the West Coast, employers may be represented in-person or virtually through small information sessions that allow direct student interaction. These are wonderful opportunities for students to learn about different fields, internship/job opportunities, and engage with possible future employers.

Fellowships and Grants – The CCEC Fellowships and Grants team assists Whitman students and alumni in their application and candidacy for nationally and globally competitive fellowships, scholarships, and awards. Ultimately, the goal is to help students think deeply and critically about issues, ideas and values; about their lives and the lives of others. Equipped with self-reflection, they will know better who they are and what they might contribute to the community. Having put their critical thinking to the test, they will have a better vantage of the larger world around them and their humble yet essential place in it.

Much more information about the CCEC can be found at: whitman.edu/ccec