

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Diversity Statement

Diversity, equity, and inclusion are core values at Whitman College. The college strives to have and support a student body, staff and faculty that represent the diversity of our world: gender identity, sexuality, race, ethnicity, national origin, socioeconomic class, disability, religion, spirituality and age cohort.

We seek to foster an inclusive learning environment in which members draw from different intellectual traditions to engage with and challenge one another through studied, thoughtful, and respectful dialogue and debate.

We aspire to become a place where all community members experience difference every day, where diversity is supported and woven throughout our cultural fabric: our values, our behavior, our culture. Our mission focuses on educating engaged students from diverse backgrounds and experiences in a college community where everyone can participate fully in the life of the college and experience a genuine sense of belonging.

Education is a common good that ultimately serves the entire society; therefore, access is a moral imperative. Diverse learning contexts are known to provide transformative educational experiences. An inclusive environment at Whitman that nurtures the development of the ability to work effectively across difference will prepare our students for life after Whitman. We believe that through an innovative rigorous liberal arts curriculum, we can educate all students and prepare them to serve in various fields and sectors and to contribute to a rapidly changing, multicultural and globalized world. Our graduates will be ready to work with others for the common good.

Intercultural Center

The Intercultural Center seeks to foster intercultural awareness, inclusiveness and respect for all in the Whitman community. We are committed to the enhancement of a positive Whitman experience for students, staff and faculty, especially those from culturally and ethnically diverse communities. The Center seeks to enhance partnerships with academic and administrative offices to infuse multiculturalism throughout all aspects of campus life. We facilitate and encourage ongoing dialogue regarding issues of diversity in order to move towards a more inclusive campus climate.

Fostering diversity, inclusion, and respect for all in the Whitman Community is one of the goals of the Intercultural Center. The Center works to strengthen Whitman's intercultural community and ensure a positive Whitman experience for those from historically under-represented backgrounds. The Center also seeks to enrich the experience of the entire student body and community by providing opportunities to engage and educate the campus as a whole on issues related to diversity. Working together with a variety of campus constituencies, the Intercultural Center facilitates and encourages ongoing dialogue on issues of diversity between students, staff, and faculty.

The Intercultural Center Team provides academic and social support for multicultural and international students. The Center also helps bring diverse perspectives and experiences to the campus by sponsoring various speakers and events; housing a collection of books and videos related to diversity and multicultural issues; and providing information about internship and scholarship opportunities.

Throughout the year, the Center helps bring diverse perspectives and experiences to campus by sponsoring workshops, speakers, programs, and cultural events that are free and open to the whole community. In addition to advising the multi-ethnic interest house (MECCA), there are 23 active identity and culture groups that the Intercultural Center supports: Borders as Methods (BAM); Black Student Union (BSU); China at Whitman; Club Latinx; Feminists Advocating Change and Empowerment (FACE); First Generation/Working Class (FGWC), For Us, By Us (FUBU); Hillel-Shalom; Inter(National) Whitties Club (INWC); Indigenous People's Education &

Cultural Club (IPECC); Mixed Race Club (MRC); Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students (MAPS); Men of Color Association (MOCA); Muslim Student Association (MSA); Namaste; Pan Asian Club (PAC); PRISM (LGBTQIA+support); South Asian Student Association (SASA); THRIVE; Whitman African Student Association (WASA); Women in STEM Club (WISC); Women of Color Voices (WoCV); and Whitman Christian Fellowship (WCF). These student-led organizations are among the most active clubs on campus. They provide leadership opportunities for students and promote diversity and multiculturalism by sponsoring speakers, discussion panels, musical events, dances, festivals, and dinners.

International Student Advising

International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS) works within the Intercultural Center to support international students, scholars and staff at Whitman College as they pursue their educational objectives. ISSS collaborates with IC staff and other offices to provide programs and services that help the international community acclimate to life in the U.S. and at Whitman, and to facilitate meaningful opportunities for international students, faculty and staff to contribute to the Whitman community as a whole. ISSS is responsible for international student orientation, immigration services, student advising, and offers a variety of other programs to support the academic and personal well-being of the international community.

LGBTQIA+ Support

The Office of LGBTQIA+ Resources serves people of all identities, and those who are questioning their identity. We seek to support all members of the LGBTQIA+ community on campus. We hope to build community, provide social events, engage and inform the entire campus community, and advocate for LGBTQIA+ needs.

Glover Alston Center

The Glover Alston Center (GAC) is a resource to facilitate Whitman's commitment to sustaining a diverse community. By providing a safe space for meaningful conversation and interaction, the Glover Alston Center welcomes and supports differences, collaborates with academic departments, encourages input from divergent perspectives, and enhances intercultural and international awareness for all in the Whitman community. The Glover Alston Center achieves this by serving as:

A unique place for programs to develop education, understanding, and community involvement.

A safe place where conversations about diversity, difference, multiculturalism and social justice occur.

A social and academic space where collaboration between Whitman community members can occur.

A meeting place and home for campus organizations and clubs.

With this facility, the Whitman community hopes to foster meaningful exchanges between individuals and groups for the greater understanding and mutual respect of one another by encouraging engagement, leadership development, and learning.

All members of the Whitman community are invited and encouraged to use this nonresidential space located near the west side of the campus, at 26 Boyer Avenue.

Frist-Gen/Working Class Program

The goal of the First Generation/Working Class (FG/WC) Mentorship Program is to build a strong and lasting relationship between incoming FG/WC students and current FG/WC students on campus. The current FG/WC student will act as a peer mentor for the purpose of supporting, assisting, and being a resource on campus for their mentee through frequent interactions and open communication. To foster a strong relationship between mentor and

mentee, the Mentorship Program puts on special workshops, events, and activities specifically for FG/WC students. These programs are designed to aid with the transition to college, adjusting to college culture and accessing resources. At the end of the year-long program, mentees will have the knowledge and tools to access the resources offered at Whitman.

Religious and Spiritual Life

The Office of Religious and Spiritual Life seeks to support students who wish to deepen or explore spirituality during their time at Whitman College. We are a resource for established religious groups on campus and work with students from under-represented religious traditions who are looking to form a community. We also provide programming which explores the important relationship between faith and learning - the connection between mind and spirit.

The Office of Religious and Spiritual Life serves people of all faith traditions. We also welcome those who are exploring spirituality, but do not identify with any particular religious tradition. We are committed to supporting religious traditions.