

The Division of Diversity & Inclusion

Mission:

The Office of Diversity and Inclusion at Whitman College is responsible for championing issues of inclusion for the entire campus community in ways that promote a sense of belonging for all faculty, staff, and students. We believe that inclusion is a shared responsibility of all members within our community and that justice for all acts as the Northstar in these efforts.

Vision:

- To have a campus community where inclusion and belonging drive decision-making at all levels of the college, where those decisions are supported by culturally responsive policies and practices.
- To recruit, retain, and support a campus community that is committed to promoting belonging.
- To cultivate partnerships regionally and nationally that support the shifting demographics of the campus community and adds to the continued diversification of Whitman.

Values:

Our commitment to belonging and inclusion lays a foundation for the community we are actively fostering. As a team, we value:

- Equitable representation and inclusion
- Differences in experiences, backgrounds, and perspectives
- Reflection and skill development
- Innovation, advocacy, and justice

Approach:

To accomplish the departmental mission of inclusivity, we approach our work from an intersectional, data-informed, and collaborative way. We pride ourselves on working collaboratively to innovate while remaining people-centered. Programmatically we are invested in how the curricular and co-curricular experiences promote belonging, inclusion, and justice. From a practical perspective, we utilize the cultural competency continuum to support a training process that is approachable and accessible.

Intercultural Center

The Intercultural Center provides educational and experiential opportunities related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice. As a team we proactively support students from marginalized backgrounds in navigating potential barriers to success by providing individualized guidance and pertinent resources. Our programming is created with and for students, and our goal is to nurture a welcoming environment where students feel like they belong.

The Intercultural Center has three areas of focus:

- Personal identity exploration and professional growth.
- Social justice and advocacy.
- Culture, heritage and community.

International Student & Scholar Services

International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS) works within the Intercultural Center to support international students, scholars and staff. ISSS provides programs and services that help the international community acclimate to life in the U.S. and at Whitman College. ISSS is responsible for international student orientation, immigration services and student advising. We help with international student health insurance, income tax filing and work authorizations.

LGBTQIA+ Support

The Intercultural Center provides tailored support to students who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, and/or questioning. We strive 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 located on the west side of campus, at 26 Boyer Avenue. This nonresidential space is home to the Office of International Student & Scholar Services and serves as the main meeting place for Intercultural Center supported student organizations. All the spaces at the Glover Alston Center are available for reservations by individuals, campus groups and their community partners. Spaces include a kitchen and large dining room, backyard for outdoor events and numerous casual style meeting rooms.

The GAC also houses resources for students including the food pantry, clothing closet, first-generation/ working class lending library and sexual health items.

First-Gen/Working Class Program

The Intercultural Center fosters a supportive community that enhances the sense of belonging for first-generation college students and working-class students. We connect FG/WC classmates and alumni with incoming students to assist in the transition to college life. Through advising, dialogue, and activities the FG/WC program helps students realize the skills they bring to Whitman while providing useful knowledge to navigate the collegiate journey and beyond.

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.