Careers and Professions

Advisors in the academic departments and in the Career and Community Engagement Center (CCEC) talk regularly with students about advanced study and about immediate and long-range occupational opportunities. In addition, the college has selected special pre-professional advisors, listed below, to help in those areas of interest which warrant particular attention because of their general appeal.

(Please note that Whitman College does not offer degrees with licensure)

Business Management and Finance

Department of Economics Chair

The best opportunities for career advancement in modern business come to those who have acquired a knowledge of the underlying principles of economics, finance, accounting, statistics, data analysis, and communication with society. The business world embraces recent graduates with a liberal arts education especially because of their broad spectrum of knowledge and skills. Careers in business management and finance require strong analytical, quantitative, problem solving, leadership, organizational, and oral and written communication skills (including bilingual skills in the modern global economic environment) along with maturity, integrity, and curiosity. A background in the sciences with an emphasis on data management and analysis may be beneficial in the increasingly digital modern economy. An understanding of the relation of business to government and the position of business in society is also essential. Students with Off-Campus Studies experience as well as those who explore foreign languages and the socio-economic, political, and cultural diversity of other regions of the world are highly sought after in the business and finance careers. Whitman graduates with preparation in economics, business and finance, as well as data science and analysis have an extremely broad spectrum of potential careers in front of them starting from the private sector (commercial banks, investment banks, credit unions, corporations, insurance companies, brokerage firms, startups, venture capital, wealth management, consulting and auditing, etc.) to the government and public sector (government institutions and agencies like the Federal Reserve System, Treasury Department, Congressional Budget Office, Commerce Department, Labor Department, Education Department, Department of Defense, etc.; economist and financial analyst roles at public schools and universities) and finally to international organizations (like the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations, etc.)

Whitman College offers a diverse array of courses in economics and finance as well as in data analysis, which can prepare students well for the professional as well as graduate academic careers. The recommended courses are designed to give the students a general rather than a technical preparation. The guiding principle of the program is the recognition that technical training in the field of business administration is best achieved in graduate school or through on-the-job training. Two websites that provide more insights into further academic and professional development in this field are www.mba.com and www.cfainstitute.org. Such a preparation qualifies Whitman graduates for many forms of business management training programs and provides a foundation for study in graduate schools of business.

Suggested Courses:

- Economics 101, 102, 114, 227, 268, 327, 358, and 409
- Mathematics 124 or 125, and 126
- Computer Science 167
- Major study in economics, mathematics, computer science, politics, psychology and/or other sciences

Education

Doug Juers (Physics), Abby Juhasz (Director of Community Engagement), Erin Pahlke (Psychology)
While Whitman does not have an education major or minor, a broad program in liberal arts and sciences can prepare students for graduate or professional work in education. The recommended majors for post-baccalaureate work depend on the desired age group, specialty, and profession within education. Students interested in educational practice, theory, pedagogy, policy, or administration are encouraged to take a broad range of courses and to include courses dealing with philosophy, social inequality, social group relations, psycho-social conditions of family/childhood/adolescence, and courses that may include community-based learning with local schools or educational organizations. Students interested in the field of bilingual education should visit both the Language Learning Center and the Office of Off-Campus Studies to find out more about opportunities to get experience in this area.

Master’s programs in teaching in the U.S. often have prerequisites that include a course in pedagogical theory and practice and a course in substantive areas, such as inequality in education, educational policy, or educational psychology. Whitman does not offer courses in pedagogical theory and practice (with classroom practice), but there are several courses that can serve as the substantive prerequisite, and there are some courses with applied components that may take place in local schools or educational organizations. Students interested in graduate school in education are encouraged to consult with the program of interest to see if particular courses at Whitman may count as a prerequisite.

Besides curricular offerings on topics in educational studies, Whitman offers numerous co-curricular opportunities for students who may want to gain practical experience in settings that are education-focused. These opportunities include mentoring and tutoring local students, student clubs, and summer internship opportunities. Information about these opportunities is available from the advisors listed above, from student clubs, and from the Career and Community Engagement Center.

Because age group, specialty area, and geographic region influence the kinds of testing necessary to work in educational fields (and the timing of those exams), students are encouraged to investigate early the types of tests and majors that are required or recommended to meet their career or graduate school goals and to consult with the education advisors and Career and Community Engagement Center resources before deciding on a major.

**Foreign Service**

*Chair, Department of Politics*

Many departments and agencies of the U.S. government offer a variety of overseas employment, both in career positions and in staff support work. Applicants may be secured through general entrance examinations for the public service, through special recruiting (as is generally the case for the intelligence services, the Peace Corps, and aid and technical assistance programs), or by special examinations, as is the case for the Diplomatic Service and the Consular Service of the Department of State and the Information Service of the U.S. Information Agency.

No special set of courses is recommended, but demonstrated aptitude in foreign language study, history, and politics generally is essential for overseas career positions. Information on recruitment procedures and examinations is available, as is information on employment with private organizations abroad.

**Health Professions**

*Kimberly Mueller (Director of Health Professions Advising)*

Careers in the health professions demand more than just achievement in the life sciences. Maturity, compassion, leadership, ethical practice, integrity, communication skills, and knowledge of healthcare policy are essential for the health-care professional. Since the health professions seek individuals with a broad liberal arts and science education in conjunction with a rigorous major area of study in the natural sciences, arts, humanities, or social sciences, Whitman College does not offer “pre-nursing”, “pre-med,” “pre-vet,” or any “pre-health” major. Although many students choose one of our life science majors — biology or biochemistry, biophysics, and molecular biology (BBMB) — more than one-third of our successful matriculants in medical or other health profession schools enter
with majors beyond the life sciences, including anthropology, art, chemistry, English, foreign languages (Hispanic Studies, French and Francophone Studies), geology, history, music, philosophy, psychology, religion, sociology and Theater.

Whitman’s liberal arts curriculum provides students with both the breadth and depth necessary to excel as physicians, nurses, physician assistants, dentists, veterinarians, physical therapists, occupational therapist, pharmacists, public health specialist, among others. Clinicians must have the ability to communicate by speaking and writing effectively, to gather and analyze data, to continually update knowledge and skills, to work with a team of professionals, and to apply new information to the solution of scientific, clinical, and public health problems — all skills that can be acquired from a liberal arts education.

In collaboration with Providence St. Mary Medical Center, Family Medical Center, the SOS Health Clinic, and Walla Walla Clinic, Whitman College facilitates the opportunity for students to gain exposure to the health professions through clinical shadowing/student observations in Walla Walla County.

Students considering a career in a health profession should attend the orientation meeting offered by the Office of Health Professions Advising (OHPA) during the opening week of their first year and meet with the health professions advisor once per semester before application. Additional opportunities to explore the health professions are available through enrollment in the Interdisciplinary Studies 100 level Health Professions courses (IDSC 100 A, B, or C), attending Health Speaker Series lectures by healthcare professionals, and participating in advising workshops sponsored by the (OHPA). Students should consider joining one of the pre-health student organizations.

For additional information on becoming a competitive applicant and applying to a health professions graduate program, see the Health Professions Web page: www.whitman.edu/academics/careers-professions-and-the-liberal-arts/health-professions or contact Kimberly Mueller.

More details about select professions are given below:

**Dentistry**

Schools of dentistry recommend that students acquire a broad, liberal arts undergraduate education. Students interested in the study of dentistry should become familiar with the specific requirements of the schools to which they plan to apply. These requirements are contained in the ADEA Official Guide to Dental Schools. See the American Dental Education Association website: www.adea.org. Participation in a dental observation internship program is required at some schools and highly recommended for all programs.

The following courses will satisfy the requirements for admission to most U.S. dental schools:

- Biology — 111 Biological Principles, 112 The Biological World, or 205 Genetics; 221 & 222 Anatomy & Physiology I & II with labs, or 310 Physiology, or 330 Human Physiology; 339 Microbiology and Immunology
- Chemistry — Two semesters of general/inorganic chemistry with laboratory (Chemistry 125 & 126, 135 & 136 General Chemistry I & II and labs; 140 Advanced General Chemistry and 310 Quantitative Analysis and Chemical Equilibrium). Two semesters of organic chemistry with two credits of laboratory (Chemistry 245 & 251 Organic Chemistry I, 246 & 252 Organic Chemistry II)
- Physics — Two semesters of physics with laboratory (Physics 145, 146 General Physics I & II)
- Biochemistry (BBMB 325)
- English and Writing — Two semesters of courses from English (literature or creative writing) or Composition (Rhetoric, Writing and Public Discourse 210 Writing for Diverse Purpose)

**Note:** Requirements vary. If you have AP/IB credit for Chemistry 125, Chemistry 310 is not required.
The courses vary greatly in terms of courses required for certification: two enroll in a master’s or doctorate in nursing degree program from Although Whitman does not offer a nursing program, many schools: 230 Family, 117 Social and 210 Introduction to Psychology, Sociology 117 Principles of Sociology, and one additional course selected from Anthropology 201 The Strange Familiar: Fundamentals of Cultural Anthropology, Anthropology 228 Medical Anthropology, Psychology 230 Social Psychology Note: Requirements vary. A course in human anatomy with lab (e.g. Biology 221 & 222) is required or recommended by some schools. If you have AP/IB credit for Chemistry 125, Chemistry 310 is not required.

The courses most frequently required for admission include:

- Biology — Biology 127 Nutrition, Biology 221 & 222 Human Anatomy and Physiology I & II and labs;
• Chemistry — Two semesters, to include general, organic, and biochemistry
• Mathematics — Mathematics 128 *Introduction to Statistics* or Mathematics 247 *Statistics with Applications*
• Psychology — Psychology 240 *Developmental Psychology*

*Note:* Requirements vary. Some schools require chemistry (e.g. general and/or organic), a genetics course (e.g. Biology 205), English composition (e.g. Rhetoric, Writing and Public Discourse 210), speech/public speaking, and additional humanities and/or social science courses.

**Occupational Therapy**

Occupational therapy (OT) programs currently lead to an entry-level master’s degree or a doctorate degree. Programs are looking for applicants who possess strong interpersonal skills, the ability to work in teams, and a desire to help others. Additionally, being a creative problem-solver, a good listener, and a resourceful and compassionate person with an interest in health, science and the arts are desirable qualities. Many OT schools require applicants to have documented paid or volunteer experience. Students interested in the study of occupational therapy should become familiar with the specific requirements of the schools to which they plan to apply. These requirements are contained in the OTCAS Program Directory. See the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) website: www.aota.org.

The following courses will satisfy the requirements for admission to most U.S. occupational therapy schools:

• Biology — Biology 111 *Principles of Biology*, 112 *The Biological World*, 221 & 222 *Human Anatomy I & II* and labs, or 310 *Physiology* or 330 *Human Physiology*
• Mathematics — Mathematics 128 *Introduction to Statistics* or 247 *Statistics with Applications*
• Social sciences — Psychology 110 *Introduction to Psychology*, 240 *Developmental Psychology*, 260 *Psychological Disorders*; Sociology 117 *Principles of Sociology* or Anthropology 201 *The Strange Familiar: Fundamentals of Cultural Anthropology*

*Note:* Requirements vary. Many schools require a medical terminology course. Some schools require a chemistry or physics course or English composition (Rhetoric, Writing and Public Discourse 210) course.

**Pharmacy**

All pharmacy programs now result in the Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) degree. The requirements for U.S. pharmacy schools are provided in the Pharmacy School Admission Requirements (PSAR). See the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) website: www.aacp.org. The following courses will satisfy the requirements for admission to most U.S. pharmacy schools:

• Biology — Biology 111 *Principles of Biology*, 205 *Genetics*, 221 & 222 *Human Anatomy I & II* and labs or 310 *Physiology* or 330 *Human Physiology*
• Chemistry — Two semesters of general/inorganic chemistry with laboratory (Chemistry 125, 126, 135, 136; or 140, 310). Two semesters of organic chemistry with two credits of laboratory (Chemistry 245, 246, 251, 252)
• Physics — Physics 145, 146 *General Physics I & II*
• Mathematics — Mathematics 125, 126 *Calculus I & II* and Mathematics 128 *Introduction to Statistics* or 247 *Statistics with Applications*
• English and Writing — Two semesters of courses from English (literature or creative writing) or Composition (Rhetoric, Writing and Public Discourse 210 *Writing for Diverse Purpose*)
• Social Sciences — Psychology 110 *Introduction to Psychology* and Economics 101 *Principles of Microeconomics*, plus two additional semesters, (Sociology 117 *Principles of Sociology*, Anthropology 201 *The Strange Familiar: Fundamentals of Cultural Anthropology* or 228 *Medical Anthropology*, Psychology 230 *Social Psychology*)
**Physical Therapy**

The opportunity for students to enter a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program with a bachelor’s degree has continually expanded over the years. Most schools require three years for degree completion. Many DPT schools require applicants to observe a physical therapist in one or more practice settings prior to admission. Students interested in the study of physical therapy should become familiar with the specific requirements of the schools to which they plan to apply. These requirements are contained in the PTCA Program Directory. See the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) website: [www.apta.org](http://www.apta.org). The following courses will satisfy the requirements for admission to most U.S. physical therapy schools:

- **Biology** — Biology 111 *Principles of Biology*, 112 *The Biological World*, 205 *Genetics*, 221 & 222 *Human Anatomy I & II* and labs or 310 *Physiology* or 330 *Human Physiology*
- **Chemistry** — Two semesters of general/inorganic chemistry with laboratory (Chemistry 125, 126, 135, 136 or 140, 240)
- **Physics** — Two semesters of physics with laboratory (Physics 145, 146, 175, 176)
- **Mathematics** — Mathematics 128 *Introduction to Statistics* or 247 *Statistics with Applications*
- **Social sciences** — One semester of Psychology 110 *Introduction to Psychology* or 240 *Developmental Psychology* and one additional course selected from anthropology, sociology or psychology

**Note:** Requirements vary. Many schools require a course in human anatomy. Some schools require courses in mathematics (Mathematics 125, 126), English composition (Rhetoric, Writing and Public Discourse 210), exercise physiology, medical terminology, and ethics (Philosophy 127 *Ethics*, Philosophy 217 *Bioethics*). If you have AP/IB credit for Chemistry 125, Chemistry 240 is not required.

**Physician Assistant**

Many PA programs have expanded to select students completing bachelor’s degrees. Most programs require two to three years to complete certification. The requirements are provided in the PAEA Program Directory. See the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA) website: [www.paeonline.org](http://www.paeonline.org)

The courses most frequently required for admission include:

- **Biology** — Biology 111 *Principles of Biology*, 127 *Nutrition*, 205 *Genetics*, 221 & 222 *Human Anatomy I & II* and labs or 310 *Physiology* and 330 *Human Physiology*
- **Chemistry** — Three semesters, to include inorganic, organic, and biochemistry
- **Mathematics** — Mathematics 128 *Introduction to Statistics* or 247 *Statistics with Applications*
- **English and Writing** — Two semesters of courses from English (literature or creative writing) or Composition (Rhetoric, Writing and Public Discourse 170, 210, 320)
- **Social Sciences** — Psychology 110 *Introduction to Psychology* required. Psychology 230 *Social Psychology.*

**Note:** Requirements vary greatly. Many schools require courses in human anatomy. Some will allow Comparative Anatomy (Biology 315).

**Public Health**

Many of the approximately 60 schools of public health offer M.H.S., M.P.H, or Ph.D. programs for students to enter directly with a bachelor’s degree. Others require one to two years of health-care experience, which can include service in the Peace Corps, international health programs, internships with county/state public health departments, or work with the CDC. The five core academic disciplines of public health are biostatistics, epidemiology, health services, health education and behavior, and environmental health, with many schools offering additional focus in international health, maternal and child health, nutrition, and public health policy and practice. Since each program

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*Note:* Requirements vary greatly. Many schools require upper division courses of anatomy and physiology, biochemistry (BBMB 325), and public speaking/speech.
and track sets its own requirements, it is difficult to list a recommended set of prerequisite courses. Majors in mathematics, chemistry, or the life sciences are beneficial for students interested in environmental health, epidemiology, or biostatistics, while anthropology, psychology, or sociology are good preparations for health education and behavior and global health. Economics can provide a sound background for health policy. See the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPH) website: www.aspph.org.

**Veterinary Medicine**

Schools of veterinary medicine recognize the importance of a liberal arts education with a strong foundation in the sciences. The requirements are provided in the Veterinary Medical School Admission Requirements (VMSAR). See the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) website: www.aavmc.org.

The following courses will satisfy the requirements for admission to most U.S. veterinary medical schools:

- Biology — Biology 111 Principles of Biology, 112 The Biological World, 205 Genetics, 315 Comparative Anatomy, 310 Physiology or 330 Human Physiology
- Chemistry — Two semesters of general/inorganic chemistry with laboratory (Chemistry 125, 126, 135,136; or 140, 310). Two semesters of organic chemistry with two credits of laboratory (Chemistry 245, 246, 251, 252)
- Physics — Two semesters of physics with laboratory (Physics 155 or 165, 156 or 166)
- Mathematics— Three semesters of college mathematics (Mathematics 125, 126 Calculus I & II and 128 Introduction to Statistics or 247 Statistics with Applications)
- English and Writing — Two semesters of courses from English (literature or creative writing) or Composition (Rhetoric, Writing and Public Discourse 170, 210, 320)

*Note: Requirements vary. If you have AP/IB credit for Chemistry 125, Chemistry 240 is not required. Some schools require courses in animal nutrition and public speaking/speech.*

**Law**

*Noah Leavitt (Director of the Career and Community Engagement Center)*

Law schools want evidence that applicants can think, read, write, express themselves orally, and understand forces that have shaped human experience, developed its institutions, and ordered its values. A wide variety of courses in the liberal arts deal with such matters, though in different ways and with different emphases. The study and practice of law also requires analytical reasoning skills, which are fostered by certain courses in mathematics, natural sciences, economics, and philosophy.

Accordingly, Whitman does not have and does not recommend a formal prelaw major as preparation for law school, believing that no specific series of courses is correct for every student who intends to enter the legal profession. Major law schools and the Association of American Law Schools agree that a broad liberal arts program is the best general preparation.

Students planning a legal career are welcome to discuss their plans with a prelaw advisor.

The P-D-F grade option should be used by prelaw students with caution.

Students who hope to attend law school the fall following graduation should take the Law School Admission Test by the end of the fall semester of their senior year in order to meet most law school admission deadlines; we strongly encourage students to take the LSAT by the end of October. Students looking ahead to law school are encouraged to meet with a prelaw advisor during their junior year to map out a timetable for exams and applications.

**Library and Information Science (LIS)**

*Emily Pearson, Instructional & Research Services Librarian (Penrose Library)*
A Master of Library and Information Science degree from a graduate program accredited by the American Library Association is a prerequisite for a professional career in librarianship, and a broad liberal arts education is excellent preparation for the master’s program. While librarians have traditionally been educated in the humanities, a background in the social, physical, or computer sciences is increasingly sought after by employers. Because of the growing emphasis on digital programs and resources in libraries, computing, database, and metadata skills are important areas of concentration. Many graduate programs offer opportunities to specialize in areas such as archives and record management, informatics, and data services. Archivist positions generally require the MLIS degree; some graduate programs may offer Master of Archives and Records Management degrees, while others offer concentrations or certificates in Archives together with a MLIS degree.

Penrose Library regularly offers student employment in circulation, cataloging, and archives; other opportunities are occasionally available. The librarian listed above is available to discuss graduate school preparation and career possibilities with interested students.

Our library for-credit classes offer an opportunity to learn about Archives and Special Collections (Library 150 and 160) and ethical issues in libraries and information science (Library 120).

**Ministry**

*Adam Kirtley (Interfaith Chaplin)*

The American Association of Theological Schools recommends a broad liberal arts education as the most desirable undergraduate preparation for the ministry. English, history, philosophy, and the social sciences are all appropriate as undergraduate majors. Some experience in the sciences and in the fine arts is recommended. A religion major or a religion minor, while not an essential prerequisite for graduate study, would provide a solid basis for seminary, rabbinical school, or other ministerial training by setting ministry studies in a broad perspective.

**Public Service**

*Chair, Department of Politics*

To an ever-greater degree, federal, state, and local governments need professionally trained people to serve as researchers and planners as well as administrators. Expanding numbers and kinds of special interest groups as well as the increased degree to which these groups employ professionals, also have yielded new career possibilities for people with research, analytical, and political skills. New career opportunities can especially be found at the local level, in addition to the traditional public administration positions in federal and state agencies.

A person interested in a public service career should develop strong research and analytical skills and an ability to write and speak effectively. A broad background in American government and society is necessary, with emphasis on politics, economics, and sociology. Statistical and computer skills are helpful.

**Suggested Courses:**

- Economics 100 or 101, 102, 268
- Environmental Studies 120
- History 297
- Mathematics 128
- Politics 109, 110, 117, 124, 254, 287, 311, 325, 334, 365
- Sociology 207, 208

**Social Work and Human Services**

*Helen Kim (Sociology)*
Whitman College provides the basic social science training required for careers in social work and human services. There is a continuing demand for trained social and human services workers in such fields as child and family welfare work, neighborhood recreational and health service, and rehabilitation of youth offenders. Advanced positions in social work and human services require training at graduate school. However, the present demand for social workers makes it possible for students to obtain positions upon completion of their undergraduate training. The American Association of Schools of Social Work and leading schools in this field recommend a sound foundation in the social sciences with a background in other areas of a liberal arts education. Also recommended is some orientation to the specific problems dealt with by these fields.

Students interested in careers in social work and human services are well advised to major in psychology or sociology, though majoring in some other social science field is not inappropriate. In addition to major preparation in a particular field in the social sciences, there are specific social science courses which contribute to preparation for a career in social service, depending in large part on the particular area of social service work in which the student is interested. The best program is one worked out with the pre-professional advisors.

Suggested Courses:
- Economics 100 or 101, 102
- Philosophy 127
- Psychology 110, 210, 230, 240, 260
- Sociology 117, 257, 267

Sport Studies, Recreation and Athletics

Kim Chandler (Director of Athletics and Chair, Sport Studies, Recreation and Athletics)

Whitman’s SSRA program offers a variety of activity and lecture classes, as well as intramurals, club and intercollegiate athletics. The broad-based program is designed to meet the physical and recreational needs of the college community and to enhance the quality of life and learning of all who participate.

SSRA courses are a broad array of activity courses designed to provide experiences and training opportunities within a diverse mix of physical education, recreation, fitness, and individual and team sport offerings. Additionally, SSRA offers a handful of theory Classroom activity courses designed to more fully inform students about certain aspects of physical activity and sport.

Suggested Courses:
- Sport Studies, Recreation and Athletics 137, 153, 200, 308, 390, 395
- Try weight training, speed and agility training, yoga, Pilates, swimming, or one of several sport offerings.

Theater and Dance

Laura Hope, Director of Theater & Department Chair

Students planning a career in the performing arts will find that the program at Whitman College can provide them with a solid core of skills and knowledge as well as many opportunities to explore new facets of themselves and the art form. Our students gain skills that will prepare them for further study in graduate schools, professional training programs, and internships at major regional theaters and other arts organizations. We strive to instill in our students a sense that the performing arts take place in the larger context of the world and tie into the overall liberal arts education provided at Whitman College.

Our program provides the following to our students:
- Rigorous training in a variety of performance, design, and technical disciplines.
- Hands-on opportunities in many areas to participate in performances during the course of our season at the Harper Joy Theater as well as access to resources to work on your own independent projects.
• Work study and paid employment in our shops and box office.
• A focus on Theater and Dance as collaborative art forms which respects the work put forth by everyone involved in the production process.