

# Student Life

The College provides students with learning opportunities through involvement and engagement. Students may participate in activities, such as ASWC, Community Service projects, academic-year internships, or the Outdoor Program that enhance their leadership skills. The College supports an active campus social life, a comprehensive wellness program, and excellent recreational programs that include varsity competition and an extensive program of club and intramural sports. The campus programs are designed to intentionally foster a feeling of community within a climate of inclusion and understanding.

The offices of the Dean of Students and the Provost and Dean of the Faculty direct and coordinate a wide range of student support services. The Dean of Students coordinates new-student orientation, housing and residential life, food services, counseling, health services, the debate program, Security, and the Reid Campus Center. The Provost and Dean of the Faculty coordinates major advising, postgraduate fellowship and scholarship programs, the Career and Community Engagement Center (CCEC), academic resources, off-campus study, and athletics. Both the Dean of Students and the Provost collaborates closely with the Intercultural Center on a range of campus issues such as student support and programming.

## The Residential Campus

Residence halls and houses are designed to assist students to succeed academically and develop personally. Residential living is an integral part of the Whitman educational experience. All unmarried undergraduate students who are under 21 years of age at the start of each semester and have not yet lived on campus for four semesters are required to live on campus. No designated family housing is available on campus.

Students may select from a variety of residences. With the exception of Prentiss Hall, all residential facilities house students of all genders. On-campus housing options include: Anderson Hall, for 137 students; William O. Douglas Hall, for 70 students in suites of eight students each; Prentiss Hall, for 145 women including members of Whitman's four national sororities as well as women not affiliated with a sorority, housed in two-room doubles; College House provides apartment-style living with kitchen facilities for 35 students; Jewett Hall houses 154 students; Lyman House has two-room suites for 91 students; and Stanton Hall, housing 150 sophomore students in mostly single rooms.

Eleven interest houses offer unique learning opportunities. Language houses, such as French, Japanese, Hispanic Studies, and German, further the academic and cultural interests of students studying a foreign language. Approximately six to nine students reside in each house. Other interest houses are the Multi-Cultural House, which fosters cross-cultural communication and understanding; the Environmental House, focusing on environmental and ecological issues; the Fine Arts House, which promotes programs emphasizing studio, theatrical, and musical arts; the Wellness House which focuses on the 8 dimensions of wellness; the Asian Studies House, which promotes understanding of Asian culture and issues; the Writing House, which provides resources to encourage the growth of writing as a discipline; and the Community Service House encourages discussions of service issues among students and the Whitman community and includes a community service requirement.

Four national fraternities maintain chapter houses near the campus. Each has its own dining, sleeping, study, and recreational facilities.

Just as it is important to live on campus, it is equally important to dine on campus. Dining on campus helps to integrate students into the campus community. It provides the opportunity for sections to spend time together, contributes to community within the halls, and allows further opportunity for students to interact with faculty outside the classroom. During the fall of 2018, a new central dining facility, Cleveland Commons, opened for the whole campus community supplemented by other, smaller dining options on campus. In addition, Jewett Hall has a café with breakfast and lunch options as well as a coffee bar. Reid Campus Center also has a small marketplace for students and community members. Students who live in the residence halls are required to subscribe to a board plan

(see exceptions under “Board” in the *Charges* section). Students living off-campus are encouraged to eat in college dining halls and may subscribe to one of several board plans.

While it is difficult for the college to provide highly specialized diets in the dining halls, Bon Appétit (the college’s food service provider) as well as the Health Center will work with students who have dietary concerns. There are vegetarian and vegan alternatives at every meal. Any student, on-or off-campus, may purchase a meal plan.

# Student Affairs

## Welty Center — Counseling

Professional Master's degree and Doctorate level counselors are available to provide brief mental health counseling to students free of charge. Counselors assist individuals and groups with personal concerns, interpersonal relationships, and mental health issues that may interfere with their success at Whitman. In addition to this service, there are a number of personal growth opportunities, in the form of workshops and programs on a variety of topics. All counseling is confidential subject to legal and ethical limitations.

The center works on a short-term (5-8 sessions) counseling model. We develop therapeutic goals with our clients to track progress and provide appropriate interventions. Students work with their counselor to schedule appointment times and determine the length of the counseling relationship. A Mental Health Nurse Practitioner is available in the Counseling Center for medication consultations and prescriptions.

Please note there are some student concerns that are not appropriate to address using a short-term model. If the Counseling Center is not an appropriate, ethical choice for student care, a referral to a Mental Health Practitioner in the Community will be provided.

## Welty Center — Health Services

The on campus Health Center is open during the academic year, and serves as a facility for the management of minor injuries and illnesses.

The Health Center medical providers maintain regularly scheduled hours on campus Monday-Friday. The providers may refer students to outside resources if indicated. Registered Nurses are available to see students for nursing assessment and referral. **All degree-seeking students may access Health Center resources and may see the Health Center staff without charge.** If a student wishes to consult a private physician, the Health Center staff may recommend competent local specialists when requested to do so. Whenever a student is treated away from the Health Center, the expenses incurred will be the student's responsibility.

Services at the Health Center include: assessment and treatment of minor illness or injury, in-house services lab with specimen collection and blood draws, reproductive health care, including PAP smears and contraception, a dispensary for prescribed medication, travel consults and vaccines.

## ***Accident and Health Insurance***

All Domestic and International Students are recommended to have insurance with a U.S. based health insurance company that will pay benefits in Washington State.

**It is the student's responsibility to understand their insurance plan and know how to access coverage. We advise that each student carry a personal insurance card at all times.**

If hospitalization or outside medical services are needed, the Health Center will assist the student in locating suitable medical treatment. The cost for such outsourced medical treatment, however, must be assumed by the student.

Whitman College provides "secondary" accident insurance for students participating in varsity intercollegiate athletics. This coverage is available to varsity athletes that sustain an injury during scheduled and supervised athletic activities. As a secondary insurance, the varsity athletics accident insurance policy will only pay medical bills after they have been processed by the student's primary personal insurance. Please contact the Head Athletics Trainer, at 509-527-5590 for more information.

## Reid Campus Center

The Reid Campus Center serves as a community center for all members of the college — students, faculty, staff, alumni, and guests. To support the residential nature of the Whitman campus, the Reid Campus Center meets many day-to-day needs through an organization of professional staff, student employees, student volunteers, and committees.

The Reid Campus Center sponsors numerous programs including musical performances in the Coffeehouse, Student Activities Fair, an Arts & Crafts fair, the Pathways Leadership program, WhitLife, and much more.

Resources in the Reid Campus Center include the Bookstore, Debate, Greek Life, Intercultural Center, New Student Orientation & Onboarding, Office of Religious and Spiritual Life, Outdoor Program, Post Office, Student Activities Office, Student Engagement Center (America Reads/Counts, Career Development, Community Engagement, Internships), and Café 66. Other facilities and services include meeting-and-dining rooms, a lounge, an art gallery, vending machines, refrigerator rentals, activity rentals (such as popcorn machine, snow cone machine and button maker), sign-ups for the chartered holiday bus and shuttle service, bulletin boards for advertising and notices, and outdoor equipment rental. The Reid Campus Center houses the Associated Students of Whitman College (ASWC), the Whitman Events Board (WEB), *The Wire* newspaper, the *blue moon* (art and literary journal), KWCW-FM student-operated radio station, and *quarterlife* (quarterly literary journal).

# Student Activities

Co-curricular activities augment classroom experiences, providing students the chance to apply their classroom studies to practical, realistic work and engaging social experiences. The college encourages students to create new activities and organizations that enhance the life of the campus.

At Whitman, students have a plethora of opportunities to get involved all over campus, regardless of their major. Musically inclined students perform with the College Wind Ensemble, Chamber Orchestra, Chorale, and, by audition, the Walla Walla Symphony Orchestra; still others perform in solo or small group recitals. Students need not major in Theater to perform or work backstage at Whitman's Harper Joy Theater, nor must they major in English to submit items for publication in *blue moon*, the Whitman literary magazine. There are opportunities for work, including some paid employment, on *The Wire*, the student weekly newspaper. Many students also participate in one or more of the dozens of student clubs on campus, many of which receive funding from Whitman's student government.

## Outdoor Program

The Outdoor Program (OP) is committed to providing equitable access for all to the outdoors. "The OP" fosters personal growth, facilitates learning and creates recreational opportunities through skills and risk management training, leadership development, and environmentally sound trips in a supportive community". The OP assists people in outdoor pursuits while also managing risks so as to offer safe and rewarding recreational experiences. Additionally, the OP provides quality rental equipment in the fields of hiking, backpacking, climbing, flatwater and whitewater kayaking, rafting, canoeing, stand-up paddle boarding, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, telemark and alpine touring skiing. Activities cater to beginner and intermediate skill levels. On campus, the OP organizes visiting speakers, instructional seminars, film showings, and other special events, including the Banff Mountain Film Festival. The OP also oversees the Whitman Climbing Center and contributes to orientation programming.

Another important function of the Outdoor Program is to teach outdoor skills, both elementary and advanced, in such areas as risk management, wilderness first aid, whitewater and flatwater kayaking, rafting, climbing, skiing, canoeing, mountaineering, backpacking, and outdoor leadership. There are over 75 different jobs per semester that students can practice their leadership skills working for the OP in the rental shop, leading trips and instructing in the climbing center. The program is a resource for those interested in planning their own trips, exploring the outdoors surrounding Walla Walla, purchasing equipment, or obtaining instruction. Magazines, instructional videos and books, guide books, maps, and information about outdoor jobs are available at the OP Rental Shop.

The Outdoor Program is not a club. There are no dues; anyone, regardless of ability or skill level, may participate. Through the Outdoor Program, all students interested in noncompetitive, non-motorized pursuits may share adventures. The Bob Carson Outdoor Program Fund enables all students to experience OP trips by providing trip credit to every current Whitman student each year to be able to participate in at least one free outdoor trip. The Leadership Education Advancement Fund (LEAF) offers need based aid for SSRA outdoor Leadership courses.

While the OP is not a club it supports and serves as advisors to several ASWC student organized and run outdoor clubs including: Backcountry Ski Club, BIPOC Outdoor Club, Climbing Club, Club Sports Climbing Team, Mountain Biking Club and the Whitewater Club.

In 2013, the Outdoor Program was granted the prestigious David J Webb program Excellence award issued by the Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education. An AORE press release stated "*Whitman College is an outstanding example and embodiment of AORE values. The Whitman College Outdoor Program is an incredible teaching program based in Walla Walla, WA. They are best known for their freshman orientation program and climbing center, but also have strong sea kayaking, backpacking and whitewater programs. The program has been a part of the school for over 4 decades. They also work closely and in collaboration with academic departments to provide general trips and opportunities for the campus at large, and to encourage involvement and dedication to betterment and growth of the [outdoor recreation] industry.*"

## Whitman Events Board

The Whitman Events Board (WEB) is an ASWC-sponsored student group dedicated to bringing an exciting and diverse set of events to campus. WEB provides and supports a wide array of educational and entertaining programs by maintaining contacts with artists and booking agencies, as well as generating original student-led programs. It is responsible for sponsoring the Drive-In Movie, films, concerts, speakers, and much more! To find out more call 509-522-5367 or email [web@whitman.edu](mailto:web@whitman.edu)

## Intercollegiate and Intramural Athletics

Whitman College affirms the classical ideal that physical fitness complements intellectual development. Whitman's programs of sport studies, recreation and athletics are designed to contribute to the liberal education of our students as they engage their minds and bodies in vigorous fitness, wellness, and competitive activity.

Whitman supports athletics for two reasons: 1) as they train and strive to excel student-athletes complement and strengthen the education they are pursuing; and 2) athletics contributes in unique ways to campus life and fosters a strong sense of community.

To achieve these ends, the College provides the resources to enable teams and individuals to compete effectively in the NCAA Division III, and to enable those individuals and teams who qualify to compete at regional and national levels.

The athletics program at Whitman College is designed to support:

- the overall mission of the college;
- the principles of fair play and amateur athletics, as defined by NCAA legislation;
- the overall academic success of student-athletes;
- the overall health and welfare of student-athletes;
- The principle of equal access to athletic opportunities by men and women.

Whitman holds membership in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (Division III) and the Northwest Conference (NWC). The college field's men and women's teams in basketball, swimming, tennis, soccer, cross-country, golf, and distance track. Women also compete in volleyball and Lacrosse, and men in baseball. Whitman College, as an NCAA III member does not offer athletic scholarships; however, all students may apply for need based financial aid and academic scholarships.

Department of sport studies, recreation and athletics staff members supervise the student run intramural programs; about 70 percent of Whitman students take part in such intramural sports as flag football, basketball, soccer, volleyball, tennis, and ultimate Frisbee. The college also sponsors several club sports programs, including rugby, skiing, ultimate Frisbee, and cycling. For a complete and updated list of club and intramural opportunities, please see [www.whitman.edu/athletics](http://www.whitman.edu/athletics) and follow the links to club sports or intramural sports.

Sherwood Athletic Center, the main athletic complex was completely renovated as of August 2009. It features a 1,200-seat gymnasium, a training room, a strength and conditioning room, a practice gym, batting cages, racquetball and squash courts, dance studios, and a 7,000+ square-foot indoor climbing wall.

The college has four indoor tennis courts in the Bratton Tennis Center as well as six outdoor courts, which supports all student, faculty/staff and community use.

Baker Ferguson Fitness Center offers a 10,000-square-foot fitness center, and the Paul and Louise Harvey Aquatic Center features a 30-meter swimming pool.

Baseball games take place at 3,000-seat Borleske Stadium, which also includes an indoor 3 tunnel batting cage. The golf team practices at 18-hole Memorial Golf Course, the Walla Walla Country Club, and Wine Valley Golf Club.

The Whitman Athletic Fields Complex hosts the men and women's soccer and the women's lacrosse teams in addition to a variety of club and intramural competitions.

## **Student Organizations**

Most groups and organizations are student-run; nearly all involve students in planning and carrying out their programs. The largest of the self-governing groups is the Associated Students of Whitman College (ASWC), of which every student is a member. ASWC conducts its affairs through an elected Executive Council and student Senate. In addition to advocating for student needs and supporting all-campus activities and programs, ASWC is responsible for oversight and budget allocations for the Whitman Events Board, *The Wire* weekly newspaper, radio station KWCW-FM, and more than 80 student clubs and media groups.

Campus clubs focus on specific interests such as culture and identity, recreation, health, music, leadership, and religious interests. Information on student organizations can be found at: <https://whitman.presence.io/>

## **Greek Life**

Whitman's fraternities and sororities provide their members with a strong sense of community, belonging, friendship and inclusion. Within each Greek organization, members find academic assistance, personal support, leadership, community service, alumni connections, and social opportunities.

All eight Greek organizations at Whitman have well-established scholarship programs, incorporating one-on-one tutoring, study tables, and seminars. Whitman's Greek groups are actively involved in local and national community service efforts, supporting such organizations as the SOS Clinic, Helpline, Humane Society, Reading is Fundamental, Service for Sight, Children's Home Society, and Court Appointed Special Advocates. As each self-governed Greek group makes decisions, ranging from creating budgets to implementing social policies, the Greek system is an excellent vehicle for learning and displaying leadership skills.

The four national sororities reside in Prentiss Hall, where each group maintains its own section, complete with a chapter room and a lounge. Each of the four fraternities has a house on the edge of campus, where members reside. On average, 30% to 40% of students are involved in Greek life.