

**If You  
Apply  
To** ➤

**Whitman:** Early decision: Nov. 15. Regular admissions: Jan. 15. Campus interviews: optional, informational. No alumni interviews. SATs or ACT's: required. Subject Tests: optional. Accepts the Common Application. Essay question.

## Whittier College

13406 East Philadelphia, P.O. Box 634, Whittier, CA 90608-4413

**Whittier's Quaker heritage brings a touch of the east to suburban L.A. Less selective than Occidental and the Claremont Colleges, Whittier lures top students with an arsenal of academic scholarships. Beware the sneaky October 15 deadline for the best of them. Whittier's functional campus lacks the opulence of the Claremonts and the panache of Pepperdine.**

Founded in 1887 by members of the Society of Friends, Whittier College is fast becoming a global training ground. Whittier students can be found all around the world, studying in 30 foreign countries. And when they return to the Whittier campus, they have access to caring faculty and a close-knit friendly environment.

Located just 18 miles away from downtown Los Angeles, the college is perched on a hill overlooking the town of Whittier, California, with the San Gabriel Mountains rising up from the horizon. The 73-acre campus is a pleasant mixture of modern buildings tucked between the red-roofed, white-walled Spanish traditionals. Its landmark building, Deihl Hall, has been updated to include a digital audio/video computer lab for languages. Renovation and expansion of the Bonnie Bell Wardman Library is complete. A four-foot-high granite monument stands on the north campus lawn, honoring Whittier's most famous alum, former president Richard Nixon.

Whittier offers its students two major programs: the liberal education program and the Whittier Scholars Program. About 80 percent of the students take the revised liberal education track, in which they fulfill distribution requirements in writing skills, mathematics, natural sciences, global perspectives, comparative knowledge, and creative and kinesthetic performance. The emphasis of the liberal education program is on an interdisciplinary focus, globalism, and critical and quantitative thinking. These liberally educated Whittierians next choose a major from among 26 departments, the strongest and most popular of which include English, biology, psychology, political science, and business administration, and programs that focus on teaching certification.

Whittier officially ended its affiliation with the Quakers in the 1940s, but the prevailing spirit of community hearkens back to their traditions. The academic climate can be challenging, but students report competition to be rare among classmates. One senior says, "The academic climate is competitive and rigorous, but definitely manageable." Freshmen are taught by full professors, most of whom "have been excellent," a kinesiology major says. "For the most part, the quality of the teaching has been very intense, but very rewarding," adds another student. "Whittier students tend to be open and friendly," says a student majoring in comparative cultures. "You aren't afraid to sit with someone you haven't met before."

Whittier's strongest reputation lies in the Whittier Scholars Program, a path taken by 20 percent of the undergraduates who choose to bypass the traditional liberal education program. They are relieved of most general requirements and start

**Website:** www.whittier.edu

**Location:** Suburban

**Private**

**Total Enrollment:** 1,779

**Undergraduates:** 1,643

**Male/Female:** 46/54

**SAT Ranges:** CR 480–580,  
M 480–590

**ACT Ranges:** 20–26

**Financial Aid:** 78%

**Expense:** Pr \$ \$

**Phi Beta Kappa:** No




**Applicants:** 2,989

**Accepted:** 71%

**Enrolled:** 20%

**Grad in 6 Years:** 66%

**Returning Freshmen:** 81%

**Academics:**   

**Social:**   

**Q of L:** ★ ★ ★ ★

**Admissions:** (562) 907-4238

**Email Address:** admission@whittier.edu

**Strongest Programs:**

Child Development

Education

Social Work

Psychology

Business

Biology

Political Science

English

from square one with an “educational design” process. With the help of an academic advisor, the scholars carve their majors out of standard offerings by taking a bit of this and a bit of that. Majors have included such names as symbol systems, visual studies and business, and dynamics of politics and urban life. The program is highly regarded because of the more active role it allows students to play and the freedom it affords them in pursuing their interests. All students, no matter which curriculum they choose, must fulfill a yearlong freshman writing requirement. In an attempt to help freshmen develop both their critical thinking skills and their ability to communicate clearly in writing, Whittier lets students choose their preferences from a variety of seminars. They are also encouraged to take an additional writing course, mathematics, and lab science during their freshman year. First-years also must attend a series of speakers who discuss topics relevant to student coursework and must take part in the Exploring Los Angeles series, which includes trips to museums and cultural events. Study abroad options include programs in Denmark, India, Mexico, and Asia, and undergraduates may also take foreign study tours during the January interim.

“We have a hippie vibe,” says an international business major, and the campus is “very liberal.” Nearly three-quarters of the students come from California, and the rest are from all over the United States and the world. Diversity plays a major role on this campus. While African Americans make up only 5 percent of the students, Hispanic enrollment is an impressive 33 percent, and Asian Americans constitute 10 percent. The Black Student Union and Hispanic Student Association are vocal on campus. An on-campus cultural center focuses on diversity programming and resources. “Tolerance is a big watchword on campus,” a junior says. “You can get severely disciplined or expelled for being intolerant.” In addition to need-based aid, the college grants merit scholarships averaging \$26,632.

More than one-third of Whittier students seek off-campus shelter, but the Turner Residence Hall entices many students to stay on campus and vie for a chance to get a room with a panoramic view of Los Angeles. Most freshmen are assigned rooms, though Whittier scholars, athletes, and members of Whittier’s social societies tend to cluster in selected dorms and houses. “The price for on-campus housing is unreasonably high,” complains one student. “Dorms have old furniture and many do not have air-conditioning.” As part of the meal plan, all campus residents must take at least 10 meals at the Campus Inn dining hall, where the food is said to be typical college fare. “Food is diverse and edible,” a sophomore says. The Spot (Whittier’s popular campus coffeehouse) includes a state-of-the-art nightclub called—what else?—the Club.

Nine social societies (they’re not called fraternities or sororities here) attract 12 percent of the men and 17 percent of the women but hardly dominate the social scene. However, their dances, which frequently feature live entertainment, are welcomed by all. For many, entertainment takes the form of road trips, everywhere from Disneyland to the California beaches. Other common destinations include Las Vegas, Mexico, Joshua Tree, Hollywood, San Diego, and northern California. Whittier itself is a spot for community-minded students to get involved. “Whittier is a friendly town,” one junior says. “The college is involved a lot with the community.”

Whittier has a fairly strict alcohol policy, and underage drinking is not permitted. Students say it’s difficult for underage drinkers to get served at campus events. “Underage students are not allowed to even be in the same proximity as alcohol,” a senior says. Popular annual events include a Spring Sing talent show, the football game against archrival Occidental College—dubbed the Battle of the Shoes—and Sportsfest, which is a campuswide competition in which dorms compete in

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## Overlaps

**UC-Irvine, UCLA,  
Cal State Fullerton,  
Chapman,  
University of La  
Verne, Loyola  
Marymount,  
Occidental,  
University of  
Redlands**

a variety of athletic, intellectual, and wacky games and events. A favorite among students is Mona Kai, a Hawaiian party put on by the Lancer Society, when tons of sand are shipped in for the event. Also favored is the Midnight Breakfast served by professors during second-semester finals. The most important campus landmark is the Rock, which sits near the front of campus and is given a fresh coat of paint by countless aspiring artists. The beach is a frequent destination, and for night-life, Los Angeles looms large. The local community, known as Uptown Whittier, offers quaint shops, restaurants, and cobblestone sidewalks, but little in the way of entertainment.

Men's lacrosse is the most successful Poets team on campus. Men's football and soccer and women's soccer, softball, and track are the most popular. Intramurals are a big draw, too. "The most popular are inner tube water polo and volleyball," says one freshman. Facilities have gotten an upgrade, including a new football field and a fully equipped fitness center.

The students at Whittier have created a supportive, intimate environment where people work together and celebrate their diversity. "It's a small, friendly place where everybody knows everybody," a junior math major says. With the opportunity to design their own majors, students are active in their own education.

## If You Apply To ➤

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## Willamette University

900 State Street, Salem, OR 97301

**Willamette is strategically located next door to the Oregon state capitol and 40 minutes from Portland. Bigger than Whitman, smaller than U of Puget Sound, and more conservative than Lewis & Clark, Willamette offers extensive study abroad enhanced by ties to Asia. Well-known in the West but has yet to develop a national reputation to equal that of competitors such as Lewis & Clark.**

Willamette University, founded in 1842, was the first university in the Pacific Northwest. Students can take advantage of their proximity to the state's legislative offices and a nearby hospital for internships, jobs, or off-campus learning experiences, including a comprehensive study abroad program that carries students to destinations around the globe. On campus, students find a more personal atmosphere than larger universities nearby and appreciate the low-key yet challenging academic milieu. "Here at Willamette we look at the big picture and focus on quality of life," muses one sophomore, "because there is so much more to college than books and parties."

The 61-acre campus lies across the street from the Oregon state capitol building and the state Supreme Court, providing a perfect avenue for student internships and political involvement. Willamette is home to full trees (thanks to Oregon's omnipresent rain), small wildlife, and occasionally steelhead salmon, which splash around in the Mill Stream that runs between WU's redbrick academic buildings.

**Website:** www.willamette.edu

**Location:** City Center

**Private**

**Total Enrollment:** 2,699

**Undergraduates:** 1,946

**Male/Female:** 44/56

**SAT Ranges:** CR 560-670,  
M 540-650

**ACT Ranges:** 27-31

**Financial Aid:** 61%

**Expense:** Pr \$ \$ \$

**Phi Beta Kappa:** Yes

**Applicants:** 8,175

**Accepted:** 41%

**Enrolled:** 19%

**"We are open-minded,  
accepting, friendly, and have a  
West Coast culture and spirit."**