



MENTOR PROGRAM

A College Access Program

The Mentor Program, in partnership with the Whittier Union High School District (WUHSD) and El Rancho Unified High School District (ERUHSD), serves students attending Whittier, La Serna, Santa Fe, California, and El Rancho high schools; and seeks to empower students to make informed and thoughtful decisions when applying to colleges or universities. The program aims to cultivate self-awareness and confidence, overcome parochial attitudes towards higher education, and guide students through the college application and selection process. Through focused workshops, lectures, and mentorship by Whittier College students, high school students identify their interests and skills, explore colleges and universities, and learn about college admissions, financial aid, and life on campus. The program spans approximately 18 months, beginning fall of junior year and ending senior year, and is divided into segments dedicated to specific activities: self-discovery, college planning, personal statement writing, and admissions and financial aid.

Eligible high school students are those who are first-generation college applicants, A-G eligible, not served by any other college-readiness program, and have maintained a 3.0-3.5 GPA. Since the program's founding in 2009, 80% of participating students were accepted to at least one four-year college or university.

PROGRAM GOALS:

- Introduce students to the freedoms and responsibilities of college
- Guide students through the college application and selection process
- Provide mentoring experiences with Whittier College students

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Whittier College is a partner of *Learn and Serve America*, a member of *California Campus Compact*, and has been designated an **engaged campus** by the *Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching*. The *Corporation for National and Community Service* named Whittier College to the **President's Higher Education Honor Roll with Distinction** annually since 2011.



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