

COLLEGE PARENT & FAMILY
GUIDE



**2011
2012**

Whittier College

CAMPUS RESOURCES – LOCAL INSIGHT – HELPFUL INFORMATION



UNIVERSITY PARENT CONNECTION

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About Our Guides

University Parent Media works closely with institutions around the country to bring together the most relevant, timely information into one all-inclusive resource.

We have published this guide with the mission of helping you easily navigate the University and its surrounding community. Ultimately, we hope these resources help nurture your connection and involvement in your student's college years!

Make the Most of Your Parent Guide

- Hang on to your Guide! Inside you'll find information that's useful all-year long, including important phone numbers, web sites and calendars.
- Store your copy in a purse or glove compartment for convenient reference.
- Pass it along to parents of prospective college students to promote the school.
- Please recycle when finished!
- Discover more content, tips and local business information by visiting us online at: www.universityparent.com/whittier



contents

4 | Whittier College Guide

Comprehensive advice, information for campus success

- 4 | Welcome Parents & Families!
- 5 | About Whittier College, Academic Majors & Programs
- 8 | Special Programs: Ways Your Childs Can Get Involved
- 9 | Student Support Services, Residential Life
- 10 | Admission and Financial Aid

11 | Resources

Must-have knowledge to navigate your way

- 11 | Calendar 2011-2012
- 12 | Frequently Asked Questions
- 13 | Helpful Websites
- 14 | Whittier College Campus Map
- 16 | Helpful Phone Numbers

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Welcome Parents & Families!



This is an exciting time to be a Poet. There are several exceptional new academic and co-curricular programs, all designed to provide the best possible liberal arts education while preparing students for successful careers and citizenship. Whittier also boasts renovated and expanded facilities - including the Campus Center, historic Hoover Hall, and the Graham Athletics Center – that further enhance our beautiful campus. Whittier offers many exciting opportunities for growth and development, and we recognize that you are an important partner in promoting your student's success.

We know that having a good base of knowledge about Whittier College will make it easier for you to assist and encourage your student. This guide and especially the Poet Parents & Families webpages provide information you can use to support your student - from the sending of on-campus care packages, to attending one of our annual, family-friendly events, to learning about the various academic and career resources available to every Whittier student. I encourage you to get online and check it out: www.whittier.edu/ParentsAndFamilies. And I encourage you to visit the campus often. Come for athletic events, concerts, poster sessions,

and plays, and see for yourself what a vibrant educational community Whittier is.

I always welcome hearing from our students' families. You can contact me by email at president@whittier.edu or by phone at (562) 907-4201. I look forward to getting to know you and your student.

Go Poets!

Sharon Herzberger
President ■

About Whittier College

Whittier College is a vibrant, residential four-year liberal arts institution where intellectual inquiry and experiential learning are fostered in a community that promotes respect for diversity of thought and culture. A Whittier College education produces enthusiastic, independent thinkers who flourish in graduate studies, the evolving global workplace, and life.

Whittier College was founded in 1887 by the Society of Friends, and although the College is no longer religiously affiliated, this Quaker connection shapes our core values and gives us a strong sense of community, diversity, and individuality. This manifests itself both inside and outside of the classroom through projects like our Whittier Scholars Program, a design-your-own-major program in which students create inter-disciplinary learning experiences.

We dedicate ourselves to providing a strong, liberal arts education. Our curriculum gives students a deep and broad education. The liberal arts requirements go above and beyond most schools' general education. It includes requirements such as Paired Classes, where students take two classes from different departments in the same

semester; the professors attend both classes and work collaboratively to build connections. Our ultimate goal is to make students adaptable so that they can go into any situation, apply their knowledge creatively, and thrive.

Whittier focuses on undergraduate education. All classes are taught by professors, not grad students. Our undergrads receive direct access to professors, and have no trouble getting the classes they need to graduate in four years. Students get a range of hands-on learning, including scientific research alongside faculty, and extensive internship and career shadowing opportunities in Los Angeles and Orange County. Past graduates of Whittier include President Richard Nixon, and our vibrant alumni network helps connect students with career and learning opportunities.

ACADEMIC MAJORS & PROGRAMS

Anthropology
Art and Art History
Biology
Business Administration
Chemistry
Economics
Education and Child Development
3-2 Engineering Program
English Language and Literature
Environmental Sciences
Film Studies (Minor)
French Cultural Studies (Minor)
Gender and Women's Studies (Minor)
Global and Cultural Studies
Health Sciences (Pre-Professional)
History
Kinesiology and Nutrition Science

3-3 Law Program (Pre-Professional)
Mathematics-Business
Mathematics
Modern Languages
Music
Philosophy
Physics and Anatomy
Political Science
Psychology
Religious Studies
Scientific Computing (Minor)
Social Work
Sociology
Theatre and Communication Arts
Therapy (Pre-Professional)
Urban Studies (Pre-Professional)
Whittier Scholars Program ▶

Arts

Our arts faculty blends real-world experience with teaching excellence, made up of working professionals like Danilo Lozano (Music), a Grammy-award-winning Latin jazz artist. Located on the border of Los Angeles and Orange County, students can study at art galleries like LA's Museum of Contemporary Art, enjoy local musical and theatrical performances, or land competitive internships at film studios.

Humanities

The Liberal Arts offer a lot in the humanities. Our interactive and interdisciplinary curriculum deepens the experience as language, literature, history, and philosophy blend together. Professors like David Paddy (English), declared the 2006 California Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, balance fun with intellectual stimulation to excite students about learning.

Natural Sciences

Because of our small size and undergraduate focus, students work hands-on with professors. For example, Devin Jimoto (Biochemistry) does snake venom research with students, while Glenn Piner (Physics and Astronomy) recently discussed findings he and his students had made on The History Channel's The Universe. Students get published with faculty and share joint research



at conferences, putting Whittier grads well above their competition. Students interested in medicine should note that our acceptance rate to Medical School is almost twice the national average.

Social Sciences

Students in the social sciences learn by doing, benefitting from our closeness to Los Angeles and Orange County. Students can land choice internships in the business world, or study the cultural melting-pot first-hand. Students can even

learn abroad—for example, Professor Mike McBride (Political Science) works at the U.N. every summer in Geneva, and often takes students with him to intern.

Education

Whittier students can earn up to a Masters in Education. The Broadoaks School, our on-campus pre-school through 8th grade, offers students in Education and Child Development an excellent opportunity to work with children and prepare for careers in education.

Student Advising

College students have a lot to learn about themselves. Incoming students receive faculty mentors to help them choose classes and stay on track to graduate in four years. Students must declare majors by the end of sophomore year, when they choose a new advisor in that major. Be a sounding board for your child, and encourage them to try new things as they weigh their many options. ■



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Special Programs: Ways Your Child Can Get Involved

Study Abroad

Whittier students study abroad all over the world to experience different cultures and mindsets. About a quarter of Whittier's students study abroad for a semester or more. Encourage your child to be one of them.

Internships

Located on the border of Los Angeles and Orange County, Whittier is in a prime location for student internships. Landing one is a great way for your son or daughter to learn by doing, and to build a resume to prepare for life after college.

Career Services

Our Office of Career Planning helps students shape their resumes and transition into post-college life. They give career counseling and find leads for job opportunities. As your student nears graduation, make sure they consult with Career Planning.

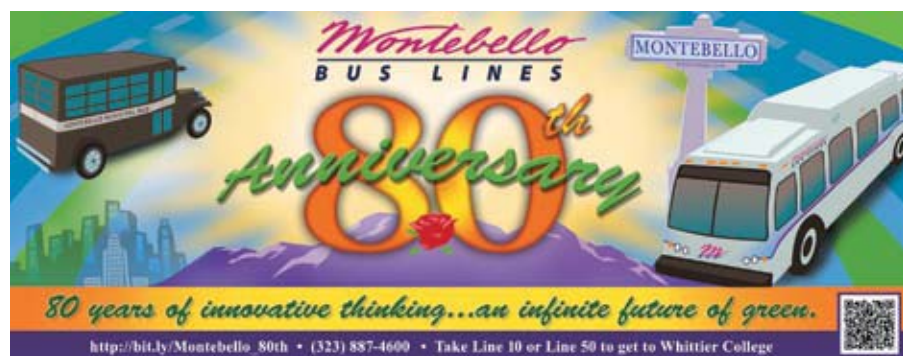
Athletics

Participating in athletics can be a great way to stay in shape, have fun, and meet people. We have 21 Division III athletics teams in the SCIAC conference. About 30-40% of Whittier's student body



Clubs and Organizations

There are over 60 clubs and Organizations on campus. Encourage your child to find something that fits their interests. There are academic honors societies, active groups like the Ski and Snowboard Club, ideological- and faith-based clubs like the Richard M. Nixon Republican Club, and our non-Greek version of fraternities and sororities, called Societies. ■



Student Support Services

Center for Advising and Academic Success

CAAS is a free service that helps all Whittier students achieve success. It helps students assess their strengths and weaknesses, and offers tutoring in all subjects. It also gives students a quiet, comfortable place to study.

Writing Center

The ability to convey ideas is a cornerstone to success. The Writing Center has designed curriculum for students to progressively develop their writing skills. They take College Writing Seminars as freshmen, Writing Intensive Courses throughout their studies, and finally write a significant paper within the major to display both writing skills and mastery of their subjects.

Disability Services

Whittier College strives to accommodate student needs. We give students the help they need. If your son or daughter would benefit from accommodations due to diagnosed physical or learning differences, speak with Disability Services.

Health Center

We recognize that college students need to live healthy lifestyles to be productive and happy. During the school year, the Health Center is staffed full-time, offering a range of services, from annual medical checkups and seasonal immunization shots to massages and nutritional counseling. ■

Residential Life

Our belief in a strong community comes from our Quaker heritage. There are seven residential halls at Whittier, and about three quarters of our students live in them. Students must live in the dorms unless they are seniors, 22 years old, or living locally with family. Buildings are co-ed. Most students live in double rooms, but there are a few singles, triples, and quads. Each student gets a bed, desk, chair, and chest of drawers. Single-sex bathrooms are shared by floor. All students can have cars on campus, with no parking fees. Drivers must register with campus safety. Residential and commuter parking lots are specified to reduce congestion.

Faculty Master Houses help form students-faculty bonds. Three Master homes are located on-campus, connected to residence halls, housing three professors. These professors host social events like movie and game nights, or talks when artists, experts, and authors like Ray Bradbury or Henry Kissinger visit campus. Annual events also bring students together. For example, during SportsFest, teams from each residence hall compete for fun and glory in athletic and pseudo-athletic events. ■



Admission and Financial Aid

Whittier College uses the Common Application, which can be completed online at www.commonapp.org. Students must apply by our priority deadlines to ensure eligibility. Families looking for financial aid should submit their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and Whittier College Basic Asset Data Sheet by March 2nd. 89% of our students receive financial assistance, and we allocate approximately \$16 million in institutional aid annually.

Let Your Child Take Charge

While your child works on college applications, be supportive without doing the work for them. Your child is about to set out on his or her own, and should be proactive. The process will be collaborative, especially when questions of financing come up, but encourage your child to follow through with each step responsibly.

Freshman Orientation

Freshman Orientation generally occurs the week of Labor Day. Students move into the residence halls that Monday, go through three days of orientation, and start classes on Thursday. Throughout the week, they bond with their Orientation Group of about 15 students, and learn the ropes of how college life works from their student Orientation Week Leaders.

The College Transition for Parents and Students

College-bound students are in for a lot of changes. They're living away from home for an extended period, probably for the first time. Feel free to call and check in, but not every night. They'll appreciate it. They'll probably need help setting things up, so help them pick up last-minute essentials like lamps, bedding, and bathroom caddies during move-in. We organize special events and Orientation Groups to help plug them in socially. Each Orientation Group lives in a residence hall bloc called a Living and Learning Community to help them bond throughout the year. Contact Lisa Bortman (lbortman@whittier.edu), Associate Dean of First-Year Programs, with questions



about the First-Year Experience.

Orientation may also be tough for you as parents. As exciting as it must be (with a brand new rec room just waiting to be built back home), letting go may be bittersweet. Make it a good trip. Have fun, and visit local landmarks like Disneyland and the beach. Make it a send-off to remember, and keep in mind that your child will be home soon, telling lots of stories about new friends. They'll just have to sleep on the couch, as their childhood room will now be filled with your newest toys and hobbies!

Campus Visits

We encourage prospective students and families to visit campus. Hour-long tours are available five days a week, so call the Office of Admission to schedule an appointment. Admission Counselors are available to meet students and families. During the school year, you can even schedule a class or an overnight visit with a current Whittier student to get the full college experience! Just call at least two weeks in advance. ■

Calendar 2011-2012

Whittier College operates on a semester system, with a three-week January mini-term in the middle. January Term is optional, but most students opt to take it because it's included in tuition, there are fun course offerings like "Tolkien and His Sources," and it helps fulfill graduation requirements. There are even some Jan Term classes that go abroad for the month! Students typically take four classes in the fall, one during January Term, and four classes in the spring. Students who follow this basic model and work with their advisors should have no problem graduating in four years.

Fall Semester

First-Year Move-In Day – 9/4
 Orientation Week – 9/4-9/7
 Classes Begin – 9/8
 Admission Event:
 Campus Day – 10/2
 Mid-Semester Break – 10/14
 Application Deadline:
 High School Honors
 Weekend – 10/15
 Campus Event: Homecoming/
 Whittier Weekend – 10/21-23
 Admission Event:
 High School Honors
 Weekend – 11/17-19
 Campus Event:
 SportsFest – 11/18-20
 Thanksgiving Break – 11/24-27
 Application Deadline:
 Early Action – 12/1
 Campus Event:
 Choir Holiday Dinner – 12/2-4
 Last Day of Courses – 12/9
 Finals – 12/13-16

January Term

Classes Begin – 1/3
 Martin Luther King Jr. Day – 1/16
 Last Day of Class/Finals – 1/23

Spring Semester

Classes Begin – 1/26
 Application Deadline:
 Regular Decision – 2/1
 Admission Event:
 Spring Scholars Open
 House – 2/20
 Spring Break – 3/26-30
 Admission Event:
 Admitted Students
 Reception – 4/15
 Campus Event:
 Family Weekend – 4/27-29
 Last Day of Courses – 5/1
 Finals – 5/3-7
 Campus Event:
 Commencement – 5/11 ■

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Frequently Asked Questions

Is Whittier safe?

Whittier College and the surrounding area are very safe. We are a suburb of LA, outside of its urban sprawl, and have a small college town feel. Campus Safety officers patrol the campus and provide escorts for students, faculty, staff, and visitors on request. We are located one block from the Whittier Police Department, and border a neighborhood called the Friendly Hills.

What do students do for fun?

There are always things to do in the area. Clubs, organizations, and societies host events like dances. Uptown Whittier, just a five-minute walk from campus, has

shops, restaurants, and a movie theatre that gives students 2-for-1 coupons. And we are located on the border of Los Angeles and Orange County; within a half hour drive, students can go to Disneyland, concerts, or the beach!

How can my child get plugged in socially?

We strive for a community atmosphere at Whittier. The Leadership Experience and Programming (LEAP) Office plans events and coordinates clubs and organizations, and is a great resource for students looking for a niche. Events at the three on-campus Faculty Master Houses are a great way to meet students and faculty. ■



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Helpful Websites

Common Application Facebook

- Johnny Poet
- Whittier College

www.commonapp.org

www.facebook.com/GoPoets

www.facebook.com/WhittierCollege

Twitter

- Admission
- Athletics
- Whittier College

<http://twitter.com/WCAdmission>

<http://twitter.com/wcpoets>

<http://twitter.com/whittiercollege>

Whittier College

Admission and Aid

www.whittier.edu

www.whittier.edu/AdmissionAndAid

Athletics

www.wcpoets.com

Broadoaks Children's School

<http://web.whittier.edu/broadoaks>

Events

<http://events.whittier.edu>

First-Year Experience

www.whittier.edu/Students/First-Year-Experience

Offices and Services

www.whittier.edu/OfficesAndServices

Parents and Families

www.whittier.edu/ParentsAndFamilies

Whittier Uptown Association

<http://whittieruptown.com> ■

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Helpful Phone Numbers

ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS

- Anthropology – (562) 907-4290
- Art and Art History – (562) 907-4255
- Biology – (562) 907-4941
- Business Administration – (562) 907-4256
- Chemistry – (562) 907-4498
- Child Development – (562) 907-4248
- Environmental Sciences – (562) 907-4451
- Economics – (562) 907-4256
- Education – (562) 907-4248
- English – (562) 907-4253
- History – (562) 907-4253
- Kinesiology and Nutrition Science – (562) 907-4269
- Mathematics – (562) 907-4513
- Modern Languages and Literature – (562) 907-4249
- Music – (562) 907-4237
- Philosophy – (562) 907-4243
- Physics – (562) 907-4513
- Political Science – (562) 907-4854
- Psychology – (562) 907-4291
- Religious Studies – (562) 907-4803
- Social Work – (562) 907-4290
- Sociology – (562) 907-4290
- Theatre Arts – (562) 907-4202
- Whittier Scholars Program – (562) 907-4243

COLLEGE OFFICES

- Academic Affairs – (562) 907-4204
- Acropolis (Yearbook) – (562) 907-4920
- Admission – (562) 907-4238
- Advancement – (562) 907-4219
- Alumni – (562) 907-4222
- Athletics – (562) 907-4271
- Bon Appetit – (562) 907-4257
- Bookstore – (562) 907-4251
- Broadoaks School – (562) 907-4250
- Business Office – (562) 907-4207
- Campus Safety – (562) 907-4211
- Career Planning – (562) 907-4230
- Center for Advising and Academic Success – (562) 907-4816
- Communication/PR – (562) 907-4974
- Conferences – (562) 907-4226
- Counseling Center – (562) 907-4239
- Cultural Center – (562) 907-4962
- Dean of Students – (562) 907-4233
- Development – (562) 907-4299
- Disability Services – (562) 907-4840
- Duplicating Services – (562) 907-4265
- Facilities – (562) 907-4261
- Fairchild Collection – (562) 907-4220
- Finance, VP for – (562) 907-4205
- Financial Aid – (562) 907-4285
- First Year Experience – (562) 464-4532
- Health Services – (562) 907-4400
- Human Resources – (562) 907-4208
- Information Technology – (562) 907-4287
- International Programs – (562) 464-4582
- Internships – (562) 464-4530
- Law School – 714-444-4141
- Library – (562) 907-4247
- Mailing Services – (562) 907-4265
- Maintenance – (562) 907-4261
- Media Center – (562) 907-4846
- Payroll – (562) 907-4272
- President – (562) 907-4201
- Public Information – (562) 907-4974
- Quaker Campus (Newspaper) – (562) 907-4254
- Registrar – (562) 907-4241
- Residential Life – (562) 907-4223
- Shannon Center – (562) 907-4203
- Sports Information – (562) 907-4212
- Student Activities (LEAP Office) – (562) 907-4986
- Student Government – (562) 907-4876
- Study Abroad – (562) 464-4582
- Summer Programs – (562) 907-4226
- Telecommunications – (562) 907-5000
- Wardman Library – (562) 907-4247
- Writing Program – (562) 907-4334