

A Day in the Life of the Westmont Community During Covid-19



Breakfast

Behind masks and Plexiglas, students picked up pre-packaged food from workers in the Dining Commons, taking it outside or back to their room to eat. Safety protocols dramatically altered food service throughout the year.

“One of my favorite adjustments that Westmont has made in light of the pandemic has been outdoor seating. I love getting the opportunity to enjoy the California sun, our gorgeous campus, while still getting to build a community (COVID-safe) with people.”

- Phoebe Lu, WAC



Virtual Chapel

Unable to meet together and worship in the gym, students attended chapel virtually throughout the year. Campus Pastor Scott Lisea presented a wide variety of speakers who covered a range of topics to encourage, inform and bless the students and provide a sense of community.



“Our teachers have really gone above and beyond to try to engage with us and teach us relevant information.”

- Joanna Martin, Orientation Committee



“I’ve appreciated all the Zoom events. I’m part of WCSA, and it’s been really cool to see how much interaction we have with our events—we’re so far apart, but we’re so connected. I’ve listened to a lot of people I might not normally listen to. It’s been good this year to slow down. It’s forced me to appreciate nature more. And I’ve been able to connect with so many great minds via Zoom.”

- Tobi Oyeade, WCSA Senator



Class & Zoom

Students attended some classes outdoors under tents and others by Zoom. As county and state restrictions eased, some classes moved back indoors in spaces permitting social distancing. All campus events, including lectures, discussions, concerts, plays and fun activities occurred virtually.





Residence Halls

Students moved into the residence halls at the end of September and safely lived on campus throughout the academic year. Protocols required only two students per room and specified layouts that kept them as far apart as possible. Roommates formed a “pod” and took off their masks when in their room. Plexiglas partitions in the bathrooms and other areas and regular, rigorous cleaning protected the residents.



“It’s been great to see relationships flourish, especially roommate relationships. I’ve observed this in roommates having dancing parties with each other in their room, blasting music throughout the day (and blasting music late into the night as well!). It’s been great food for the soul—great hope for the soul—to see these relationships form. As a resident assistant, so far I’ve had the privilege of being part of a community that has continued to thrive in the midst of difficult situations.”

- James Lopez, Resident Assistant

“Another thing I’ve appreciated this past year is enjoying Santa Barbara outdoors. We live here and we go to school here, but sometimes it’s easy to just stay in the Westmont community. But because of COVID, we’ve had to find different ways to stay active in COVID-friendly ways.”

- Tobi Oyeade, WCSA Senator



Frisbee Golf

Outdoor activities like Frisbee golf continued with small groups of students wearing masks and practicing social distancing. They also ventured outside to explore Westmont’s wooded campus and follow the Willis Trail.



Santa Barbara Beaches

With mountains trails in their backyard and the beach a short drive away, students found recreation throughout the year. Santa Barbara closed part of State Street and allowed restaurants to set up tables on the tarmac, drawing many diners downtown.





Lab and Studio Classes

Science students simply need to spend time in the lab, and state and county guidelines allowed a limited number of students to work there with masks and social distancing. Art students also took studio classes indoors with similar restrictions. Fortunately, many of Westmont's art classrooms have windows that open to the outside like garage doors, creating excellent ventilation.



The Arts

Music, theater and the Westmont Ridley-Tree Museum of Art found new audiences online as they created innovative and engaging virtual events, filming a series of concerts and plays and offering art workshops via Zoom.



"I came in as a transfer student, and I really wanted the typical college experience. I was so afraid that COVID would steal that. In just over six months, I've been in an opera, become an outreach coordinator and joined the Orientation Committee. I'm leading a really fun Capax Dei group. On top of that, of course, I'm a full-time student."

- Joanna Martin, Orientation Committee



Athletics

Seasons started late, games got cancelled when opponents tested positive, and fall sports played during the spring. Athletes endured frequent COVID-19 tests. But the Warriors took to the field and the court and competed with heart and spirit despite the absence of fans to cheer for them. Nearly all the teams qualified for national tournaments, and the women's basketball team brought home their second national title.



"I had no idea what it was going to be like coming to college. I thought that things were going to reset; I was going to be 'fresh meat' again! But that's not how it was at all. I was only met by kindness from the sophomores, juniors and seniors. They're always willing to give me rides and take me to coffee and go off campus and make sure that my experience was close to the one they got. So between the waves, the mountains, having a new job and just this amazing special community that we have up here at Westmont, my freshman year has been more than I could ever ask for."

- Eden Lawson, Westmont Leadership Development Program