

## A Summary of Program Sizes at Westmont

Rick Ostrander, November 2021

The size of academic programs is an important but sometimes overlooked aspect of a college. My main area of responsibility at Westmont is innovation and new program development, but I also care about the general academic health of the college; hence my attention to this issue. Moreover, sometimes appropriate innovation means doing less, not doing more.

The chart below summarizes Westmont's majors and minors. The purpose of the Wheaton columns is to not imply that Westmont should be like Wheaton, but simply to provide an external frame of reference from an institution with a similar liberal arts emphasis. Additional comparisons will be forthcoming in the future. Obviously, required credit hours are only one aspect of a program's overall expectations and educational activities. Some modest reduction in program sizes, however, could produce several benefits, such as making it easier for students to study abroad, to double-major, and to graduate on time. In particular, it may benefit Humanities departments, which often rely on double-majors, and Westmont's off-campus programs, which depend on students' ability to fit such programs into their degree plan.

Major	BA hours	BS/Prof. hours	Wheaton	Minor hours	Wheaton	Notes
Art	59		42	24	19	hours are averaged
Art/Art History	49		35	24	19	
Biology	48	64	52	20	20	
Chemistry	46	60	52	20	20	BS hours are averaged
Communication	48		32	24	20	
Computer Science	44	56		20		
Data Analytics		56				
Econ/Business	53		44	24	20	
Engineering		86		24		
Engineering Physics	48	60				
English	40		40	20	20	
Environmental St.				20		
Ethnic Studies				24		
Film Studies				20		
Gender Studies				24		
Global Studies				26		
History	40		36	20	20	
Kinesiology		51-79		24		
Liberal Studies/Ed.						
Math	46	54	36-48	24	20	
Music	48-58		52	24		
Philosophy	36		32	20	20	
Political Science	48	68	38	24	20	
Psychology	48	60	36	24	20	
Religious Studies	48		32	20	16	
Sociology	46		40	24	20	
Social Science	48					
Spanish/Language	40		32	20	20	
Theatre Arts	44	60		24		
<b>Average</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>22.3</b>		
<b>Norms</b>	<b>36-40</b>	<b>48-54</b>		<b>18-21</b>		