

A Summary of Program Sizes at Westmont

Rick Ostrander, January 2022

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. 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.

While not seeking to be overly-prescriptive, perhaps Academic Senate could approve a resolution such as the following:

In order to provide sufficient flexibility in the liberal arts curriculum, Academic Senate encourages departments to limit the required units for minors to 20. Furthermore, while we recognize that it may be less feasible for some departments to reduce the size of their majors than for others, Academic Senate encourages departments to consider whether their major requirements merit some reduction in required units.

| Major | Westmont BA | Westmont BS | Wheaton | Calvin BA | Calvin BS | Occidental | Westmont Minor | Wheaton | Calvin | Occidental |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Art | 59 (avg.) | | 42 | 57 | | | 24 | 19 | | |
| Art/Art History | 49 | | 35 | 30 | | 48 | 24 | 19 | 21 | 20 |
| Biology | 48 | 64 | 52 | 34-35 | 59-68 | 60 | 20 | 20 | 23-24 | 20 |
| Chemistry | 46 | 60 (avg.) | 52 | 32-34 | 53-54 | 57 | 20 | 20 | 24-26 | 24 |
| Communication | 48 | | 32 | 32 | | | 24 | 20 | | |
| Computer Science | 44 | 56 | | | 48-49 | 48 | 20 | | 18-22 | 24 |
| Data Analytics | | 56 | | | | | | | 17-21 | |
| Econ/Business | 53 | | 44 | | 35-37 | 40 | 24 | 20 | 19-20 | 28 |
| Engineering | | 86 | | | 42-44 | | 24 | | | |
| Engineering Physics | 48 | 60 | | | 45 | 56-64 | | | 20 | |
| English | 40 | | 40 | 45 | | 44 | 20 | 20 | 20-24 | 20 |
| Environmental St. | | | | 35 | | | 20 | | | |
| Ethnic Studies | | | | | | | 24 | | | |
| Film Studies | | | | 30-31 | | | 20 | | 19-23 | |
| Gender Studies | | | | | | | 24 | | 18 | |
| Global Studies | | | | | | | 26 | | | |
| History | 40 | | 36 | 33 | | 40 | 20 | 20 | 21 | |
| Kinesiology | | 51-79 | | | | 57 | 24 | | | 22-24 |
| Liberal Studies/Ed. | | | | | | | | | | |
| Math | 46 | 54 | 36-48 | 34-35 | 53-56 | 44 | 24 | 20 | 22-23 | 20 |
| Music | 48-58 | | 52 | 43 | | 47 | 24 | | 23 | 20 |
| Philosophy | 36 | | 32 | 33 | | 40 | 20 | 20 | 18 | 20 |
| Political Science | 48-68 | | 38 | 36 | | 44 | 24 | 20 | 21 | 20 |
| Psychology | 48 | 60 | 36 | 34 | 58 | 48 | 24 | 20 | 18 | |
| Religious Studies | 48 | | 32 | 33 | | 40 | 20 | 16 | 18 | 20 |
| Sociology | 46 | | 40 | 34 | | 44 | 24 | 20 | 21 | 20 |
| Social Science | 48 | | | 34-37 | | | | | | |
| Spanish/Language | 40 | | 32 | 36 | | 44 | 20 | 20 | | |
| Theatre Arts | 44-60 | | | | | 44 | 24 | | | 20 |
| Average | 46 | 61 | 40 | 36 | 50 | 47 | 22.3 | 19.6 | 20.6 | 21.3 |
| Norms | 36-40 | 48-54 | 32-44 | 32-36 | 45-53 | 40-44 | 18-21 | 19-20 | 18-22 | 20-22 |