

Urbaninitiative PARTICIPANT COVENANT | SPRING 2022

"Urban Initiative is dedicated to developing a Christ-centered heart for ministry and service at Westmont by raising awareness about urban issues and mobilizing students in thoughtful response." Urban Initiative Mission Statement

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF THE PROGRAM

Essential Elements. Westmont College wants to ensure that all participants are able to meet the "essential elements" of the program. All participants must be able to meet these requirements, either with or without reasonable accommodations, regardless of their health condition and regardless of whether they have a disability. The College will provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities who request them in order help students meet the essential elements listed below and successfully participate in the program.

College-wide expectations. All students traveling must:

- be in good academic standing at Westmont or another college or university in which the student is enrolled. Students on academic probation or suspension at Westmont or another college/university are not eligible for a Westmont College sponsored travel program.
- be in good standing with the Student Life Office. Students on disciplinary probation or suspension are not eligible for travel programs.
- agree to follow the Westmont Community Life Statement standards while abroad, any additional student conduct standards adopted by the particular service abroad program in which the student is a participant, and local laws.
- comply in a timely manner with all travel preparation protocols including, but not limited to, attending weekly pre-trip orientation class, completing all assigned preparation tasks, and fulfilling fundraising commitments, etc.

Program-Specific Essential Elements. The following program-specific essential element(s) may be used to evaluate applicants.

New Students: First Years and Transfers

As a freshman or new transfer student your acceptance to Urban Initiative is conditional upon your attaining a minimum GPA of 2.00 for the fall semester. By signing and dating below you are giving permission to the Records/Registrar's Office to release your academic information to CLO Staff for verification purposes after your fall grades have been finalized.

Signed _____ Date _____

Returning Students:

To be accepted into Urban Initiative you need a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.00 *and* cannot be on academic probation during the spring semester of orientation. By signing and dating below you are stating that you meet these academic requirements and give permission to the Records/Registrar's Office to release this information to CLO staff for verification purposes.

Signed _____ Date _____

I. Statement of Personal Commitment

I am aware that the Community Life Statement as stated in the Westmont College Catalog is fully in effect for the entire program starting January 2022 and ending May 2022. I also agree to comply with the standards of our hosts while a program participant. If in the judgment of the staff program director I fail to live by either set of standards, I may be sent home at any time at my own expense and with the forfeiture of program costs already incurred.

I will familiarize myself and comply in a timely manner with the travel policies, protocols, schedules and standards established by Westmont College and the specific program for which I am applying. This includes attendance at all mandatory college-wide and program sponsored pre-trip orientations and paying my trip account in full (if applicable) by the payment due date – see support model section below. I understand that my failure to comply at any point in the preparation process may disqualify me from the program and may result in the forfeiture of deposits and other charges. I will also sign and fulfill all terms of the *Urban Initiative Assumption of Risk, Release and Participation Agreement* prior to departure.

II. Consent for Release of Information

I authorize the Registrar and Deans of Student Life to access and review my academic and judicial records at Westmont College and any higher education institution that I have attended. Furthermore, I authorize the release of information contained within any health/emergency forms submitted in preparation for this travel program to my physician, program leaders, Westmont College officials, the foreign host institution or third party provider (if applicable), the hosts (if applicable) to inform and discuss reasonable accommodations and/or to deal with any health related emergency that directly concerns me or involves me in any way, shape, or form while participating on this trip.

III. Global Ministry and Service Covenant

I will constantly strive to mirror the attitude that was modeled in the life of Jesus Christ (Philippians 2:3-11). I commit to serve - with a heart of love - all teams, members, our in-country partners, and those that I come in contact with during the Spring as our Community Life Statement affirms.

IV. Spring Orientation & Debrief Sessions

- **Bi- Weekly Pre-Orientation Class**
I will attend the bi-weekly orientation sessions scheduled by my team-leaders.
- **Bi- Weekly Pre-Orientation Class**
I will attend the bi-weekly debrief class scheduled by my team-leaders.

V. Finances

Urban Initiative is committed to working alongside all participants to raise the necessary support needed for their upcoming trips. That said...

1. Personal Investment of Resources

I understand that there will be one initial contribution – the \$175 registration fee – due on November 29, 2022. *Please make this check payable to “Westmont College” and designate “Urban Initiative” in the memo line.*

- Check this box if you would like to have this fee charged to your student account. *By checking this box, you affirm that you have notified and received approval from the person responsible for paying this account.*

2. Personal Investment of Time & Energy: Required Fundraisers

I will willingly participate in all designated fundraisers, which include:

- **Support Letters** - I will submit a list of 25 to 50 names/addresses to whom prayer & financial solicitation letters will be sent in January. I will be responsible to write a portion of the letter and compile addresses in advance of the Support Letter Stuffing Session particular to your team. Urban Initiative will supply sample letters and cover the costs for postage, letterhead, envelopes, etc.
- **Home Church Support Letter &/or Visit(s)** - I agree to contact a leader from my local church to inform him/her of my Urban Initiative team and explore ways that the church might support Urban Initiative financially and through prayer.
- **Follow-up Calls** - I agree to initiate contact with at least 10 people from my support letter address list through phone calls (or email) after the letters have been mailed out to further inform and answer questions regarding my upcoming Urban Initiative opportunity.
- **Photo Post Cards** – I agree to send an additional Urban Initiative postcard with a photo of my team to my entire list of financial and prayers supporters in March. Urban Initiative will provide the postcards for this mailing event.

3. Prior to Departure

Each team member with a *negative personal balance* will be required to submit a check in the amount of that balance prior to departure.

Please know that we do not want individuals to feel they cannot participate in this ministry for financial reasons. If you think this commitment will be an issue for you, please come in to the Campus Life Office and make an appointment with the Assistant Director of Campus Life for Ministry and Outreach – Jennie Fuentes- - to discuss other options. DO NOT REMOVE yourself from the process prior to meeting to discuss your particular circumstances and options.

Also, if you are unable to attend or if you choose to not attend after you have started receiving donations, the funds collected will be used to support others to go on a trip.

VI. REAL ID

It is my responsibility to cover the costs of a new REAL ID (for those traveling to outside of California) for my spring travels and I realize that I have to apply for my REAL ID during the Fall Semester and submit proof of application with my registration fee on November 29th, 2022.

VII. Immunizations

I understand that in order to participate in SBIC, I have to be COVID-19 vaccinated.

VII. Spring Team & Individual Debrief

I will attend a *Urban Initiative Bi-Weekly Debrief* sessions to be held once we return – dates TBA. I understand that I will be required to complete an online evaluation, share photographs and stories of my spring experience with the Westmont community, and meet with the Assistant Director of Campus Life for Ministry and Outreach, Faculty/Staff Mentors, and/or UI core team to give feedback and process my experience. *Note: The Assistant Director of Campus Life for Ministry and Outreach and Urban Initiative Core Team will utilize the information you provide in your evaluation while making decisions about ministry partners and programming for next year.*

Print Name

Signature

Date

Permission for trip participation by parent/guardian (required for students under 18 years of age)

_____	_____
Print Name	Relationship to applicant
_____	_____
Signature	Date

Please upload this covenant and picture of your REAL ID to your application – and should you choose to pay your own registration fee, then please drop off fee by November 29th, 2022 to the Urban Initiative office (2nd Floor, Kerr Student Center) - should you be accepted.

If you have any questions, feel free to email urban_initiative@westmont.edu