

Free or Low-Cost Summer Programs for Underrepresented Students

Adroit Summer Mentorship Program

An **entirely free** online program that pairs experienced writers with high school and secondary students (as of the current academic year) interested in learning more about the creative writing processes of drafting, redrafting and editing.

<https://theadroitjournal.org/about/mentorship/>

Alpha Young Writers' Workshop

A 12-day workshop designed for young writers interested in writing science fiction, fantasy, and/or horror. Students will have the opportunity to learn about writing and publication, work through the writing process, and will end the workshop by sending their story off at Alpha's submission party.

<http://alpha.spellcaster.org/>

Babson Summer Study for High School Students

Babson's Summer Study is a six-week residential program for rising high school juniors and seniors where students experience start-up life on a college campus while they earn college credit and use entrepreneurial thinking to solve real-world challenges.

<https://www.babson.edu/admission/visiting-student-programs/high-school-students/>

Brandeis Pre-College Programs

Courses ranging from 4 days to 2 1/2 weeks exploring a range of topics at this Boston-area campus. Programs focus on pressing issues of our time. **Scholarships available** for underrepresented students in need.

<https://www.brandeis.edu/precollege/index.html>

Caminos al Futuro

This 3-week program at George Washington University in Washington DC is for motivated rising seniors. The program cultivates leadership potential in students who want to shape the political, economic and social issues that affect Hispanic and Latin communities. Students will earn three college credits. Admissions is competitive and applicants will be evaluated based on their academic merit and record of service and leadership within Hispanic or Latinx communities. The program is **entirely free** and the application fee will be waived. Students must select the "3-Week College Intensive" in the program information section and then choose "Caminos al Futuro" under course choices.

<https://summer.gwu.edu/caminos>

Camp 4 College Kenyon (Kenyon College)

Help rising juniors and seniors prepare for and apply to college. The program uses the disciplines of neuroscience, history, English composition and the visual arts to develop critical thinking, reading, writing, and oral presentation skills.

<https://www.kenyon.edu/directories/offices-services/kenyon-academic-partnership/camp-4/>

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Camp Psych

At Gettysburg College, Camp Psych provides rising high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors a window into how psychological science works. Campers will receive hands-on experiences, learn about cutting edge issues, and engage in research themselves.

<https://www.gettysburg.edu/academic-programs/psychology/student-opportunities/camp-psych/>

Camp Rising Sun

For over 80 years, Louis August Jonas Foundation has been committed to helping young people grow intellectually, ethically, and globally. We do this by operating Camp Rising Sun, our **full-scholarship**, summer leadership program for teenagers from more than 30 different countries and 10 U.S. states. Each summer, 60 young men and 60 young women practice leadership skills in a supportive community of peers and counselors. (Attracts some amazing people, and it looks like it's a way to build lifelong relationships.)

<http://www.lajf.org/#>

Carleton Liberal Arts Experience

FREE summer program for rising high school juniors designed to introduce to the strength of liberal arts, for top 25% of class. Courses explore the liberal arts college education through classes in science, art, social studies, and technology. (African American students encouraged to apply).

<https://www.carleton.edu/admissions/visit/clae/>

Carlton Pre-College

Summer opportunities range from course offerings that explore the Arts and Humanities to those investigating the Social and Natural Sciences. Each course is designed to give students exposure to three topic areas, unified under one theme, and a research experience. **Need-based scholarships** are available.

<https://www.carleton.edu/summer/pre-college/>

Carnegie Mellon Summer Academy for Math and Science

Take course in mathematics or science for college credit and get support in applying for college. Program for students with strong interest in STEM, 3.0 average or above, meeting one or more of these categories: low-income, raised in a home where English is a second language, first gen, or attend a high school with historically low rates of selective college attendance. There is **no program tuition, housing, or dining fees**. Students will have to pay for transportation, books and supplies, and recreational expenses.

<https://www.cmu.edu/pre-college/academic-programs/sams.html#applicationrequirements>

Carnegie Mellon Summer Programs

Six-week programs in a variety of disciplines at a great university in Pittsburgh. Courses range from Arts and Humanities to Biology. **Scholarships are need-based and first come, first served.**

<https://www.cmu.edu/pre-college/academic-programs/index.html>

Catalyst

CATALYST Academy is a one-week residential program at Cornell University for rising high school juniors and seniors from underrepresented backgrounds who desire to learn about engineering and careers within an interactive milieu. **Scholarships** for tuition and travel are available upon demonstrated need.

<https://sites.coecis.cornell.edu/catalystacademy/>

Civil War Institute

Attend the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania, join conference sessions and interact with historians and policymakers. Students will engage with professionals in a dialogue about Civil War era history, learning through a multitude of disciplines.

<https://www.gettysburg.edu/civil-war-institute/>

Colorado State University Native Education Forum

The Native Education Forum is a 5-day summer program for rising high school juniors and seniors. Students will gain university classroom experience, earn one academic credit, research issues critical to Native American/indigenous communities and get valuable assistance from professionals in the university application process. The program is entirely **free**, although students are responsible for their own travel fees and spending money.

<https://admissions.colostate.edu/nef/>

Colorado State University Black Issues Forum

This 4-day summer program provides rising high school seniors a vehicle to demonstrate their written and oral communication skills and to enhance their leadership potential. Participants will have the opportunity to interact with university faculty, staff and currently enrolled students as they discuss and evaluate the important issues of today that affect the black community at the local, state, national and/or global level. The program is entirely **free**, although students are responsible for their own travel fees and spending money.

<https://admissions.colostate.edu/bif/>

Cronkite Institute for High School Journalism

For two weeks every summer, the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication brings top-performing high school students to ASU for two weeks of intensive, hands-on experiences in broadcast and digital journalism. **Programming, food and housing paid for.**

<https://cronkite.asu.edu/outreach/summer-journalism-institute>

Curie Academy

One-week program for rising junior and senior girls interested in learning about engineering at Cornell University. **Full tuition waiver possible** for underrepresented minorities and first generation college students who meet a particular GPA or Test Score.

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<https://sites.coecis.cornell.edu/curieacademy/>

Dartmouth Bound

Three-day program in July designed to provide high school seniors from historically underrepresented backgrounds and communities with an opportunity to preview college by immersion in student life at Dartmouth. Participants will live in a Dartmouth residence hall and will attend workshops on the admissions and financial aid processes.

<https://admissions.dartmouth.edu/visit/visitation-programs/dartmouth-bound-summer-program>

Davidson Experience

Join other students from across the United States and around the world and take two courses taught by full-time Davidson faculty, live in residence halls, and attend workshops about the college admission process. Limited financial aid is awarded based on either academic achievement or needs basis.

<https://www.davidson.edu/offices-and-services/july-experience>

ESPR

Program for Mathematically Gifted Students at London's King's College. It is a 10-day program focused on applied rationality and covers a wide range of topics from game theory, to mathematical logic, to cognitive science. The program is **free** but takes place in the United Kingdom, although **need-based travel scholarships** are available.

<https://espr-camp.org/>

Gakko Project

Gakko brings together teams of driven individuals to design two-week summer camps for high schoolers. At each camp, sempai (the college students facilitating the camp) invite the kohai (high school students) to participate in a given investigation, that allows them to experience the world in a completely unique way. The summer camp covers six disciplines taught by six mentors: design, technology, theatre, new media/film, music, and social innovation. **Limited need-based scholarships** are available.

<https://www.gakko.org/camps>

Henry Clay Center for Statesmanship High School Student Congress

The High School Student Congress is a **free**, immersive high school summer program for students interested in politics, leadership and public policy. Fifty rising high school seniors are selected to attend the week-long academic summer program.

<http://henryclaycenter.org/high-school-student-congress/>

HOBY (Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Summit)

HOBY's World Leadership Congress is a five-day program that immerses students in college-level discussion focusing on individual, communal, national, and global leadership. The program is designed to help students see themselves as part of a bigger community and to become cognizant leaders and active global citizens. **Limited scholarships** are offered on both a merit and needs basis.

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<https://www.hoby.org/programs/world-leadership-congress/>

Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program

A **paid summer internship** program for high school students to engage, inspire and diversify the next generation of fisheries professionals. The program is geared towards high schoolers with an interest in biology. Work close to home and with a mentor.

<https://hutton.fisheries.org/>

Inspiring Girls Expeditions

Each year we select expedition teams of 8-9 teenage girls and three instructors to spend 12 days exploring and learning about a remote wilderness environment. Through scientific field studies with our team of professional scientists, artists, and wilderness guides, you will build critical thinking skills, gain self-confidence, and make lasting friendships. The expeditions are **tuition-free** programs.

<https://inspiring-girls.squarespace.com/about-apply>

Katie School of Insurance and Risk Management: Midwest High School Scholars Analytic Academy for Underrepresented Groups

The one-week Illinois program is designed especially for academically talented African-American, Hispanic, and Native American high school students who excel in mathematics, enjoy learning, and like to solve complicated problems. The program is completely **free** and each student admitted is given \$100 to help cover costs of travel and other expenses.

<https://business.illinoisstate.edu/katie/outreach/minority.shtml>

Kenyon Young SCIENCE Writers Workshop (Kenyon College)

Two-week workshop at a liberal arts college with a nationally recognized history in creative writing. The workshop blends together writing and science. The program is for high schoolers who enjoy science, environmental studies, and writing creatively. Must be between 16 and 18 at the time of the program.

<https://kenyonreview.org/workshops/young-science-writers/>

Kenyon Young Writer Workshop (Kenyon College)

Two-week workshop at a liberal arts college with a strong history in creative writing. This workshop is for high school students who are motivated and will help them develop their critical and creative abilities, in turn helping them grow as a writer. Must be between 16 and 18 at the time of the program.

<https://kenyonreview.org/workshops/young-writers/>

LEAD

The Summer Business Institute (SBI) program is LEAD's longest-running summer institute and is considered the "flagship" program. The SBI program exposes scholars to business principles and the skill sets needed for successful business careers. The program challenges them through

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applied learning experiences often facilitated by college professors, links scholars to corporate executives in business fields and peers with similar aspirations and abilities. During LEAD, SBI scholars reside and attend classes on campus at a select number of the nation's top business schools for three or four weeks. SBIs provide diverse, high-achieving rising high school seniors the opportunity to explore finance, entrepreneurship, accounting and marketing, among other business sectors.

<https://leadprogram.org>

Math Camp

Five-week math intensive summer program. At Math Camp, students can explore undergraduate and even graduate-level topics while building problem-solving skills that will help them in any field they choose to study. Admission is based on a qualifying quiz. **Free for families with income below \$65K** (including travel grants), modest sliding scale above that.

https://www.mathcamp.org/about_mathcamp/

MIT Beaver Works Summer Institute

A rigorous, world-class, free STEM program for talented rising high-school seniors and future engineers. To apply you need to have made progress on an online course. **Fee waivers are available**, no cost for program for family income under \$90K partial waivers up to \$130k.

<https://beaverworks.ll.mit.edu/CMS/bw/BWSI>

MITES

Minority Introduction to Engineering and Science (MITES) is a rigorous six-week residential academic enrichment program for rising high school seniors – many of whom come from underrepresented or underserved communities – who have a strong academic record and are interested in studying and exploring careers in science and engineering.

<https://oeop.mit.edu/programs/mites/program-details>

MIT Launch

Selective four-week entrepreneurship program and start-up incubator aimed at providing a collaborative environment where high school students can study and apply their passions toward creating initiatives or organizations.

<https://launchx.com/about-us/>

MIT Women's Technology Program in Mechanical or Computer Engineering

A four-week residential summer program in the MIT Department of Mechanical Engineering to introduce high school girls to the principles and ideas of mechanical engineering. Not connected with MIT admissions. Free under \$90k income. The program is **free**, with students paying for their transportation to and from MIT.

<http://wtp.mit.edu/>

Northwestern University College Prep

Northwestern College Prep offers a wide variety of courses ranging from three to ten weeks depending on the course you choose. Students can take more than one course and may take them for credit. The for-credit option enables you to take classes with NW students.

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<https://sps.northwestern.edu/college-preparation/>

Notre Dame Leadership Seminars

Notre Dame Leadership Seminars is a competitive, **all expenses paid**, college-credit granting program for high school juniors. The Leadership Seminars explore topics affecting the global community. The course is centered around vibrant discussion and a robust exchange of ideas. Students will have to pay for travel themselves. <https://precollege.nd.edu/leadership-seminars/>

Physics of Atomic Nuclei (PAN)

PAN is a free, week-long, outreach program for students interested in learning the fundamentals of atomic nuclei in connection to astrophysics and cosmology in two of the world's leading nuclear physics laboratories: the Nuclear Science Laboratory at the University of Notre Dame and the National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory at the University of Michigan.

<https://www.jinaweb.org/educational-outreach/physics-atomic-nuclei-pan/>

Princeton Summer Journalism

The Princeton Summer Journalism Program (PSJP) is one of the only programs of its kind offering a **free**, innovative residential journalism and college prep institute for high-achieving high school juniors from low-income backgrounds. Over ten days every summer, up to 40 students from across the country explore current events and world affairs through workshops and lectures led by Princeton professors, professional journalists, and alumni on campus.

<https://psjp.princeton.edu/about-program/program/summer-program>

Promys

Six-week summer program at Boston University designed to encourage strongly motivated high school students to explore in depth the creative world of mathematics in a supportive community of peers, counselors, research mathematicians, and visiting scientists. **Full and partial need-based scholarships** available as well as several **merit scholarships**.

<https://promys.org/program>

Questbridge College Prep Program

Free summer program that equips high-achieving high school juniors from low-income backgrounds with the knowledge, confidence, and resources to apply to top colleges. The program awards scholarships and personalized feedback and mentoring. Who should apply? Outstanding Juniors with low income (most below \$65), SAT >1280, ACT 27, top ten percent of class, and AP/IB/Honors courses.

<https://www.questbridge.org/high-school-students/college-prep-scholars>

REEX/LEAD

During this 12-day residential immersion experience, REEX/LEAD scholars will engage with top academic faculty and professionals in the commercial real estate industry at Baker Program for Real Estate (Cornell University), Center for Real Estate (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Herbert Business School (University of Miami), and Marshall Bennett Institute of Real Estate (Roosevelt University). Scholars will participate in experiential learning activities through both

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hands-on instruction, case studies, site visits and competitive pitch presentations—challenging themselves during the LEADing For Life Challenge phase to identify and develop industry enterprise ideas designed to make meaningful change in the world. **Limited scholarships available.**

https://leadprogram.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=431556&type=d

Rensselaer PREFACE Summer Program

PREFACE is a two-week residential summer experience at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute for talented rising juniors and seniors. It is open to students from groups that have been historically and traditionally underrepresented or under-served in science, engineering and technological fields and are interested in pursuing careers in engineering and technological professions.

Financial aid is available.

<https://info.rpi.edu/pre-college-initiatives/preface-rensselaer-summer-engineering-design-program>

Research Science Institute (RSI)

RSI is the first **cost-free** to students, summer science & engineering program to combine on-campus course work in scientific theory with off-campus work in science and technology research. Students gather at MIT for the 6-week-long program where they will experience the entire research cycle from start to finish.

<https://www.cee.org/research-science-institute>

Reynolds Young Writer Workshop

At Denison University in Ohio, it's an eight-day residential program that incorporates small creative writing workshops, group sessions with creative writing faculty and notable visiting writers, and much more. Rising juniors and seniors will experience writing workshops, one-on-one interactions with professionals, and a close-knit community of writing mentors and peers.

<https://reynolds.denison.edu/about/>

SCS Noonan Scholars Summer Academy

Summer Academy's non-graded Calculus and English writing courses have been traditionally taught by college professors from Amherst College, Emerson College, MIT, Smith, UCLA and USC. Assessments determine students' math competency at entry, and students are grouped accordingly to maximize learning. The whole-group instruction is complemented by multiple hours of small-group practice led by teaching assistants. Rising high school juniors and rising college freshmen should apply. The program is **100% free** and students will receive a \$500 stipend and new laptop.

<https://www.scsnoonan.org/programs/summer-academy/>

Smith Science and Engineering Program

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Now in its 31st year, the Smith Summer Science and Engineering Program (SSEP) is a four-week residential program for exceptional young women with strong interests in science and engineering. You will engage in hands-on research with Smith faculty in life and physical sciences and in engineering.

<https://www.smith.edu/academics/precollege-programs/ssep>

St. Albans School of Public Service

DC summer programs for rising seniors interested in politics, journalism, etc. Meetings with Supreme Court Justices, reporters, ambassadors. During this 4-week program students will use the case study method to learn about and debate a range of controversial public policy issues.

Financial aid is available.

<https://www.stalbansschool.org/About/School-of-Public-Service>

Stanford University Mathematics Camp

A summer camp that focuses on pure mathematical enrichment for students interested in developing a more fundamental base in mathematics. This 3-week program for rising high school juniors and seniors is focused on immersing students in a community of peers who share curiosity and mathematical talent. There is an entrance exam and there are **scholarships available**.

<http://sumac.stanford.edu/>

St. Johns College

Our summer program for high school students (ages 15 to 18) is modeled after St. John's discussion-based, interdisciplinary method of teaching the great books. A hands-on introduction to college life, our program helps students hone their reading, critical thinking, and discussion skills. The week-long programs are located in either Annapolis or Santa Fe. **Limited financial aid** is available.

<https://www.sjc.edu/summer-academy>

Student Conservation Association

Limited opportunities to serve on a National Conservation Crew (there are no local or regional crews in our area). You'll be building trails, conserving vital habitats, and protecting natural resources for future generations. National Crews will also set you on the path to other SCA opportunities, like conservation internships and team-based corps positions. **Fee and transportation waivers available.** 2 to 5 weeks during the summer.

<https://www.thesca.org/serve/national-crews>

Summer programs for underrepresented students at U. Chicago

UChicago also **hosts scholarship programs** for students engaged in Hispanic/Latino communities, students who identify as Black/African American, and students whose parents are police officers or firefighters, to provide enhanced financial, academic, and social support in our Summer Session programs. Students selected for each of the scholarship programs will be able to participate in a Summer Session course free of charge. All costs – inclusive of tuition and room

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and board – will be covered by the scholarship. All programs provide selected students with additional programming and workshops outside of class related to admissions and success in college. Participation in co-curricular programming is required of all scholarship students.

<https://summer.uchicago.edu/scholarship-programs>

Summer Science Program

Really rigorous summer program in astrophysics or biochem. For over six decades, SSP's immersion into hands-on experimental science has challenged and inspired talented teenagers from around the world. Working in teams of three, participants complete a research project, with each team acquiring original data and analyzing it. The intense 39-day schedule adds field trips, guest speakers, and much more. Offered at New Mexico Tech, CU Boulder, Purdue and Indiana University. The program offers **generous need-based financial aid** grants.

<https://summerscience.org/the-ssp-experience/what-is-ssp/>

Telluride Association Summer Program

TASP brings together students from all over the world with a passion for learning. Students attend a **free** six-week seminar led by college and university scholars emphasizing group discussion. The seminar includes activities and guest lectures on some amazing international subjects. There is a detailed and competitive admissions process, but students will be rewarded with networking that lasts a lifetime.

<https://www.tellurideassociation.org/our-programs/high-school-students/summer-program-juniors-tasp/>

Telluride Association Sophomore Seminar

TASS is a **free** summer program for rising juniors at Cornell University and the University of Michigan. Students will participate in one of four challenging six-week college-level seminars on topics related to critical Black and ethnic studies. Students will develop skills needed to thrive in a college environment while attending exciting classes.

<https://www.tellurideassociation.org/our-programs/high-school-students/sophomore-seminar-tass/>

UChicago Neubauer Family Adelante Summer Scholars

Students selected for this program can participate in one of two summer sessions: Awakening Into Consciousness and Contagion: Infectious Agents and Emerging Diseases. Applicants who share the program's commitment to the Hispanic and Latino communities are invited to apply. This program is for rising high school seniors. Participants receive a **full scholarship** for attending, including travel fees.

<https://summer.uchicago.edu/programs/neubauer-family-adelante-summer-scholars>

UW-Madison Engineering Summer Program

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The UW-Madison Engineering Summer Program helps students explore career options, prepare for the rigors of college and develop strong skills in math and science. Best of all, students will experience first-hand what it is like to be an engineering student at UW-Madison. Rising high school juniors and seniors will attend a range of rigorous courses. The program is **free**, although students will have to pay for their own travel expenses.

<https://www.engr.wisc.edu/academics/student-services/diversity-programs/engineering-summer-program/>

Washington Business Week (WBW) Summer Programs

WBW Summer Programs are six-day experiences at three university campuses in WA that allow high school students to make real-life decisions through career challenges in the fields of business, healthcare, and manufacturing. Students create companies and engage in real-world business simulations. It is at Gonzaga University in Washington and **need-based scholarships** are offered.

<https://www.wbw.org/our-programs/summer/>

Wharton Leadership in the Business World

Affords rising high school seniors the possibility to explore business at the famed Wharton School in the University of Pennsylvania, widely considered as one of the premier business schools in the world. Students will participate in lectures, classroom discussions, and visit and speak with successful business leaders and entrepreneurs as well as work in teams to design an original business plan.

<https://globalyouth.wharton.upenn.edu/summer-high-school-programs/leadership-in-the-business-world/>

Young Writers Studio

A summer, residential, creative writing program for high school students who wish to advance their knowledge of distilling ideas and visions into language. Once accepted, students will choose their “core course” - poetry, fiction, or creative writing. Whatever they choose will determine the course of the 2-week program. **Financial aid available.**

<https://iyws.clas.uiowa.edu/>