Summer Precollege Programs for High School Girls

FOR ACADEMICALLY TALENTED GIRLS ENTERING GRADES 9, 10, 11 AND 12 IN FALL 2016
Summer Precollege Programs at Smith College offer intellectually stimulating and unique opportunities for high school girls who wish to pursue their academic interests in the classroom and beyond.

Every year these programs offer more than 200 young women the freedom to explore challenging and intriguing subjects, to strengthen their college applications and to sample the Smith undergraduate experience while living and studying with other motivated and ambitious students from around the world. Smith welcomes to these programs young women from many nationalities and diverse racial and socioeconomic backgrounds who together form an extraordinary intellectual community. The learning environment is hands-on, collaborative, exploratory, challenging and rich in role models. Smith faculty members offer personal attention in the classroom while encouraging students’ interests and passions and helping them develop new academic skills.

Participants get a taste of college life on Smith’s beautiful 147-acre campus, with its traditional ivy-covered buildings, magnificent gardens and Paradise Pond. Students live together in college houses, and Smith undergraduates serve as resident supervisors and teaching assistants. All meals are served in the house dining rooms. The Smith campus is just steps away from downtown Northampton, Massachusetts, regularly cited as among the best college towns and best small arts towns in the country.

Students take courses and workshops throughout each day and have a variety of organized cultural, social, athletic, and artistic activities at night and on the weekends. Here young women are taken seriously and inspired to excel—as scholars, scientists, writers, researchers and leaders.
The Summer Science and Engineering Program (SSEP), now in its 27th year, is a unique four-week residential program that will give you a taste of both college life and college-level science.

You will attend small classes taught by top-notch faculty members from Smith and nearby colleges, and you will learn what it’s like to be a working scientist. Central to the SSEP program is a dynamic learning environment that is hands-on, cooperative, investigative and challenging. Our instructors will ask a lot of you, yet give you plenty of room to grow and discover your interests. From electron microscopy to PCR analysis to electronic design, SSEP courses are rigorous and relevant.

SSEP participants report that they return to high school with more confidence and ability in the sciences. Best of all, this is your chance to get to know other young women—from all over the country and around the world—who are as interested in science as you are.

Past courses include Microcontrollers and You: An Introduction to Arduino; Introduction to Python Programming; Designing Intelligent Robots; Meteorites and Asteroids; The Chemistry of Herbal Medicine; The History of Earth and Life; Your Genes, Your Chromosomes; Where Do You Get All That Energy?

“Being in SSEP was a valuable experience that combines science and engineering learning with a college experience.”
This unique workshop for high school girls focuses on you, the writer. Small classes help you develop your interest in writing, tap into your creativity and advance your writing skills in a variety of areas from food writing and poetry to creative fiction and memoir writing. Working with published authors, participants lay the groundwork for developing a strong writing portfolio and learn the steps involved in publishing their work.

Past courses include Writing in Response to Art; I-Fiction; Poetry; Memoir; How to Generate and Revise New Writing; Young Adult Fiction; Screenwriting.
“We spent a lot of time learning all the skills that we needed, and from there we could expand on and explore all the things we liked.”

A training ground for women’s history enthusiasts, this program allows you to explore the lives and legacies of American women through an immersive research experience in Smith’s women’s history archives. We will look at the personal papers of Gloria Steinem, the manuscripts of Sylvia Plath, and the records of feminist organizations like the YWCA. We’ll explore art museums, historic clothing, and local historic sites like the Emily Dickinson homestead. Students will gain archival research skills and college-level experience in this hands-on exploration of women’s lives.
This program is for the environmentally conscious student who wants to explore her interest in conservation in a cohesive, directed way. As a participant, you will learn about sustainable living and environmental science and policy in a hands-on, interactive, project-based program. Much of the program is conducted in the field, and you will engage in a variety of activities including hiking and camping as well as visiting local farms and new buildings constructed to conform to the highest environmental standards.

“\[quote\]The course was very open-ended and allowed us to explore all the things we thought were interesting.\[/quote\]
This one-week program is for rising high school juniors and seniors who are beginning to look at colleges. You will learn to successfully navigate the complicated college application process and gain a competitive advantage when applying to colleges. Your instructors will be Smith’s own professional admissions staff as well as visiting admissions officers from other top-ranked colleges.
and universities. Learn to write a college-level essay, to ace a college admissions interview and to give an introductory speech. After completing the program, you will have a new confidence during interviews and feel comfortable talking about yourself and your achievements. You will also come away with a better idea of the type of college or university that is a good fit for you.
Application Information

For more information and to submit your application, visit: WWW.SMITH.EDU/SUMMER.

WHO SHOULD APPLY
Summer Precollege Programs at Smith are open to academically talented girls who will enter grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 in fall 2016. Enrollment is limited to ensure a quality academic experience. The program’s selective admissions process is based on a student’s academic performance in middle or high school, a written essay and a teacher recommendation. Students must have a strong record of academic achievement, a high level of motivation and a willingness to explore.

FEES AND FINANCIAL AID
Fees vary by program. Program fees cover the costs of all organized program activities, housing, meals and class field trips.
- Summer Science and Engineering Program: $5,500
- Field Studies for Sustainable Futures: $2,900
- Hidden Lives: Discovering Women’s History: $2,900
- Young Women’s Writing Workshop: $2,900
- College Admission Workshop: $1,650
- Application Fees: $50 May 1 and earlier, $100 after May 1.

FIELD TRIPS AND GETAWAYS
Field trips are a part of each precollege program and included in their fees. Getaways are fun, optional weekend trips that may have an additional fee to participate. Visit the website for additional information.

IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES
- March 1
  Deadline for requesting financial aid.
- April 1
  Deadline to receive a discount on your full program payment. Discount received when paid in full by April 1.
- May 1
  Regular application period closes. The application fee will increase from $50 to $100.
- May 15
  Final payment deadline.
- June 15
  Course notifications will go out for SSEP and the Young Women’s Writing Workshop.

A non-refundable deposit is due within 10 business days of acceptance into a precollege program and receipt of a financial contract.

Applications will not be reviewed until all materials (application, essay, recommendation, transcript and financial aid application, where applicable) have been received. It is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure that all materials necessary for a complete application are received by the Summer Precollege Programs at Smith, 30 Belmont Ave, Smith College, Northampton, MA 01063.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.SMITH.EDU/SUMMER.

CONTACT
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“I valued the classes, but also the independence from the program itself. I love being more independent, it makes college seem less frightening.”
— Precollege Summer Programs participant

www.smith.edu/summer