



2020's Best Summer Programs For High School Students

More and more selective colleges are starting to analyze how potential applicants spend their summers during high school. In response to this movement parents are enrolling their students in very expensive summer programs. Although these programs may provide an enriching experience for their child, they may not help your student stand out in the very competitive applicant pool. Today, most competitive colleges offer at least one pre-college program inviting high school students to explore campus, meet with faculty, and even take courses during the summer months. Parents do your research. Not all summer programs are created equal. Most summer programs will accept any high school student able to pay the bill. The sad truth is, participation in these summer programs will be viewed by prospective colleges as evidence of wealth, and not necessarily evidence of any special ability. Same holds true even if these programs happen to be offered on an Ivy League campus. As such, they do NOTHING to improve your student's admission prospects.

However, there are a growing number of selective summer programs that look for high achieving high school students strictly on the basis of merit. A number of these programs are offered for free or at relatively low costs, and will prove an impressive addition to your college application. The following is a list of top summer programs for high school students:

[Bank of America Student Leaders](#)

[Boston University – Research in Science & Engineering \(RISE\)](#)

[Canada/USA Mathcamp](#)

[Carnegie Mellon – Summer Academy for Math + Science \(SAMS\)](#)

[Cronkite Institute for High School Journalism: Summer Journalism Institute](#)

[Foundation for Teaching Economics – Economics for Leaders \(EFL\)](#)

[Garcia Scholars – Stony Brook University](#)

[Girls Who Code Summer Immersion Camp](#)

Hampshire College Summer Studies in Mathematics (HCSSIM)

Indiana University – Young Women’s Institute

Jackson Laboratory – Summer Student Program

JCamp - For Journalism students

LaunchX

Massachusetts Institute of Technology – Minority Introduction to Science and Engineering (MITES)

MathILy – Bryn Mawr College

MDI Biological Laboratory Summer Research Fellowship

Michigan Math and Science Scholars

Michigan State University – High School Honors Science, Math and Engineering Program (HSHSP)

MIT Research Science Institute

Monell Center Science Apprenticeship Program

National Institutes of Health – Summer Internship in Biomedical Research (SIP)

Ohio State University – Ross Mathematics Program

Princeton University – Summer Journalism Program

Program in Mathematics for Young Scientists (PROMYS)

Simons Summer Research Program

Stanford Institutes of Medicine Summer Research Program (SIMR)

Stanford University Mathematics Camp (SUMaC)

Telluride Association Summer Program (TASP)

Texas Tech University – Clark Scholars

University of Iowa – Secondary Student Training Program (SSTP)

University of Notre Dame – Leadership Seminars

University of Pennsylvania – Leadership in the Business World

U.S. Air Force Academy – Summer Seminar

U.S. Coast Guard Academy – Academy Introduction Mission (AIM)

U.S. Military Academy – Summer Leaders Experience

U.S. Naval Academy – Summer Seminar

Yale Young Global Scholars

Note that participation in one of these “best summer programs” is NOT essential to earn admission into a selective college. For example, spending your summer at a local job or internship, or completing a for-credit college course, can prove just as impressive. However, students seeking an exciting summer experience outside their area, while improving their college applicant profile in the process, may want to explore the options above.

Students seeking assistance with their summer program search, and with their college applications, are encouraged to contact us at <http://collegepreplab.com/> or at 248-390-7727, to learn about our [background](#) and the [services](#) we provide. Alternatively, you can complete our [free consultation form](#).



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