

Penn
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Division of the
Vice Provost for
Student Engagement



VPSE Forward
2025 Report

Division of the Vice Provost for Student Engagement (VPSE)

Charge:

On behalf of the Provost, with the Deans of the twelve Schools and other University partners: markedly increase the access and outcomes of students from cohort groups under-represented in postsecondary, graduate, and professional education by:

- Providing high-quality learning experiences with engaging pedagogy
- Creating and sustaining supportive program environments which balance high expectations and academic rigor with contemporary practices for nurturing participant achievement
- Curating opportunities for public introductions to, and immersion in, Penn, Philadelphia, and global scholarship, research, arts, and cultural institutions and initiatives that cross “disciplines, continents, and cultures to engage a rich diversity of voices in boundary-breaking, discovery-making collaborations”
- Engaging mentorship from undergraduate, graduate, and professional students; staff, faculty, and alumni in tailored and interactive settings

Cover: Summer Mentorship Program dental students practice new skills learned over the course of the intensive four-week program.

Below: Summer Mentorship Program engineering students work on soldering electrical circuits.

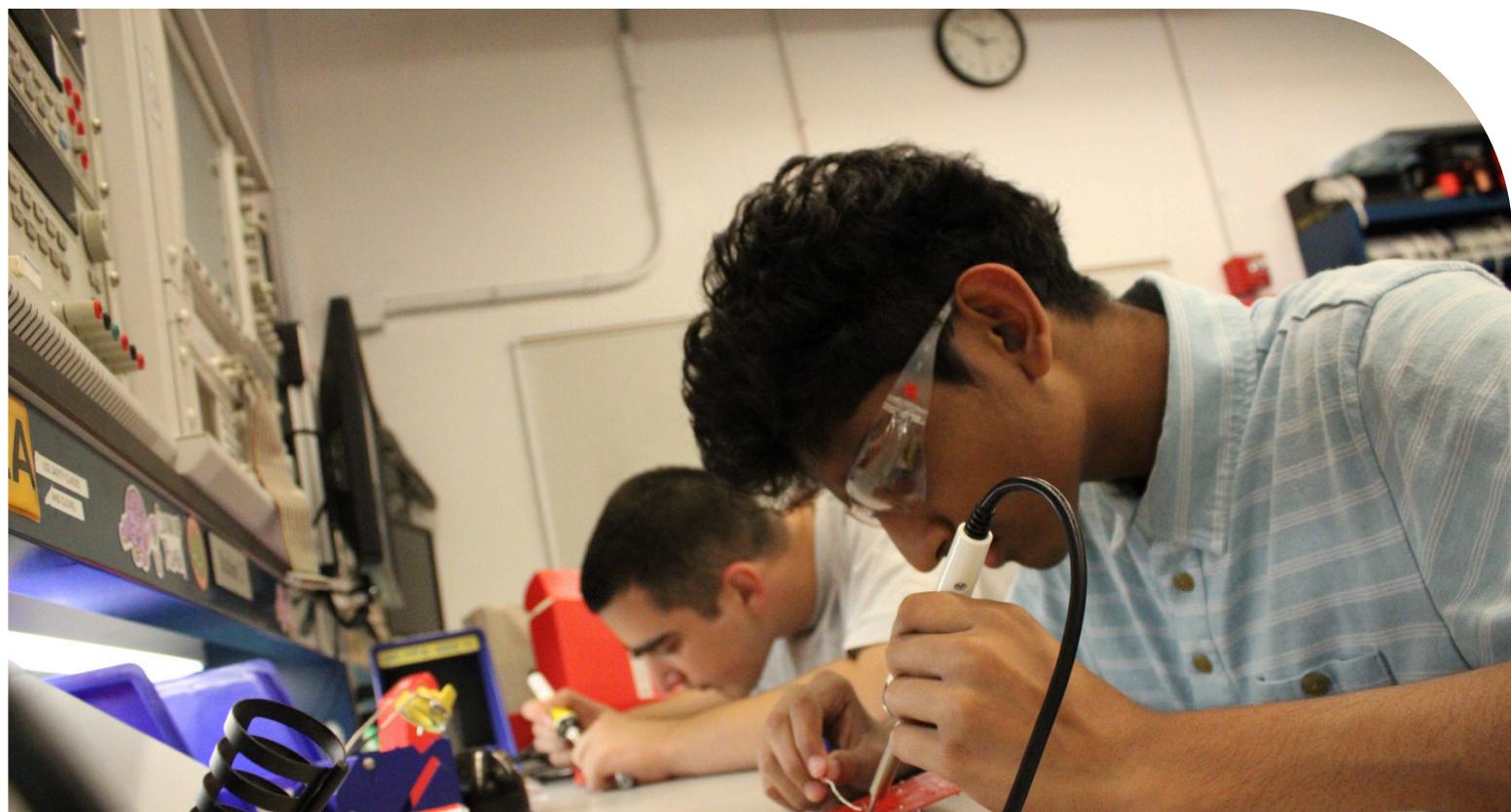


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A message from the Vice Provost of Student Engagement

VPSE is the Division of the Vice Provost for Student Engagement at Penn. Our charge, on behalf of the Provost, with the Deans and faculty of the 12 Schools and other senior University partners, is to markedly increase access, participation, engagement, and outcomes of students from under-resourced backgrounds, and other cohort groups of students who have had limited opportunities critical to their success in baccalaureate, graduate, professional, and post-doctoral education, by expanding their skills, knowledge, confidence, motivation, and preparedness to successfully navigate relevant application, enrollment, and graduation processes.

In 2025, although many members of our service populations have continued to move through the profound impact of local, regional, and national challenges, VPSE was able to expand our work to:

- Convene pipeline program connections and community, across all of Penn's 12 Schools and divisions;
- Markedly increase University collaborations amongst programs that promote access, participation, engagement, and outcomes of students from under-resourced cohort groups in K-12, undergraduate, graduate, and professional education;
- Nurture engaged, multimodal, mentorship for University pipeline program participants, from Penn undergraduate, graduate, and professional students; postdoctoral students; faculty; staff; and alumni;

- Provide free, Act 158-compliant: workforce skills development, college prep, and career exploration; capstone project and service-learning experiences; and internship/externship opportunities, both during the summer and year-round; and
- Curate specific "Penn Local" opportunities for learner community introductions to, engagement with, and immersion in, Penn and Philadelphia educational, research, arts, and cultural institutions/initiatives for Penn K-12 pipeline participants and undergraduate, graduate, professional, and post-doctoral students.

We are so very grateful to all of the Penn family, community, City of Philadelphia, national, and global partners who have worked so tirelessly with us to help secure the futures of those we serve in VPSE.

Sincerely,



Dr. Valarie Swain-Cade McCoullum
*Provost's Distinguished Senior Fellow
Graduate School of Education
Vice Provost for Student Engagement
University of Pennsylvania*

Penn Pipeline Programs

Summer Mentorship Program nursing students learn how to intubate a patient.

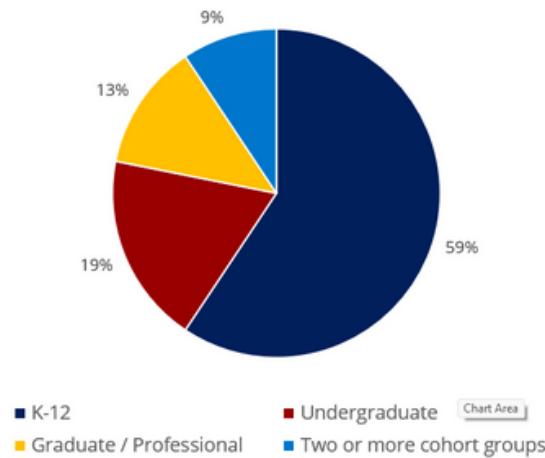
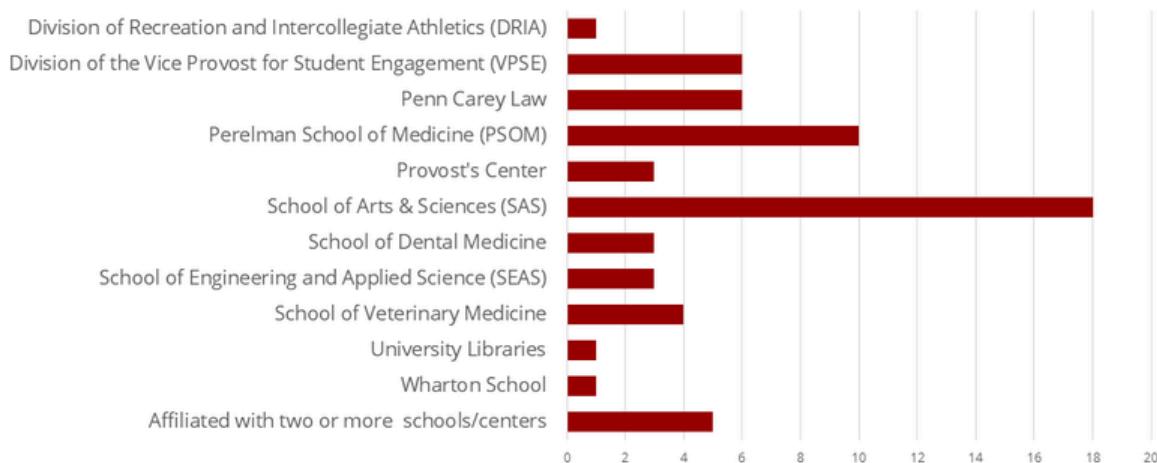


Penn Pipeline Programs

The University's 253 Pipeline Programs encompass those that are designed at all levels of education for groups under-represented in U.S. higher education professional programs, disciplines, and industries. These programs aim to recruit, enroll, retain, and support students to thrive — academically, socially, and emotionally — in their chosen ambitions, fields, and careers.

Penn's 12 Schools, University divisions, and centers provide high-quality learning experiences that promote introductions to, and immersion in, Penn, Philadelphia, and global scholarship, research, arts, and cultural initiatives. Following are data that illustrate just a subset of the many programs and initiatives supported by the University.

Program School/ Center Affiliation



Service Population

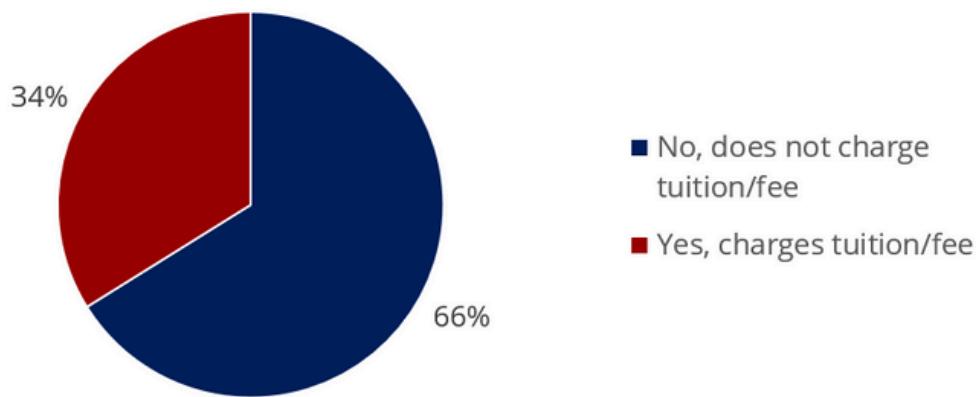
Program Duration

Program Duration	%
Summer Only (May-August)	59
Academic Year (AY) Only (August-May)	23
Both (year-round)	18

Program Funding Sources

Program Funding Source(s)	%
National Science Foundation	12
Private foundations	2
University departmental / divisional operating budget funds	17
University grant and/or gift funds	2
US Department of Education	3
Two or More Funding Sources	42
Other sources (e.g., private, federal)	22

Tuition/ Fees Charged



VPSE *Programs*

Talent Search students play chess during a field trip to the Parkway Central Library.



Students from various VPSE programs engage with college representatives at the annual Summer Mentorship Program college fair.



VPSE: By the Numbers

>3,896

K-12, Undergraduate, and Graduate Professional Student Enrolled Participants

>299

City of Philadelphia Schools Served

>293

University of Pennsylvania Pipeline Programs (all Schools, Divisions, and Centers)

>191

Penn, Philadelphia, Regional, and National Partners

>6



Emmy Award Nominations

>2

Fulbright Fellows

Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship

est. 1989

Since 1989, the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship (MMUF) program has worked to increase access, participation, and outcomes for first-generation students, students who come from under-resourced backgrounds, and other students who have had limited opportunities critical to success in entering and completing Ph.D. degrees and joining the professoriate. The MMUF program also promotes the value of multivocality in the humanities and related disciplines, elevating accounts, interpretations, and narratives that expand present understandings.

Penn MMUF convenes mandatory weekly program meetings throughout the academic year. These meetings consist of a range of activities including directed readings, critiques of writing samples and personal statements, research presentations, panel discussions and other activities as needed to promote academic success. In addition to the weekly meetings, fellows are required to meet individually each week with the graduate coordinator and periodically with Dr. McCoullum and/or Dr. Beavers.

PARTICIPANT STATS

100%

undergraduate graduation rate from Penn

91%

Ph.D matriculation rate

42

alumni who successfully completed doctoral studies and received Ph.Ds



Penn MMUF Fellows hold a discussion at the Biden Center in Washington, D.C.



Alumni Kelsey Desir, Kassidi Jones, Dr. Erich Kessel, and Isaac Silber speak at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference.

MELLON MAYS UNDERGRADUATE FELLOWSHIP

2024-2025 Program Schedule

Program Retreat: September 6 -7

Washington, DC, and Alexandria, Virginia

- Crafting Graduate School Statements of Purpose
- Library of Congress
- Elevator Pitches
- Choosing the Right Graduate School
- Fellow Individual Meetings with Program Coordinator

Tuesday, September 17

- Weekly Fellowship Welcome
- MMUF Video
- Retreat Recap
- Fall Semester Overview
- Overview of MMUF Expectations
- Fellows' Elevator Speeches and Brief Overview of Summer Research Activities
- Sign up for GC/GA Office Hours

Tuesday, September 24

- Statement of Purpose Presentations
- MMUF Mid-Atlantic Conference Overview and Fellow Discussion
- Faculty Mentor Updates (all)

Monday, September 30

- Regional Conference Abstract Deadline (Due on or before)

Tuesday, October 1

- MMUF Mid-Atlantic Conference Overview
- Graduate School "Fit" – Finding Your Disciplinary Home
- Letters of Recommendation – Best Protocols
- Asynchronous: take one practice section of the GRE (all)

Tuesday, October 8

- Regional Conference Abstracts/Identify key words

Tuesday, October 15

- Research check-in
- Letters of reference and graduate school fit

Tuesday, October 22

- Conference Hosting and Presentation Etiquette and Best Practices
- Elevator pitches
- Graduate school application updates

Tuesday, October 29

- Individual Conference Practice Presentations

Tuesday, November 5

- Individual Conference Practice Presentations (Continued)

Friday, November 8 – Saturday, November 10

- MMUF Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference – Houston Hall

Tuesday, November 12

- Regional Conference Recap
- Senior Application Updates

November 14-17

Baltimore, Maryland

- "GROUNDED ENGAGEMENTS IN AMERICAN STUDIES"
- 2024 Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association

Tuesday, November 19

- Writing exercises
- Priorities: why we do what we do/ why we research what we research

Tuesday, November 26

- Thanksgiving Break

Tuesday, December 3

- End of Semester Dinner – CoOp Restaurant
- Recap of semester and research check-in
- Elevator Pitches – One last time!!

MELLON MAYS UNDERGRADUATE FELLOWSHIP

2024-2025 Program Schedule

Tuesday, January 21

- Review of Penn MMUF program expectations for the semester
- Spring, 2025 Penn MMUF Calendar Overview
- Recap of winter break and research project progress
- Sign up for office hours with Rosie and Sophie

Tuesday, January 28

- Working session: The concept of “multivocality”
- <https://www.mellon.org/ideas/multivocality>
- Formation of Spring, 2025 MMUF Presentation Groups and Topic Choices: Topics must amplify perspectives and contributions that have been marginalized within the conventional scholarly record and/or promote the realization of a more socially just world.

Monday, February 3

- Meet two Penn MMUF Alums
- Artist in Residence Dr. Joshua Bennett in Conversation with Carlos Andres Gomez, hosted by Center for Africana Studies

Tuesday, February 4

- Group 1: MMUF Scholarly Presentation – Nicole and Logan

Tuesday, February 11

- Group 2: MMUF Scholarly Presentation – Angel, Amanda, & Adeoluwa

Tuesday, February 18

- Meeting Cancelled

Tuesday, February 25

- Senior and Junior Status Updates
- Scholarly Writing Workshop for Publication, Part 1

Tuesday, March 4

- Summer, 2025 Proposal development (Juniors)
- Scholarly Writing Workshop for Publication, part 2

Tuesday, March 11

- NO SESSION—SPRING BREAK

Tuesday, March 18

- Grant Proposal Writing Seminar (led by Sophie)

Tuesday, March 25

- Introduction of new Fellows – Jaimee Martin, Jaden Oates and Sierra Williams

Tuesday, April 1

- Graduate Student Panel: Graduate School: The Ph.D. Program First Year
- Graduate student presenters Nudrat Kamal (Comparative Literature), Camille Carr (Africana Studies), Jordan Trice (English) (plus Rosie and Sophie)

Tuesday, April 8

- Research Practice Seminar: “Zotero - Large Data Set Management” (led by Rosie)

Tuesday, April 15

- Planning for summer (or next year for seniors)

Tuesday, April 22

- Semester recap, feedback

Tuesday, May 6

- End of semester luncheon and graduation celebration – White Dog

MELLON MAYS UNDERGRADUATE FELLOWSHIP

Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference

MELLON MAYS UNDERGRADUATE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
2024 Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference
November 8-9, 2024

Friday, November 8

3:00 – 5:00 pm	Registration Houston Hall, Hall of Flags, 3417 Spruce Street
5:00 - 6:00 pm	Reception Hall of Flags
6:00 – 6:05 pm	Introduction of Provost Dr. Herman Beavers <i>Julie Beren Platt and Marc E. Platt President's Distinguished Professor of English and Africana Studies, MMUF Faculty Coordinator</i>
6:05 – 6:10 pm	Welcome Dr. John L. Jackson <i>Penn Provost and Richard Perry University Professor in the School of Arts and Sciences and the Annenberg School for Communication</i>
6:15 pm	Dinner
7:00 pm	Introduction of Penn MMUF Alumni Keynote Plenary Dr. Herman Beavers <i>Julie Beren Platt and Marc E. Platt President's Distinguished Professor of English and Africana Studies, MMUF Faculty Coordinator</i>
7:05 – 8:30 pm	Penn MMUF Alumni Keynote Plenary Dr. Erich Kessel <i>Assistant Professor of Black Diaspora and African American Arts Institute of Fine Arts, NYU</i> Kelsey Desir <i>Ph.D. Candidate in English, Duke University (7th year)</i> Kassidi Jones, <i>Ph.D. Candidate, African American Studies and English, Yale University (7th year) and Assistant Curator of Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York Public Library</i> Isaac Silber <i>Ph.D. Candidate in Performance Studies, Tisch School of the Arts, NYU (5th year)</i>

MELLON MAYS UNDERGRADUATE FELLOWSHIP

Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference

MELLON MAYS UNDERGRADUATE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

2024 Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference

November 8-9, 2024

Saturday, November 9

- | | |
|--|---|
| 8:00 – 9:00 am | Continental Breakfast (optional)
Bodek Lounge – 1 st Floor, Houston Hall |
|
 | |
| 9:15 – 10:45 am | Student Panel 1: Insiders, Others, and the Precarity of Perception
Room 223 – Golkin Room

"The Spanish Asian Imaginary, 1549–1676." <i>Nicholas Vega, Cornell University</i>

"Unearthing the <i>Barbarus</i> : Exploring Ethnic "Othering" in Livy's <i>Ab Urbe Condita</i> ." <i>Jasmine Marshall, Bryn Mawr College</i>

"The Politics of Representation: Cultural Liminality, Identity, and Belonging in the Beur Movement Through Literature." <i>Fatima Hmada, Swarthmore College</i>

"Coming out as Korean: The Adoptee Body and Resistant Performance in Mirae kh Rhee's <i>Transkoreaning</i> ." <i>Eryn Feng, Bryn Mawr College</i>

Moderator: Logan Li Saenz, Penn MMUF |
|
 | |
| Student Panel 2: Confronting Capitalism in Theory and Practice
Room 225 – Brachfield Room

"Caught Between Classes: Race, Class and The Divided Mind of The <i>Middlemarch</i> Narrator" <i>Seth Jeter, Swarthmore College</i>

"Outlines of a Theory of Alienation." <i>Julia Chanda, Haverford College</i>

"Embourgeoisement and Neocolonial Elites in the Democratic Republic of Congo: A Case Study of Resource Exploitation and Capitalist Control in Postcolonial Africa." <i>Gracelynn Osei-Bosompem, Cornell University</i>

"Bonapartism and Mestizaje in Post-Revolutionary Mexico." <i>Reuben Kadushin, Swarthmore College</i>

Moderator: Sophia Lindner, Ph.D. Candidate in Sociology and African American Studies, Yale University and Penn MMUF Alumna | |
|
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| Student Panel 3: Community and Power in Curriculum and Pedagogy
Room 221 – Ben Franklin Room

"Liberation Schools in New York City: A Black Panther Party Initiative." <i>Nina Phillips, Swarthmore College</i> | |

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“From the Courtroom to the Classroom: The Impact of Local Politics on Black History Education.” *Nyla McNeil, Bryn Mawr College*

“The creation of Talking Dictionaries as a pedagogical practice.” *Esenia Banuelos, Bryn Mawr College*

“Teachers Navigating a Policy Vacuum in the New Latin@ South.” *Andres Villalba, Swarthmore College*

Moderator: Rose Poku, Ph.D. Candidate in Africana Studies and Comparative Literature Literary Theory, University of Pennsylvania, and MMUF Graduate Coordinator

11:00 – 12:30 pm

Student Panel 4: Raced and Gendered Meaning-Making in Contested Terrain

Room 223 – Golkin Room

“From Stewardess to Flight Attendant: Navigating the Evolution of Care Work, Eroticization, and Commodification in the Airline Industry (1930s-2000s).” *Anika Asthana, Princeton University*

“Continuities Between Women’s Healthcare Abuse in Puerto Rico and the United States.” *Erick Iraheta, Haverford College*

“Voices Unheard: The Lived Experiences of Women of Color in Diversity and Inclusion.” *Peyton Roberson, Bryn Mawr College*

“Reimagining Sexual Responsibility.” *Louisa Howe, Cornell University*

Moderator: Nicole Hoang, Penn MMUF

Student Panel 5: Defining Bodies through Space and Place

Room 218 – Ben Franklin Room

“Echoes of Racism in the Built Environment: Kenyan Immigrants in Metro Atlanta, GA.” *Sabrina Gray, Bryn Mawr College*

“Clearance Needed: Urban Renewal and Undesirability in 1968-1973-era New York City Public Housing.” *Kalia Dominique Boutier, Haverford College*

“Resilient Communities: The parallel process of Sonoma County Latin-American Immigrant Infrastructure and Mainstream Planning in Disaster Response.” *Estrella Pacheco, Haverford College*

“BodyLand: Socioecological Crisis and the Performativity of Development.” *Angel Gutierrez, University of Pennsylvania*

Moderator: Adeoluwa Fatukasi, Penn MMUF

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Student Panel 6: Rethinking Literary Knowledge Production
Room 225 – Brachfeld Room

“Towards a Physical Theory of Anti-Narrative.” *Lorelle Adames, Haverford College*

“Movement as Method: Performing Trans* Studies on the Postcolonial Page” *Roshan Perry, Bryn Mawr College*

“The Perception and Production of Vowels in Southeast Asian Varieties of English.” *Aaliyah Bullen, Swarthmore College*

“Tiger Comes Down: The Korean Folk Story As Folk Lineage.” *Max Nam, Cornell University*

Moderator: Rose Poku, Ph.D. Candidate in Africana Studies and Comparative Literature and Literary Theory, University of Pennsylvania, and MMUF Graduate Coordinator

12:30 – 1:30 pm Fellows Lunch
Bodek Lounge

MMUF Coordinator’s Lunch
Bishop White Room 217

1:45 – 3:15 pm **Student Panel 7: Dominance and Resistance in Cultural Production**
Room 218 – Ben Franklin Rm

“Genre and Television: How Modes of Storytelling Affect Portrayals of the Police.” *Adeoluwa Fatukasi, University of Pennsylvania*

“(Re)Fashioning the Human: Representing the Black Body in ‘The Trayvon Generation’.” *Brandon Archer, Swarthmore College*

“Echoes of Resilience: Art’s Influence on Memory and Activism in the Congolese Community.” *Jeielle Habinam, Princeton University*

“Pages of Radical Resistance: A Mapping of Historical and Contemporary Asian American Zines.” *Yuriko Zhang, Haverford College*

Moderator: Charissa Howard, Penn MMUF

Student Panel 8: Spirituality in Colonial and Racial Regime
Room 225 – Brachfeld Room

“Hagiography And Homeland: Sufi Institutions and the Making of Identity in Southern Somalia.” *Simba Makhsud, Swarthmore College*

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Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference

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“Holy Reclamation: How Black Christian Writers in the 19th Century took Christianity Back.” *Seth Vieira, Cornell University*

“Habitus, Capitalism, and Disruptive Rest: Analyzing Subaltern Work and Leisure Practices Among Immigrants in the United States.” *Daniella Jacob, Bryn Mawr College*

“Building Ea: Kanaka ‘Ōiwi Spirituality and Sovereignty.” *Ila Nako, Princeton University*

Moderator: Logan Li Saenz, Penn MMUF

Student Panel 9: Race and Citizenship under the Institutional Gaze

Room 223 – Golkin Rm.

“Texas Minimalist Landscapes and the Surveillance State.” *Amanda Rodriguez, University of Pennsylvania*

“Processing Legality: Citizenship Clinics, Illegality, and Governmentality.” *Andrea Brokate Castillo, Haverford College*

“Recovering from Addiction in U.S. Prisons.” *Rosangela Lopez, Princeton University*

“Off-the-Record: The Triangular Relationship between Immigration Judges, Attorneys, and Department of Homeland Defendants in Miami Immigration Court and its Effects on Asylum Cases.” *Luis Guaman, Princeton University*

Moderator: Angel Gutierrez, Penn MMUF

3:30 – 5:00 pm

Student Panel 10: Communicating and Countering Political Repression

Room 218 – Ben Franklin Room

“Intersectional Labor Imaginaries in 20th-Century American Art.” *Logan Li Saenz, University of Pennsylvania*

“El Negro No Permitido: Narrating Left Black Organizing in Colombia” *Alexandra Stevens, Haverford College*

“Black September: Transnational U.S. Imperialism Coordination in Jordan and Black Internationalist Resistance in September 1970.” *Amber Rahman, Princeton University*

“Examining Radical Communal Practices and Abolitionist Futures in the Gwangju Uprising.” *June Shin, Swarthmore College*

Moderator: Amanda Rodriguez, Penn MMUF

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Student Panel 11: Processes of Identity Recalibration

Room 225 – Brachfeld Room

“Educational Leadership and Class Formation in Black Boarding Schools.” *Nnenna Ochuru, Cornell University*

“Intra-State Multiethnicity in the Horn of Africa: Ethiopia and Beyond.” *Lena Habtu, Swarthmore College*

“Rejecting Mestizaje: Exploring the appropriation and infantilization of Indigeneity.” *Juliana Reyes, Bryn Mawr College*

“Militarized Genders: Aftereffects of the Vietnam War on Body and Self.” *Nicole Hoang, University of Pennsylvania*

Moderator: Sophia Lindner, Ph.D. Candidate in Sociology and African American Studies, Yale University and Penn MMUF Alumna

Student Panel 12: (Re)Presenting Race, Aesthetic, and Difference in Fiction

Room 223 – Golkin Room

“A Paradox of Power: Investigating the Origins of the Greek Chorus of Black Women in Contemporary Musical Theater.” *Layla Williams, Princeton University*

“Curated Multiculturalism: Possession and Control of ‘Exotic’ Characters Within the Plays of William Shakespeare.” *Charissa Howard, University of Pennsylvania*

“Dichotomies of Color: A Comprehensive Exploration of Ekphrasis, Racial Aesthetics, and the Complexities of Internalized Racism in Brit Bennett’s *The Vanishing Half*.” *Ella Mbanejo, Haverford College*

“Reclaiming the Erotic: Black Female Identity, Power and Perception.” *Kaylani Williams, Cornell University*

Moderator: Rose Poku, Ph.D. Candidate in Africana Studies and Comparative Literature and Literary Theory, University of Pennsylvania and MMUF Graduate Coordinator

5:00 pm

Closing Remarks

Dr. Herman Beavers, MMUF Faculty Coordinator

Room 218 - Ben Franklin Room

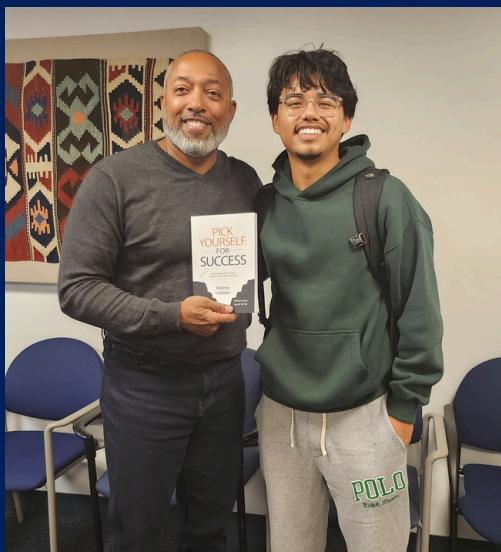
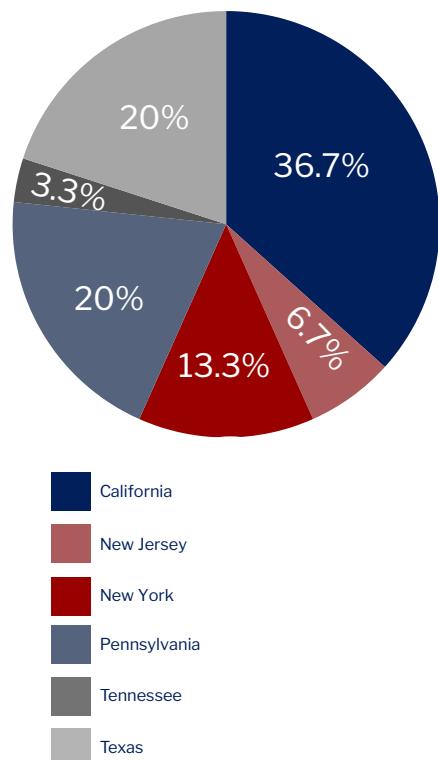
PennKIPP

est. 2013

PennKIPP is dedicated to empowering KIPP alumni at the University of Pennsylvania to persist, thrive, and succeed. Through tailored support, holistic guidance, and a resilient community, PennKIPP helps first-generation and low-income students navigate challenges, achieve academic excellence, and grow as confident leaders on campus and beyond.

There were seven students in the graduating class of 2025 who came from the College of Arts & Sciences, the Wharton School, and the School of Nursing. One student received the distinction of Magna Cum Laude from the Wharton School. Two students received the distinctions of Magna Cum Laude and Summa Cum Laude from the College of Arts & Sciences. Three students received the distinction of Cum Laude from the College of Arts & Sciences.

Enrollment by Geographic Origin



Participant Testimonial

My engagement with PennKIPP has been transformative, offering me a strong sense of community, invaluable resources, and countless opportunities to grow both personally and professionally.

The mentorship and support have not only enriched my journey but have also empowered me to give back and help others succeed.

— Brandon C., Wharton '26

New Initiatives

Get a Job!

In response to students' interest in mastering the fundamentals of career preparation, PennKIPP partnered with the Employer Relations division of Career Services to develop "Pre" workshops, focusing on the often-overlooked aspects of career development. These programs, including events such as Networking Basics, Speed Networking, and Practice Coffee Chats, are designed to equip students with essential skills for engaging with employers ahead of formal interview opportunities.

PennKIPP Keepers

The inaugural PennKIPP Keepers Mentor Program was designed to support the personal and academic development of all PennKIPP students by connecting students from the Class of 2029 with our seasoned sophomore, junior, and senior students. Mentors are able to offer guidance, knowledge, and encouragement to mentees during their first year at Penn. Conceived as a venture to ensure that the incoming class will learn of the community that is here to represent and support them, this program also benefits returning students in strengthening their communication and leadership skills, building confidence and self-awareness, and reinforcing their academic and professional development.

PennKIPP Research Exchange

PennKIPP Research Exchange, a collaborative program designed to promote, support, and showcase research conducted by PennKIPP students and across institutions that support KIPP students. The program will contribute to the vibrant cross-campus research community at the University of Pennsylvania by facilitating access to mentorship, funding, and opportunities for students to present their work to peers, faculty and external audiences.

Think Tank: If We Feed Them, Will They Come?

Engaging Gen Z students has become a nationally relevant topic. Like many university programs competing for students' limited time, PennKIPP has faced challenges with turnout and participation in its events. In April 2025, PennKIPP hosted a mini-conference Think Tank with campus partners to develop innovative strategies for strengthening academic, social, and extracurricular engagement among Gen Z college students. The session focused on three core objectives: understanding the unique needs and preferences of Gen Z students, identifying barriers to engagement, and brainstorming actionable solutions for academic, social, and digital participation.

PENNKIPP

Fall 2024 Program Schedule

August

21st – First Year Students Meet and Greet; Dim Sum House

September

4th, 5th, 6th – Individual Student Conferences

10th, 11th, 13th – Individual Student Conferences

17th, 20th – Individual Student Conferences

23rd, 24th, - Individual Student Conferences

October

15th, 16th, 17th – Locust Walk Pop-Up

18th – Lucky Strike Bowling; Center City

Philadelphia

24th – Travel Abroad Panel; Arch Building; Collaboration with P1P and Penn Abroad

November

18th – Author Talk and Book Signing Pick Yourself to Win!; McNeil Building

December

7th – Cookies Cards and Cocoa; Houston Hall; Collaboration with Talent Search

PennKIPP is made possible through a gift from the Karsh Family Foundation. The budget allocates resources to the academic and social development of all undergraduates who have attended a KIPP school in their primary and/or secondary school years.

Spring 2025 Program Schedule

January

15th – Mentorship Roundtable; University Faculty Club; Weingarten Center Workshop

25th – Philly Schools’ Ethics Bowl; GSE; Volunteer Opportunity

February

12th – Mentorship Roundtable; University Faculty Club; Career Services Forum

March

12th – Mardi Gras Paint and Chill; The Arch; Spring Break Reset

April

10th – Engaging the Gen Z Student Think Tank; McNeil Building

22nd – Mentorship Development Seminar; Virtual

Collaborations

PennKIPP works to strengthen collaborations with partners across the institution to build active participation in events that support academic development and to increase the visibility of the services of critical departments at the university. Past collaborations include:

- **Center for Research and Fellowship (CURF):** Research Pursuit and Faculty Discussions
- **Education Commons:** Cookies, Cocoa and Lights
- **P1P:** New Student Orientation
- **Penn Abroad:** Global Opportunities Seminar
- **University Life & Space Management (The Arch):** Mardi Gras Paint and Chill
- **Weingarten Center:** Learning Strategies and Disability Services Seminar

Selected Student Research

Miguel Lobaco Rosas conducted research in biochemistry and biophysics laboratory of Dr. Ben Black of the Perelman School of Medicine this summer through the FERBS program. His poster, titled Uncovering H4 Tail Interactions In Centromeric Nucleosomes, was displayed at the 2025 CURF Research Expo.

Rosselyn Hernandez will be working Spring 2026 in The Precision Psychopathology + Dynamic Immunopsychiatry (PPDI) Lab at UPenn under the direction of Dr. Daniel P. Moriarity. This lab conducts research focused on the dynamic interplay between stress, immunology, and affective psychopathology (depression, anxiety and hypo/mania).

In connection with Project Pink Tax 501(c)3, **Ailin Mendoza** will be conducting a 6-week, medically reviewed menstrual hygiene curriculum in KIPP middle schools in Austin and Philadelphia, designed to close persistent gaps in menstrual education with the goal to increase student understanding of and comfort with discussing menstruation, and impacting a stronger sense of bodily autonomy.

Angela Sien worked with the EDEN lab at Penn this summer, and her research is continuing through the fall. She is on a research project to learn about why some adolescents display certain behaviors such as antisocial and whether this corresponds to socioeconomic factors or if it is a result of parenting styles.



PennKIPP student Chidinma Esielem '27 prepares slides of mice brain splices for microscopy in a neuroscience research lab funded by PURM.



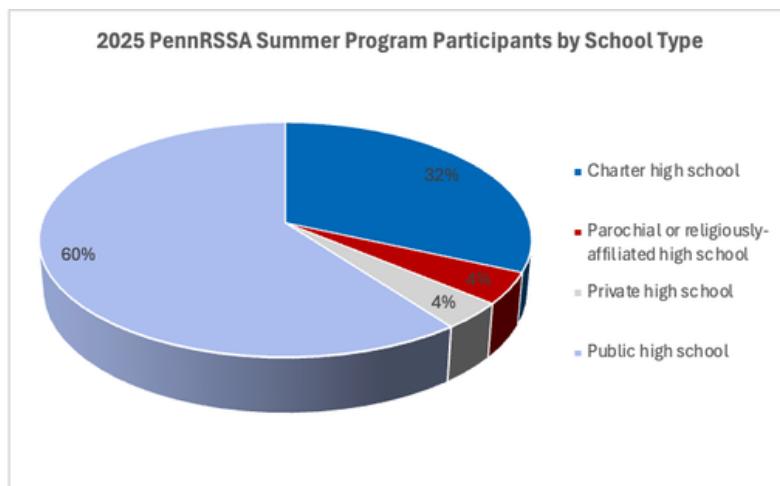
PennKIPP Student Miguel Lobaco Rosas '28 presents his research project "Uncovering H4 Tail Interactions In Centromeric Nucleosomes" at the 2025 CURF Research Expo.

PennRSSA

est. 2020

The University of Pennsylvania Rising Scholar Success Academy (PennRSSA) is a free, hybrid postsecondary access program designed to prepare Philadelphia's high school students for the pivotal next steps of educational and career pathways in a post-pandemic world.

PennRSSA leverages unique partnerships with the Provost's Division of Student Engagement and the 12 Schools at Penn to provide participants with engaging career exploration opportunities and curriculum. Through its year-round and six-week summer program, multidisciplinary college-access, financial literacy, and career-readiness initiatives, PennRSSA innovatively served the educational needs of Philadelphia's Class of 2025.



PennRSSA Scholars receive a lesson on artifacts during an on-campus visit to the Penn Museum.

FY25 SERVICE SNAPSHOT

920

applications received for summer enrollment

85

high schools represented in the 2025 summer participant cohort

\$205,920

awarded in student stipend support for summer

Expanding Reach

Based on prior feedback from students, mentors, and staff, the 2025 summer program expanded its structure to a three-day in-person model. This change provided additional time for relationship-building, hands-on activities, and more robust support for students as they navigated academic and professional development opportunities. The extension of in-person time not only enriched the student experience, but also gave facilitators greater flexibility in pacing activities and making sure content was covered more thoroughly.



Ari Felderman learns how to analyze cell samples during the Career Pathways School of Medicine Fair.

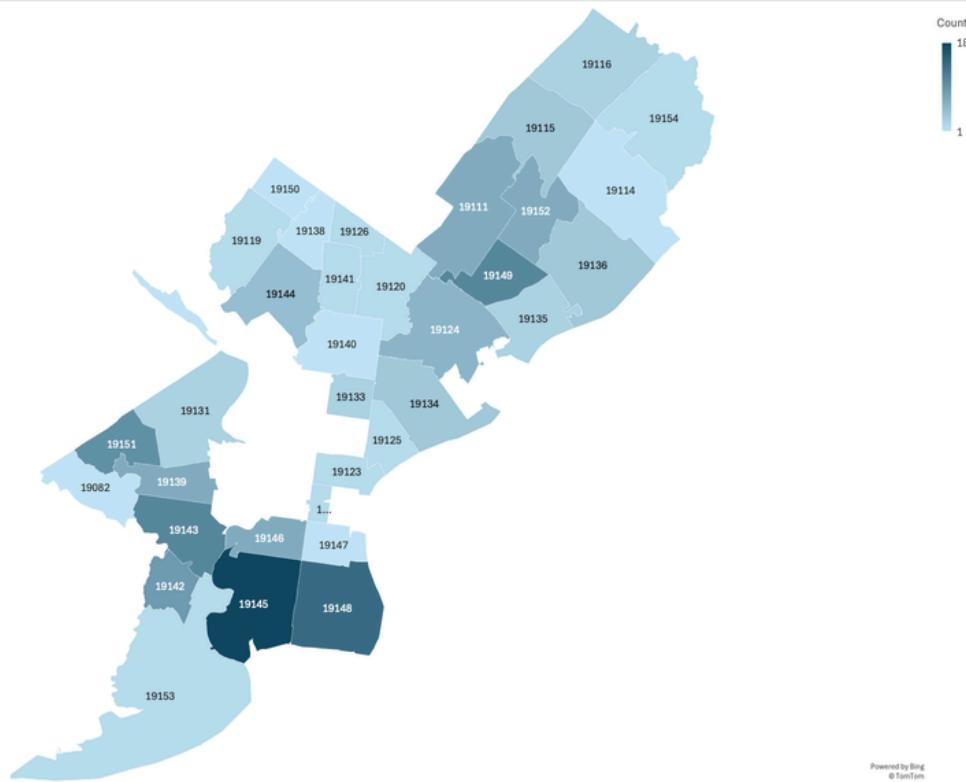


A PennRSSA participant poses with her certificate of completion and graduate assistant pod leader.

Student Pods

A major component of the PennRSSA scholar experience, student pods are organized groups of no more than 15 scholars, led under the direction of a PennRSSA graduate assistant. Short daily check-ins and a longer weekly check-in provide students with the opportunity to work as a team, reflect on their PennRSSA journeys, and receive crucial insights from graduate assistant pod leaders on the college process. More than 90% of students surveyed said their pod leaders provided key career insights and supported their learning and career exploration.

Summer 2025 Enrollment by Zip Code



This year, the Summer Academy welcomed **161** students from across Philadelphia and nearby areas. The largest representation came from South Philadelphia, with zip code 19145 (11.18%) and 19148 (8.70%) standing out. West and Southwest Philadelphia were also strongly represented, especially 19143 (6.83%), 19149 (6.83%), 19151 (6.21%), and 19142 (5.59%). In total, **students joined from more than 30 different zip codes**, highlighting the program's broad geographic reach across the Greater Philadelphia region.

PENN RSSA

Fall 2024 Program Schedule: Wharton Global Youth Initiative

Unit	Lesson	Week	Length	Level	Description
9/16 Program Orientation 5:00 PM-6:00 PM: Zoom Link Passcode: PENNRSSA					
Unit 1	1.1 – Competition Basics	Week 1: 09/16/2024 - 09/21/2024	45min	Introductory	This lesson provides a step-by-step guide for teachers to use the Wharton Global High School Investment Competition in the classroom. It introduces students to the competition background, general rules, and ethical standards.
	1.2 – Client Case Study	Week 1: 09/16/2024 - 09/21/2024	45min	Introductory	This lesson plan provides a guide for educators to introduce the Wharton Global High School Investment Competition case study, which each year features a different client for whom students must build their investment strategies.
	1.3 – Finding Your Creative Voice	Week 2: 09/23/2024 - 09/28/2024	35min	Introductory	In this lesson, students consider what makes an investment strategy 'creative,' how they can brainstorm ideas for creative to match their potential client's needs, and how this is all translated into a unique voice in written communication.
	1.4 – Developing a Strategy	Week 2: 09/23/2024 - 09/28/2024	35min	Introductory	This lesson explains the purpose of an investment strategy and how to clearly and creatively build one for the Wharton Global High School Investment Competition. Teachers and students will get a better idea of the competition focus, and students will develop strategic-thinking skills with strategy practice using a previous competition client.
9/27 In-Person Day: 12:30pm - 4:30pm (Meyerson Hall Rm B)					
9/30 First Day of Trading					
	1.5 – The Investing Elevator Pitch	Week 3: 09/30/2024 - 10/05/2024	45min	Introductory	Elevator pitches are crucial in many areas of business. In this lesson, students will learn how to develop and communicate basic elevator pitch for their competition team's investment thesis or strategy.
	2.1 – What Is an Investment?	Week 3: 09/30/2024 - 10/05/2024	45min	Introductory	In this lesson, teachers introduce students to the concept of investing and explore why people invest. Students rely on personal experience to create a list of potential "investments." Based on this list, teachers lead a short discussion on different investment instruments. Both teachers and students provide personal definitions of investing and their argument for why people invest. It concludes with comparing different types of investments by introducing students to the concept of risk, return and liquidity.
	2.2 – Stocks	Week 4: 10/07/2024 - 10/12/2024	45min	Introductory	In this lesson, students explore the concept of stock ownership. They begin to understand the dividend rights of stockholders and also have a basic understanding of stock-related concepts, including Initial Public Offering (IPO) and Blue Chip Stock. Students discuss meanings of key terms and review what they have learned about simple and compounded interest rates. In small groups, students compute different yield savings accounts using simple and compounded interest rates. Students then calculate the return on investments. Students will learn how to buy stocks through practice placing a trade in Stock Trak (for competition participants). This simulation will help them understand the process of buying stocks from a brokerage account.
	2.3 – Understanding ETFs	Week 4: 10/07/2024 - 10/12/2024	60min	Introductory	In this lesson, students will learn about the evolving world of Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs) and what they offer to the investors. The students will get familiar with the different types of ETFs and their features. The students will also understand the creation and redemption process of ETFs.
	2.4 – Risk and Diversity	Week 5: 10/14/2024 - 10/19/2024	45min	Intermediate	In this lesson, students will continue the conversation about risk and return. In particular, students will discuss why investors diversify, illustrated by playing a token game.
Unit 2	2.5 – Building an Investment Portfolio	Week 5: 10/14/2024 - 10/19/2024	50min	Introductory	In this lesson, students will learn about the different investment choices available and how people make investment decisions. They will gain insight into the importance of an investor's risk appetite and the time horizon of the investment selecting an investment portfolio. The lesson will prepare them for a more in-depth study of investment.
10/18: Trade deadline: All teams must fully execute one trade by close of U.S. markets (4:00 p.m. ET)					
	2.6 – Portfolio Management	Week 6: 10/21/2024 - 10/26/2024	45min	Introductory	This lesson continues the discussion on the relationship between risk and diversification in terms of portfolio management. Students explore a new concept of the investment lifecycle. Then, the lesson introduces five popular portfolio styles. Students can think about how different people might be more or less attracted to different investment portfolio styles.
	2.7 – Socially Responsible Investing	Week 6: 10/21/2024 - 10/26/2024	45min	Intermediate	This lesson introduces students to the idea of business ethics and social responsibility, then delves into how these two ideas play out in the investing world through discussions on ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) investing and impact investing. Students learn how to use positive and negative screens to select stocks based on ethical standards.
10/25 In-Person Day: 10:00am - 2:00pm (Meyerson Hall Rm B) Official team rosters must be submitted; no changes are permitted after this date.					
	2.8 – Investing and ESG	Week 7: 10/28/2024 - 11/02/2024	50min	Introductory	In this lesson, students will learn about ESG investing as more investors and issuers use the lens of Environmental, Social and Governance factors to support their investment decisions. They will understand why investing in companies that rate high on environmental and societal scales makes not only ethical sense, but can also make economic sense. It will make them more mindful of their own investment decisions, tied into Gen Z's passion for sustainability.
	3.1 – Research Strategies for New Investors	Week 7: 10/28/2024 - 11/02/2024	45min	Introductory	This lesson introduces some basic research strategies to help students select stocks. Students will break into small groups and practice three strategies and tools to come up with a preliminary stock watch list for later selection.
11/8 Midterm Report Due at 5PM					
	3.2 – SWOT Analysis	Week 8: 11/04/2024 - 11/09/2024	50min	Introductory	Starting from this lesson, students dive into tools and frameworks to conduct fundamental analysis. This lesson helps students learn how to evaluate companies, industries and products using a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis.

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Fall 2025 Important Program Dates

Monday, June 17 - Registration opens

Friday, September 13 - Registration closes; student team accounts must be set up by the Advisor (5:00 p.m. ET)

Monday, September 30 - First day of trading

Friday, October 18 - Requirement: All teams must fully execute one trade on WInS by close of the U.S. markets (4:00 p.m. ET) in order to be eligible to advance to the Semifinals or Global Finale.

Friday, October 25 - Requirement: Official team rosters must be submitted via Reviewr (5:00 p.m. ET); no changes are permitted after this date.

Friday, November 8 - Requirement: Midterm report must be submitted via Reviewr (5:00 p.m. ET)

Friday, December 6 - Last day of trading; close of the U.S. markets (4:00 p.m. ET)

Friday, December 13 - Requirement: Final report and school documentation must be submitted via Reviewr (5:00 p.m. ET)

January 2025 - Semifinalists (top 50 teams) announced

March 2025 - Virtual Semifinals

April 25 & 26, 2025 - Learning Day & Global Finale at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

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Summer 2025 Program Schedule

		6/16	6/17	6/18	6/19	6/20
		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
10:00 AM			Pod Check-In	Pod Check-In		
10:30 AM		PennRSSA 2025 Program Orientation (10:00 - 12:00)				
11:00 AM			Capstone Intro (10:30 - 12:00)	GA Panel (10:30-12:00)		
11:30 AM						
12:00 PM		LUNCH	LUNCH	BREAK		
12:30 PM					Juneteenth Holiday (No Programming)	
1:00 PM		Pod Meet and Greet (12:30 - 2:00)	Career Pathways (12:30 - 2:00)	GA Panel (12:30-2:00)		Office Hours (No Programming)
1:30 PM						

The passcode to all Zoom sessions is “**PENNRSSA**”.

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Summer 2025 Program Schedule

		WEEK 1 SCHEDULE				
		6/23	6/24	6/25	6/26	6/27
		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
10:00 AM	Pod Check-In	The College Application Classroom (10:15 - 12:15)	Pod Check-In	Pod Check-In	Pod Check-In	Pods 1-3: Guided Campus Tour Pods 4-12: Asynchronous Learning
10:30 AM			Capstone Project Work Time (10:30 - 12:00)		Alumni Career Panel: Technology (10:30 - 12:00)	
11:00 AM				Pod Meeting (10:30 - 12:00)		
11:30 AM						
12:00 PM			BREAK		BREAK	
12:30 PM	LUNCH🍕		Office Hours	Office Hours	Office Hours	
1:00 PM	Guiding Session: Adulting Skills (1:00 - 2:00)		Career Pathways (1:00 - 2:00)	Career Pathways (1:00 - 2:00)	Capstone Project Work Time (1:00 - 2:00)	
1:30 PM						

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		WEEK 2 SCHEDULE				
		6/30	7/1	7/2	7/3	7/4
		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
10:00 AM	Pod Check-In	The College Application Classroom (10:15 - 12:15)	Pod Check-In	Pod Check-In	Pod Check-In	Independence Day (No Programming)
10:30 AM			Capstone Project Work Time (10:30 - 12:00)	Pod Meeting (10:30 - 12:00)	Alumni Career Panel: Social Justice (10:30 - 12:00)	
11:00 AM						
11:30 AM						
12:00 PM			BREAK		BREAK	
12:30 PM	LUNCH🍕		Office Hours	Office Hours	Office Hours	
1:00 PM	Guiding Session: Adulting Skills (1:00 - 2:00)		Career Pathways (1:00 - 2:00) Law Vet	Career Pathways (1:00 - 2:00) Law Vet	Career Pathways (1:00 - 2:00) Law Vet	
1:30 PM						

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Summer 2025 Program Schedule

WEEK 3 SCHEDULE						
	7/7	7/8	7/9	7/10	7/11	
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
10:00 AM	Pod Check-In	The College Application Classroom (10:15 - 12:15)	Pod Check-In	Pod Check-In	Pod Check-In	
10:30 AM						
11:00 AM			Capstone Project Work Time (10:30 - 12:00)			
11:30 AM						
12:00 PM				Pod Meeting (10:30 - 12:00)		
12:30 PM	LUNCH		BREAK	BREAK	BREAK	
1:00 PM	Guiding Session: Adulting Skills (1:00 - 2:00)		Office Hours	Office Hours	Office Hours	
1:30 PM			Med SP2 Lang	Med SP2 Lang	Med SP2 Lang	
Pods 4-6: Guided Campus Tour						
Pods 1-3 & 7-12: Asynchronous Learning						

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WEEK 4 SCHEDULE						
	7/14	7/15	7/16	7/17	7/18	
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
10:00 AM	Pod Check-In	The College Application Classroom (10:15 - 12:15)	Pod Check-In	Pod Check-In	Pod Check-In	
10:30 AM						
11:00 AM			Capstone Project Work Time (10:30 - 12:00)			
11:30 AM						
12:00 PM				Pod Meeting (10:30 - 12:00)		
12:30 PM	LUNCH		BREAK	BREAK	BREAK	
1:00 PM	Guiding Session: Adulting Skills (1:00 - 2:00)		Office Hours	Office Hours	Office Hours	
1:30 PM			Dental Nurs Design	Dental Nurs Design	Dental Nurs Design	
Pods 7-9: Guided Campus Tour						
Pods 1-6 and 10-12: Asynchronous Learning						
Penn Trustee Panel (2:00-3:00)						

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Summer 2025 Program Schedule

		WEEK 5 SCHEDULE				
		7/21	7/22	7/23	7/24	7/25
		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
10:00 AM	Pod Check-In		Pod Check-In	Pod Check-In	Pod Check-In	
10:30 AM						
11:00 AM	The College Application Classroom (10:15 - 12:15)		Capstone Project Work Time (10:30 - 12:00)	Capstone Project Work Time (10:30 - 12:00)	Alumni Career Panel: <u>Entrepreneurship</u> (10:30 - 12:00)	
11:30 AM						
12:00 PM			BREAK	BREAK	BREAK	
12:30 PM	LUNCH		Office Hours	Office Hours	Office Hours	
1:00 PM	Guiding Session: Adulting Skills (1:00 - 2:00)		Career Pathways (1:00 - 2:00)	Career Pathways (1:00 - 2:00)	Career Pathways (1:00 - 2:00)	
1:30 PM		Edu Comm Engineering	Edu Comm Engineering	Edu Comm Engineering	Edu Comm Engineering	

The passcode to all Zoom sessions is “**PENNRSSA**”.

		WEEK 6 SCHEDULE				
		7/28	7/29	7/30	7/31	8/1
		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
10:00 AM	Pod Check-In	Pod Check-In				
10:30 AM						
11:00 AM	Capstone Presentations (10:30 - 12:00)	Capstone Presentations (10:30 - 12:00)				
11:30 AM						
12:00 PM	BREAK	BREAK				
12:30 PM						
1:00 PM	Capstone Presentations (12:30 - 2:00)	PennRSSA 2025 Commencement (12:30-2:00)				
1:30 PM						

The passcode to all Zoom sessions is “**PENNRSSA**”.

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Penn 12 School Career Pathways Curriculum

Overview

CAREER PATHWAYS content was developed through a coordinated collaboration among Penn's Schools—School of Arts and Sciences, Perelman School of Medicine (PSOM), School of Engineering, School of Social Policy and Practice (SP2), School of Nursing, Carey Law School, Weitzman School of Design, School of Dental Medicine, School of Veterinary Medicine, the Annenberg School for Communication, and the Graduate School of Education (GSE)—in close partnership with their respective Deans. This joint effort ensured that the program reflected the breadth of academic disciplines and professional expertise represented across the University.

Introduction

During the first week of the program, students completed a series of skills and interests assessments designed by the U.S. Bureau of Labor, which served as a foundation for identifying potential career directions. In the following weeks, students were provided with the opportunity to select four distinct tracks. These tracks were designed to support exploration of individual strengths and interests, while offering exposure to a broad range of academic and professional fields, including STEM disciplines as well as the Social Sciences, Arts, and Humanities.

The Career Pathways course incorporated multiple modes of engagement, including both asynchronous and synchronous learning. Asynchronous learning included online readings, lectures, videos, and interactive activities/ assignments. This content was further complemented by synchronous live sessions, the in-person and virtual professional skills demonstrations, as well as professional engagement opportunities that connected students directly with professionals across diverse fields. Through these sessions, students were able to listen to and converse with professionals, gaining first-hand insights into the various careers, the skills required for success, and the day-to-day responsibilities within different professions.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand how their unique strengths and interests align with a wide variety of future opportunities.
- Know a wide range of industries and careers in each core discipline.
- Apply learning and engagement from core disciplines to contemporary problems and conditions.

General content coordination and content development across schools: Ronald D. Harvey, Program Director, Division of Student Engagement; Julia Cai, Program Coordinator, Division of Student Engagement; Violet Tan, Data Analyst, Division of Student Engagement.

Penn School Lead Content Developers, Coordinators, and Assistants:

- LANG – Sarah Grosik (Penn English Language Programs), Betsy Kells (Penn Language Center), Liyan Alkawafahah (Middle East Center)
- GSE – Saida Harpi, Julie Berger, Alison Capaldi
- COMMS – Dr. Litty Paxton, Dr. Murali Balaji
- LAW – Yolanda Ingram
- PSOM- Dr. Jamie Shuda, Jacqueline Davidson
- SP2 – Caroline Wong, Emily Rich
- SEAS – Dr. Mark Licurse, Ashley Wallace
- DENTISTRY – Dr. Beverley Crawford, Javita Lee
- VET – Dr. Brittany Watson
- DESIGN – Kali Meeks
- NURSING – Dr. Alicia Kachmar

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Penn 12 School Career Pathways Curriculum

Week 1 (June 16 – June 27)

Exploring Careers

Assignments

- PD Week Survey: Module Selections for Weeks 2–5 (Due Jun 17, 10 pts)

Module Summary

- Page: Exploring Careers

Unit 1: Know Your Interests and Values

- Reading: What Is a Career?
- Video: The Psychology of Career Decisions
- Reading: Things to Consider When Choosing a Career
- Assignment: Career Exploration Workbook (Steps 1 & 2) (Due Jun 27, 15 pts)

Unit 2: Explore Your Career Options

- Video: Using O*Net to Explore Careers
- Assignment: Career Exploration Workbook (Steps 3 & 4) (Due Jun 27, 15 pts)

Unit 3: Connect Disciplines to Your Career Options

- Reading: Explore Career Fields
- Reading: Choose Disciplines That Match Your Career Options
- Reading: Disciplines, Trainings, and Credentials

Supplemental Resources

- Overview: Supplemental Resources
- O*Net, Internship Finder, Internships in Philadelphia, Philaworks.org
- Roadtrip Nation Career Interest Tool, Penn Career Services

Week 2 (June 30 – July 4)

Introduction to Constitutional Law and the Courts

LIVE: Law @ 1:00pm

Discussion Topics:

- From High School to College (Attorney S. Montgomery)
- Mock Class (Prof. Mayson)
- ADR & Restorative Practices (Jack Drummond)
- Readings & Attachments:
 - The U.S. and State Constitution, Key Terms, Types of Cases, Civil Disputes
- Unit 1: The Constitution and Types of Law
 - Court Basics Video
 - Quiz: Law Unit 1 (Due Jul 4, 5 pts)
- Unit 2: How the PA Courts Operate
 - Reading: How the Courts Operate
 - Video: Navigating PA Courts
 - Quiz: Law Unit 2 (Due Jul 4, 10 pts)
- Unit 3: The Court System & Judiciary
 - Judicial Independence, Judges & Duties, Courtroom Personnel
 - PA Court Structure (Supreme, Superior, Commonwealth, Municipal, Trial Courts)
 - Quiz: Law Unit 3 (Due Jul 4, 10 pts)

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Penn 12 School Career Pathways Curriculum

Veterinary Medicine and One Health

LIVE: Vet Medicine @ 1pm

Unit 1: What Is a Veterinarian?

- Intro to Veterinary Medicine
- Discussion: Reflecting on Veterinary Careers (Due Jul 4, 6 pts)
- Assignment: Post-Live Session (Due Jul 4, 5 pts)

Unit 2: One Health Case Studies (Session 1)

- Case 1: Emergency Preparedness & Response
- Case 2: Rabies & Vaccination Issues
- Discussion: Reflecting on One Health Cases 1–3 (Due Jul 4, 6 pts)

Unit 3: One Health Case Studies (Session 2)

- Case 4: Emotional Support & Service Animals
- Case 5: Antimicrobial Resistance
- Case 6: Zoonotic Disease
- Discussion: Reflecting on One Health Cases 4–6 (Due Jul 4, 25 pts)

- Additional Materials: AAVMC, AVMA, Career Videos, Zoo Animal Care, Penn Vet Working Dog Center

Week 3 (July 7 – July 11)

School of Social Policy and Practice

LIVE: Social Policy @ 1pm

Unit 1: What Is Social Work?

- Video/Lecture, NASW Code of Ethics, Types of Social Work
- Quiz: Reflection—My Own Intersectionality (Due Jul 11, 6 pts)

Unit 2: Social Justice & Social Work

- Readings/Videos: Criminal Justice, Kendrick Lamar, Beauty2thestreetz
- Quizzes: Reflections (Videos, Spent, Social Justice) (Each Due Jul 11, 6 pts)

Unit 3: Careers in Social Work

- Readings: International, Public Policy, Mental Health

A Whirlwind Tour into a Career in Medicine

LIVE: Medicine @ 1pm

Unit 1: Journey into Medical School

- Videos/Readings: Why Being a Doctor, Match Day & Residency
- Assignments: PreMed Q&A (Jul 8, 10 pts), Specialty Interest (Jul 8, 10 pts)

Unit 2: Vision Science

- Assignment #3: Eye Conditions & Diseases (Due Jul 10, 10 pts)

Unit 3: Teamwork in Medicine

- Podcast: Difference Makers, Social Determinants of Health, Day in the Life
- Assignment #4: Reflection (Due Jul 11, 15 pts)

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Penn 12 School Career Pathways Curriculum

Languages for Global Careers

LIVE: Languages @ 1pm

Unit 1: The Communicative Power of Language

- Videos: Four Reasons to Learn a New Language, Lead with Languages
- Quiz: Learning Check (Jul 7, 6 pts)
- Discussion: Language Leadership (Jul 7, 15 pts)

Unit 2: Language Teaching & Studying Abroad

- Readings/Podcast: ELL, Teaching Evolution
- Discussion: Language Learning Experience (Jul 9, 6 pts)

Unit 3: Less Commonly Taught Languages

- Topics: Critical Languages, Multilingualism in Philadelphia, Language Bias, Cultural Focus (Arabic, Turkish, Persian, Kurdish)

Week 4 (July 14 – July 18)

Introduction to Dental Medicine

LIVE: Dental Medicine @ 1pm

Unit 1 (Jul 15): Esthetics in Dentistry

- Assignment: Your Smile Defined (Jul 14, 5 pts)

Unit 2 (Jul 16): Dental Anatomy & Terminology

- Readings: Terminology, Tooth Decay, Treatment Options
- Video: Preparing a Tooth for a Crown
- Quiz: Dental Terminology (Jul 15, 10 pts)

Unit 3 (Jul 17): Dental Careers

- Reading: Dental Auxiliaries
- Quiz: Dental Careers (Jul 17, 12 pts)

Unit 4 (Jul 18): Specialties

- Readings & Videos: Specialties, Orthodontics
- Assignment: Molar Drawing Exercise (Jul 18, 15 pts)

- Interdisciplinary Design
- LIVE: Design @ 1pm
- Unit 1 (Jul 15): Landscape Architecture
 - Podcast & Articles
 - Assignment (Jul 14, 6 pts)
- Unit 2 (Jul 16): Urban Planning & Analytics
 - Homework & Assignment (Jul 15, 6 pts)
- Unit 3 (Jul 17): Architecture
 - Videos & Assignment (Jul 16, 6 pts)
- Extra Credit: Urban Planning Video & Discussion

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Penn 12 School Career Pathways Curriculum

Introduction to Nursing

LIVE: Nursing @ 1pm

Unit 1 (Jul 15): What Nurses Do & Vital Signs

- Videos, Podcast, Readings
- Assignment: Reflective Activity (Jul 15, 15 pts)

Unit 2 (Jul 16): Nursing Process & Terminology

- Videos/Readings: ADPIE, Nursing Process
- Quiz: Units 1 & 2 (Jul 16, 9 pts)

Unit 3 (Jul 17): Nursing Specialties & Future of Nursing

- Videos: Day in the Life, Public Health Nursing, Travel Nursing
- Discussion: Reflection (Jul 17, 6 pts)

Week 5 (July 21 – July 25)

Annenberg School for Communication

LIVE: Communication @ 1pm

Unit 1: Studying Communication

- Video, Readings, Student Profiles
- Assignment: Submit Questions (Jul 22, 6 pts)

Unit 2: Careers in Communication

- Videos & Readings: Career Journeys
- Assignment: Career Panel Reflection (Jul 23, 6 pts)

Unit 3: PhD in Communication

- Assignment: Response (Jul 24, 6 pts)

Introduction to Engineering

LIVE: Engineering @ 1pm

Unit 1: Introduction to Robotics

- Videos & Readings: Bio-inspiration, Origami Robotics
- Assignment: Origami Model (Jul 22, 15 pts)
- Quiz: Unit 1 (Jul 23, 4 pts)

Unit 2: Biophysics

- Reading: Evolution of Microscopes
- Quiz (Jul 24, 10 pts)

Unit 3: Materials Science & Engineering

- Videos & Readings: Nanomaterials
- Quizzes (Jul 24: 6 pts + 8 pts)

Graduate School of Education

LIVE: Education @ 1pm

Unit 1: Education Careers

- Readings: Teachers, Counselors, Leaders, Policy Makers, Researchers
- Activities: Group Project Gone Awry (Jul 22, 15 pts), Counseling Discussion (Jul 22, 6 pts), Careers Reflection (Jul 22, 6 pts)

Unit 2: Issues in Education

- Topics: Race in the Classroom, Student Assessment, School Climate
- Discussions (Jul 23, 6 pts each)

Unit 3: Build Your Own Classroom

- Topics: Makerspaces, Flipped Classrooms
- Assignment: Build Your Own Classroom (Jul 24, 15 pts)

Mariafernanda H.

Being part of PennRSSA has been an incredibly positive experience for me. From the beginning, I felt engaged and supported in every aspect.

The program was hands-on, interactive, and designed to make us think deeply about our futures. Every activity, workshop, and capstone project gave me something new to take away, whether it was a skill I could practice or a perspective that helped me better understand things about myself and my goals.

One of the highlights for me was the opportunity to explore different career pathways. I was introduced to fields I had only heard about before, and I was able to picture myself in those roles in a way I hadn't thought about before. This experience helped me figure out my interests and gave me a better idea of what I want to major in when I continue my education. This program truly prepared me for the future. I was able to see how communication, law, medicine, and business can all intersect in meaningful ways. That type of guidance is something I know will stay with me as I take the next steps in my academic journey.

Another part of PennRSSA that stood out was how much it focused on preparing us for the future. The capstone projects challenged me in many ways. I applied creativity and strategy to solve problems, which gave me a sense of confidence in my ability to do public speaking and take on leadership roles. Working with peers, mentors, and professionals made me realize the importance of collaboration and advocacy.

Overall, after being in the program for two years, I see my time with PennRSSA as a truly meaningful and important experience. It gave me clarity about my future, helped me build important skills, and gave me the confidence I need to take on any challenge. I learned that my goals are achievable if I'm willing to work hard and use the resources that are there for me. I am grateful for everything I've learned and excited to carry this foundation with me into the future.



Provost's Summer Mentorship Program

est. 2004

The Summer Mentorship Program (SMP) is a transformative four-week college and career exploration experience designed for rising 11th and 12th grade students, primarily from Philadelphia public, charter, and parochial schools. Hosted on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania, SMP offers students a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in professional pathways across dentistry, medicine, nursing, engineering, and law, through dynamic, hands-on programming developed by five of Penn's graduate and professional schools.

SMP continues to be guided by the following core goals:

- Inspire career exploration by offering immersive, field-specific activities and exposure to professionals from historically underrepresented backgrounds.
- Equip students for college success through workshops on financial aid, SAT prep, application strategies, and essay writing.
- Build academic confidence and personal agency by teaching skills needed to thrive in higher education settings.
- Demystify Penn and other top-tier universities by giving students firsthand access to campus life and resources.
- Foster cultural engagement through curated educational outings across Philadelphia.



SMP Dental students learn how to make dentures. Pictured left to right are students Danna Sophia and Ella, and Penn Dental Faculty Dr. Beverly Crawford and Dental Student Hanam Kim.

PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS

68%

School District of Philadelphia public school students

55%

first generation to college students

28%

of students with a first language other than English

PROVOST'S SUMMER MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

“SMP was truly an eye-opening and wonderful experience that has changed the way I look at many things. It changed the way I view college, scholarships, my career, the future, and, most importantly, myself... Thank you so much for an amazing four weeks.”

— Peculiar A., 11th grade



Curriculum	OBJECTIVES	HIGHLIGHTS
School of Dental Medicine 16 Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Expose the field of dentistry to high school students with ambitions to exceed their education. The genesis of this goal is to recruit individuals from groups historically underrepresented in the dental profession.	Students learned about the process of making impressions of teeth.
School of Engineering and Applied Science 35 Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Provide students with basic technology skills and overview of hardware, operating systems, software, networking, Internet/Web technologies, and security. Introduce students to programming and robotics.Expose students to the engineering profession through field trips and guest lectures	Students learned how to create and program robots.
Law School 17 Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Provide students with a first-hand look at the study and practice of lawProvide students with a glimpse into what it takes to become a lawyerExpose students to the inner working of the United States legal system	Students traveled to Washington, D.C. to visit the U.S. Supreme Court.
School of Medicine 17 Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Expand students' knowledge of the various health professional career options available and encourage students to pursue a career in the medical fieldTeach students how to effectively and independently research scientific and health-related topics and to improve their ability to perform independent research at a higher educational levelEncourage students to consider college and higher education as an attainable and worthwhile option for their futureConnect students with ongoing mentors in the medical field	Students observed live surgery.
School of Nursing 13 Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Introduce and mentor students about the many facets and roles of a nurse within the nursing discipline and professionIntroduce and mentor students to the basic clinical and research applications of nursing	Students learned how to take blood pressure and use a stethoscope.

PROVOST'S SUMMER MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

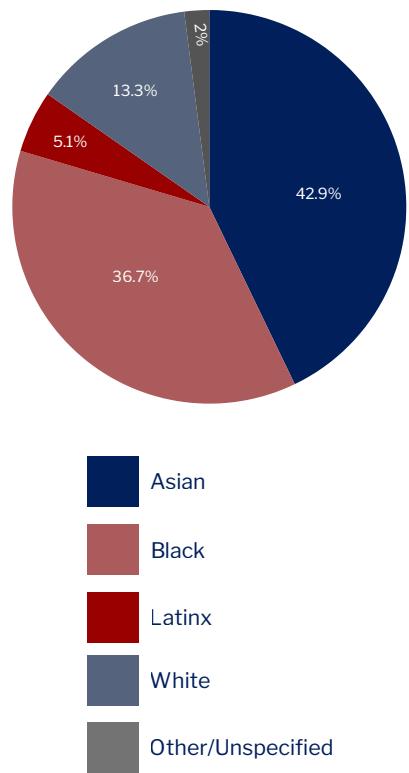
Wednesday Curriculum

		Introduction: Exploring college as a pathway	Understanding the Process: Mastering the college application	Financial Aid: Making College Affordable	Transition to college: Thriving in college and moving forward
09:00 - 09:15 AM		Opening (15 mins)			
09:15 AM - 10:15 AM	Session (1 hr.)	Introduction to the SMP Program	Understand Standardized Testing (Test optional vs Test Required) + khan academy	Financial Aid (Penn)	Time management and study skills (Penn)
10:15 AM - 10:30 AM		Break (15 mins)			
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Session (1 hr. 30 mins)	Introduction to College + Rodney Goldston	Breaking down the college application (Penn Admissions)	Budgeting and Financial Literacy (Penn)	Campus Life & Self-Advocacy
12:00 PM - 10:00 PM		Lunch (1 hour)			
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM	Session (1 hr. 30 mins)	Identifying interest and setting goals	Crafting a standout college essay	Scholarships Search Workshops	College Fair (1 to 3)
2:30 PM - 2:45 PM		Break (15 mins)			
2:45 PM - 3:45 PM	Session (1 hr.)	College Myths vs Realities	Penn Trustee Speaker	Financial Aid activity	Early Dismissal
3:45 - 4:00 PM		Reflection (15 mins)			

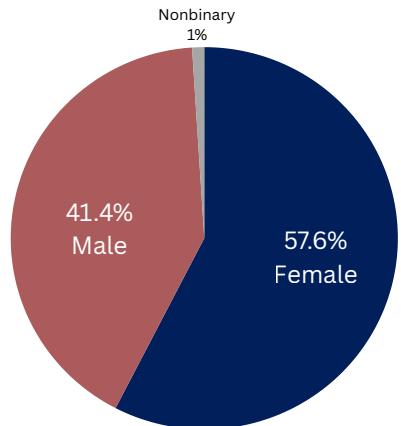
Law Cohort Schedule

Date	Time	Activity/Event
7-Jul	9:00 AM	VPSE Orientation
	1:00 PM	Campus Tours, Ice Breakers & Movie
8-Jul	9:00 AM	Curriculum & Instruction
9-Jul	9:00 AM	VPSE
10-Jul	9:00 AM	Field Trip
11-Jul	9:00 AM	Historical Society of PA
14-Jul	9:00 AM	Curriculum & Instruction
15-Jul	9:00 AM	Field Trip
	1:00 PM	Field Trip
16-Jul		VPSE/Staff meeting
17-Jul	9:00 AM	Curriculum & Instruction
18-Jul	9:00 AM	Curriculum & Instruction
21-Jul	9:00 AM	Curriculum & Instruction
22-Jul	9:00 AM	Curriculum & Instruction
23-Jul		VPSE/Staff meeting
24-Jul	9:00 AM	Drexel KITA Mock Class Field Trip
		Tower Tour
28-Jul	9:00 AM	Curriculum & Instruction
29-Jul	10:00 AM	Eastern State Penitentiary Field Trip
30-Jul		College Fair
31-Jul	9:00 AM	Mini Golf Field Trip
		Watch Mock Trial Skits
1-Aug		Closing Ceremony

Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity



Enrollment by Gender



PROVOST'S SUMMER MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Bioengineering & Robotics Cohort Schedules

SMP Bioengineering Schedule at a Glance						
	Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1 July 7- 11	9-12	SMP Orientation	Central Dogma of Molecular Biology	SMP	PCR and DNA Fingerprinting Lab GMO technology and GMO Foods	
	1-4	Icebreakers and Introduction to Bioengineering	Mystery Illness and genetic disease	SMP	Transformation Lab	Create your own GMO
Week 2 July 14 - 18	9-12	Anatomy of Body systems Poster Group Work	Tissue Engineering scaffold for paper mache	SMP	biomechanics/prosthetics - claw emg control activity	DC trip
	1-4	Poster Group Presentations Medical Diagnostics	biomaterials - drug delivery, types of materials	SMP	mutter museum	DC trip
Week 3 July 21 - 25	9-12	arduino intro pt 1	arduino intro pt 2	SMP	intro to engineering design, intro final project (design hand to pick up pompoms), lab tour	intro to tinkercad, final project work
	1-4	data science	machine	SMP	discuss	"pitch" hand design ideas, continue working
			arm build		machine arm, how it relates to final project	
Week 4 July 28 - Aug 1	9-12	Robotic arm Prosthetic Group Project Work	Robotic arm Prosthetic Group Project Work	SMP	Robotic arm Prosthetic Group Project Presentations	SMP Closing Ceremonies
	1-4	Robotic arm Prosthetic Group Project Work	Robotic arm Prosthetic Group Project Work, Guerraty Lab talk (cardiovascular cellular engineerin	SMP	Robotic arm Prosthetic Group Project Presentations	SMP Closing Ceremonies

SMP Robotics Schedule at a Glance						
	Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1 July 7- 11	9-4	SMP ORIENTATION	Electrical Circuits and Theory	SMP	Mechanical Design (2D CAD, 3D Modeling) Making a Keychain	Introduction to Programming Arduino Programming Tasks
		Introduction to Engineering	Soldering Practice	SMP		
Week 2 July 14 - 18	9-4	Arduino and Digital Circuits. Analog Signals Arduino	Arduino Programming PWM / Buzzer Motion Activity	SMP	Making a Game Project with Arduino	DC trip
				SMP		
Week 3 July 21 - 25	9-4	DC Motor Basics (Robot Activity)	Intro to Mobile Robots / Engineering Design of Robots	SMP	Robot Experiments Driving & Turning Bumpers	Robot Experiments Line Tracking & Encoders
				SMP		
Week 4 July 28 - Aug 1	9-4	Group Project Work	Group Project Work	SMP	Group Project Work and Presentations	SMP Closing Ceremonies
				SMP		

PROVOST'S SUMMER MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Dental Cohort Schedule

Week 1

	M (7/7)	T (7/8)	W (7/9)	Th (7/10)	F (7/11)
9:00	Orientation Location TBD	Cardiovascular System Lecture by Gabby & Hanam	SMP Program	Table Top Class I Restoration in GRD	Dental Terminology Lecture by Dr. Crawford?
10:00		Painting with Dr. Spieler		Medical History Lecture with Ms. Javita Lee	Crash Cart Demonstration by Dr. Kasselakis in LL02A and GRD
11:00					
12:00	LUNCH				GRD
1:15	Welcome & HIPAA Lecture by Dr. Crawford Zoom	Dental Anatomy and Hand Skills Presentation by Dr. Hilburg	SMP Program	Table Top Class I Restoration in GRD	Wax-up #8 in GRD
2:15	Tour of the Dental School by Gabby & Hanam			Dental Jeopardy by Gabby & Hanam in LL02A	
3:00	Ice Breaker Activity	Infection Control Lecture by Gabby & Hanam in LL02A			

Week 2

	M (7/14)	T (7/15)	W (7/16)	Th (7/17)	F (7/18)
9:00	Head & Tooth Anatomy Lecture by UsinLL02A	Oral Surgery Lecture by Dr. Gates	SMP Program	Table Top & Mannequin Class V Preparation in GRD	
10:00	Head and Neck Examination Lecture by Dr. Kulkarni	What is Dentistry Lecture by Dr. Smithgall		Dental Auxiliaries Lecture with Ms. Javita Lee	Table Top & Mannequin Class V Preparation in GRD
11:00					
12:00	LUNCH				
1:15	Library Resources with Laurel	Franklin Institute	SMP Program	Resume Building Workshop with Sue	Clinic Shadowing & Open Wide Documentary and Discussion in LL02A
2:15	Mannequin Class I Preparation & Restoration in GRD			Clinic Shadowing & Open Wide Documentary and Discussion in LL02A	Impressions & Stone Models in GRD
3:00					

PROVOST'S SUMMER MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Dental Cohort Schedule

Week 3

	M (7/21)	T (7/22)	W (7/23)	Th (7/24)	F (7/25)	
9:00	24-Hour Diet Recall Activity by Us in LL02A	Orthodontics Lecture	SMP Program	Intro to Periodontics Lecture by Us in LL02A	Suturing Lecture by Dr. Chang	
10:00	Penn Farms Tour Whipple	Wire Bending & Bracket Placement Activity in GRD		Clinic Shadowing & Activity	Suturing Activity by Dr. Chang from Periodontics	
11:00						
12:00	LUNCH					
1:15	Clinic Shadowing & Activity	CiPD Lecture by Dr. Vining	SMP Program	Mutter Museum	SMP Project in LL02A	
2:15						
3:00		SMP Project in LL02A		Mutter Museum		

Week 4

	M (7/28)	T (7/29)	W (7/30)	Th (7/31)	F (8/1)
9:00	SMP Project in LL02A	Oral Pathology Lecture by Dr. Alawi	SMP Program	Crown Preparation & Provisionals Lecture by Dr. Crawford in LL02A?	Closing Ceremony
11:00	Optical Illusions in Dentistry by Gabby and Hanam	CustomTray in GRD		Crown Preparation in GRD	
12:00	LUNCH				
1:15	Museum of Illusions	Pediatrics Lecture by Dr. Bauder	SMP Program	SMP Project in LL02A	Closing Ceremony
2:15		With SMP proj in afternoon			
3:00					

PROVOST'S SUMMER MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Medical Cohort Schedule

	Monday July 7	Tuesday July 8	Thursday July 10	Friday July 11
Room	JMEC 514	JMEC 506EW	JMEC 506W	JMEC 506W
8:45		Arrival/Group Check-in		Arrival/Group Check-in
9:00				
9:15				
9:30				
9:45		OB-GYN Lecture 9:30-10:30	Emergency Medicine Lecture 9:30-10:30	Microbiology/Immunology + Infectious disease lecture 9:15-11:00
10:00				
10:15			Law	
10:30	Provost Programming Houston Hall		Pulmonary Lecture 10:30 -11:30	
10:45		Cadaver Overview + Intro to Systems 10:30-12:00	Law	Travel Time 11:00-11:30
11:00				
11:15			Dermatology Lecture 11:30-12:30	
11:30			Law	
11:45				
12:00				Eastern State Field Trip w/ PASS 11:30-1:00
12:15				
12:30				
12:45	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch 12:30-2:00	Travel Time 1:00 -1:30
1:00				
1:15				
1:30				
1:45	Icebreakers 1:30-2:30	Travel to Stemmler		
2:00				Lunch 1:30-2:45
2:15				
2:30	Group Expectations 2:30-2:45	Gross Anatomy Lab w/ BOLD 2:00-4:00 Stemmler	Physical Exams and Medical History Taking 2:00-3:45 w/ Dr. Smith	
2:45	<u>Who Does What Medical Careers</u>			
3:00				Microbiology lab swabs
3:15				
3:30				
3:45		Dismissal		Dismissal
4:00				

Monday July 14	Tuesday July 15	Thursday July 17	Friday July 18
JMEC 506W	JMEC 516E	JMEC 506W/516E	JMEC 516E
Arrival/Group Check-in		Arrival/Group Check-in	
Cell and Central Dogma 9:30-11:30	Neuroscience Lecture and Activities 9:30-11:30	Intro to GI 9:30-10:30	Psychiatry Subspecialties 9:30-11:00
Hippocratic Oath Rewrite 11:30-12:00	Sports Medicine Lecture w/ Bold Law 11:30-12:30	Penn ENT 10:30-12:30 HUP OTO Lecture Room Silverstein 5	Plastic Surgery Lecture 11:00-12:00
White Coat Ceremony 12:00-1:00			Capstone Intro
Lunch 1:00-2:00	Lunch 12:30-2:00	Lunch 12:30-2:00	Lunch 12:30-2:00
Micro Lab w/ BOLD 2:00-4:00 JMEC	Brain Pathology w/ Bold 2:00-4:15 Stemmler and JMEC	Half group: Surgical Lab w/ BOLD JMEC 505EW Half group: Vision and Perception JMEC 506W 2:00-4:00	Half group: Surgical Lab w/ BOLD JMEC 505EW Half group: Vision and Perception JMEC 506W 2:00-4:00

PROVOST'S SUMMER MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Medical Cohort Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Thursday	Friday	Monday	Tuesday	Thursday	Friday
	July 21	July 22	July 24	July 25	July 28	July 29	July 31	August 1
Room	506EW	505EW	JMEC 512	JMEC 511	JMEC 511	JMEC 511	JMEC 511	JMEC 511
8:45								
9:00	Arrival/Group Check-in		Arrival/Group Check-in		Arrival/Group Check-in		Arrival/Group Check-in	
9:15								
9:30	Work on Capstone		Work on Capstone					
9:45					Travel Time			
10:00						9:30-11 Urinalysis Lab		
10:15							First Aid Lab 9:30-11:30	
10:30	Alternate Careers in Medicine 10:00-11:30	CPR Certification 9:30-12:30	Ophthalmology Lecture and Lab w/ BOLD 10:00-12:00	CHOP Hospital Tour 10:30-12:00	Mutter Museum Tour 10:00-12:00			
10:45						Vaccines 11:00-11:45		
11:00								
11:15								
11:30								
11:45	Biomedical Research 11:30-12:30		Work on Capstone				Reproductive Health 11:30-12:30	
12:00					Travel Time			
12:15						Capstone Project		
12:30				Lunch 12:00-1:30				
12:45								
1:00	Lunch 12:30-2:00	Lunch 12:30-1:30 PM	Lunch 12:30-2:00		Lunch 12:30-2:00		Lunch 12:30-2:00	
1:15								
1:30								
1:45								
2:00								
2:15								
2:30								
2:45								
3:00	Ultrasound Anatomy Lab 2:00-4:00	Something the Lord Made Movie w/ BOLD Law 1:30-3:15	PASS Poster Session 2-4 PM Smilow Auditorium		Nutrition Lecture and Activities 2:00-3:45		Ethics 2:00-3:45	
3:15								
3:30		Something the Lord Made Discussion 3:15-4:00					Basic Skills w/ Dr. Baner 2:00-3:45	
3:45	Dismissal		Dismissal		Dismissal		Dismissal	
4:00								

Talent Search

est. 2003

Penn Talent Search is a federally funded TRIO program designed to help first-generation, low-income Philadelphia students complete middle and high school and enroll in postsecondary school.

Talent Search provides students in grades 6-12 with support services that instill a college-going culture and promote the academic and personal development necessary for their entry into and success in higher education.

SERVICES SNAPSHOT

583

Students served

227

individual student points of contact (e.g., in-person and virtual meetings, homework help sessions, and essay reviews)

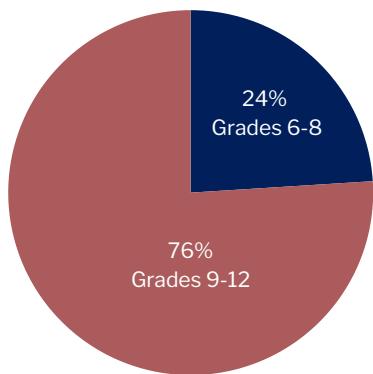
169

students attended SAT prep sessions

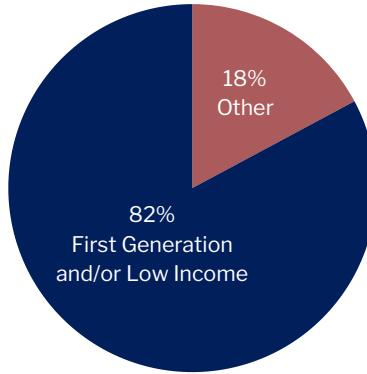
16

college tours and other field trips attended by 315 students.

Enrollment by Grade Level



Enrollment by First Generation Status and Income



Participant Testimonial

I wish I had known about this program sooner. In my school, unless you were in certain groups, you don't know about all the different opportunities available to you. Penn Talent Search consolidates that into a very nice newsletter. That makes it very easy to see all of the possibilities. I love that this program removes barriers: it pays for SEPTA transport, it offers free SAT prep, free counseling, free tutoring, free college essay help, and free trips and more ... I have gained knowledge about many internships and opportunities that I otherwise wouldn't have known about. The SAT prep opportunity was very helpful. And I am looking forward to utilizing the College Corner Zoom meetings and essay writing help this school year as a senior.

— Amarachi B., 12th grade

TALENT SEARCH



Talent Search summer program participants in the Design & Architecture cohort apply their learning by constructing a blueprint of their ideal school.

PARTICIPANT STATS

99%

of 6th-11th graders persisted in school for the next academic year

95%

of seniors graduated high school in four years, compared with 81% of School District of Philadelphia seniors

71%

of seniors enrolled in post-secondary education, compared with 51% of School District of Philadelphia seniors

Summer 2025

HIGHLIGHTS

OUTCOMES

Veterinary
Science
July 14-July 17

Participants toured the Penn Biopond, attended a live animal demonstration by a Penn Vet professional, and visited Penn's New Bolton Center, a large veterinary clinic.

- Awareness of the ethics of animal husbandry and the importance of animal welfare
- Exposure to a variety of careers and education pathways related to veterinary science

Design &
Architecture
July 21-July 24

Participants applied interior design and architecture principles to craft their dream school, utilized materials to build a model bridge, and toured the Center for Design Philadelphia.

- Experience collaborating on several design projects, focused on principles such as structure, adjacency, purpose, and function
- Networking with interior design and architecture professionals

Business &
Entrepreneurship
July 28-July 31

Participants created their own business to compete in a Shark Tank-style competition, practiced investing with a stock market game, and toured Penn's Venture Lab.

- Application of business fundamentals through project-based learning and investment simulation
- Exposure to entrepreneurship opportunities available on a college campus

TALENT SEARCH

Summer Program Schedule

Veterinary Science, July 14 to 17				
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
10:00 AM	Program Introduction	Trip Prep	Day Overview	Trip Prep
10:30 AM	Penn Safety Presentation	Biopond with Penn Vet	Pottruck: Obstacle Course & Rock Climbing	Travel Time
11:00 AM	College Basics			
11:30 AM	College Jeopardy			
12:00 PM	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch at Dining Hall	New Bolton Center & Lunch
12:30 PM	Live Animal Demonstration	Career Panel with Penn Vet		
1:00 PM		Team Competition: Animal Facts	Travel Time	
1:30 PM	T-Shirt and SEPTA Pass Distribution			

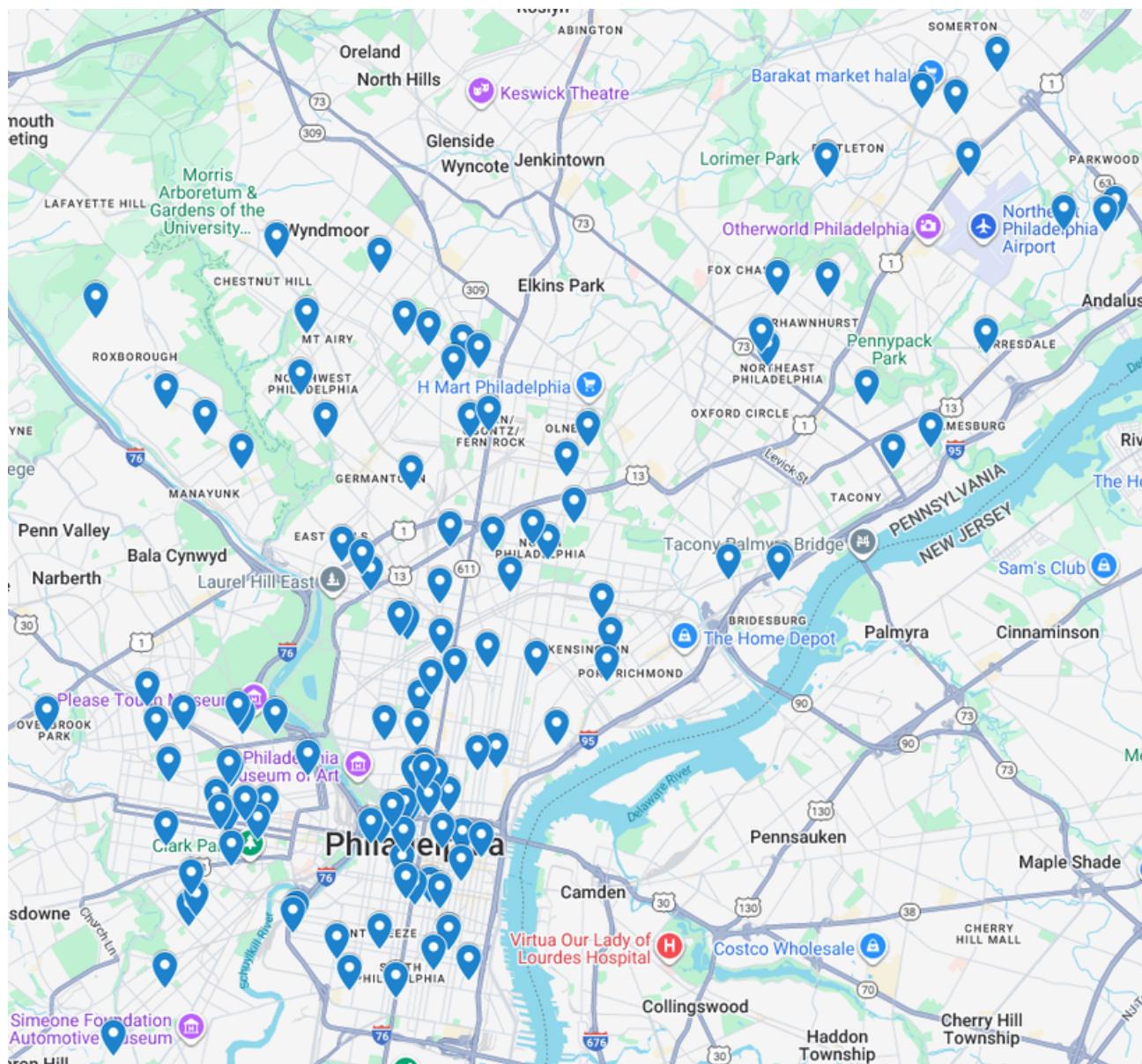
Design & Architecture, July 21 to 24				
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
10:00 AM	Program Introduction	Bridge Challenge	Day Overview	Trip Prep
10:30 AM	Penn Safety Presentation		Pottruck: Obstacle Course & Rock Climbing	Travel Time
11:00 AM	College Basics			Design Philadelphia
11:30 AM	College Jeopardy			
12:00 PM	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Travel Time
12:30 PM	Campus Sculpture Walk	Careers w/ Design Philadelphia		
1:00 PM		Architecture Workshop	Lunch @ Dining Hall / Closing Session	
1:30 PM	T-Shirt, SEPTA Pass Distribution, Email Check			

Business & Entrepreneurship, July 28 to 31					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	
10:00 AM	Program Introduction	Investing Video & Game	Pitch Competition Preparation and Prototype Building	Trip Prep	
10:30 AM	Penn Safety Presentation			Travel Time	
11:00 AM	Business Jeopardy	Pottruck: Obstacle Course & Rock Climbing	Pitch Competition	Philadelphia Zoo	
11:30 AM	Venture Lab Tour at Tangen Hall				
12:00 PM	Lunch	Lunch in Dining Hall			
12:30 PM	Lunch	Pitch Competition Preparation	SMP College Fair	Closing Session	
1:00 PM					
1:30 PM	T-Shirt and SEPTA Pass Distribution				

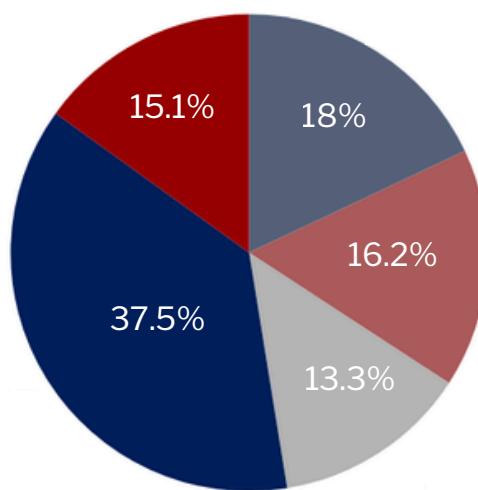
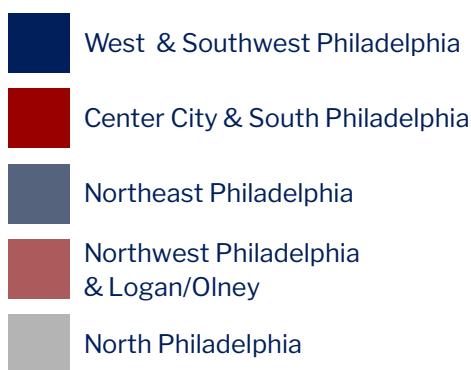
TALENT SEARCH

Reach Across Philadelphia

Schools with Students Enrolled in Talent Search



Enrollment by Zip Code



The Talent Search program reaches students at **more than 100 schools** across the city, with the highest concentration of students residing in neighborhoods of **West and Southwest Philadelphia**.

Upward Bound

est. 1979

Upward Bound is a college preparatory program designed to motivate and prepare high school students for the successful pursuit of a college education. The goal of the program is to increase the rate at which low-income, first-generation-to-college students enroll in and graduate from a college or university.

During the school year, academic enrichment courses are offered on Saturdays in core curriculum courses: math, language arts, history, and science. Learning take place inside and outside of the classroom through tutoring, mentoring, community service, cultural enrichment, college visits, and college preparatory workshops.

During the summer, students participate in a summer residential program. The goal of the summer program is to offer participants an academically-intensive program that simulates a college-going experience and gives participants a jumpstart on the upcoming year's academic curriculum. Instruction is offered in core courses and elective courses (e.g., Neuroscience & Senior Seminar for rising seniors). The summer program culminates with a week-long college tour.

SERVICES SNAPSHOT

29

summer program participants, including 27 residential students and 2 commuters

20

college tours and other field trips offered throughout the year

7

summer elective courses offered, including Chinese, Printmaking, Upcycled Fashion, Pharmacology, and Business



UB student Makayla Y. tests out a radio mic during a tour of the iHeart Media studio in Bala Cynwyd. Students heard from on-air personalities and managers including Media News & Community Affairs Director Loraine Ballard Morrill. Students learned about the current state of the media business, career paths both on and off the air, and advice on entering the media industry.

UPWARD BOUND



To close out the 2024-2025 school year, Upward Bound students participated in a “Reverse Science Fair” with Pharm4Good, a group of Penn Graduate Pharmacology students who develop community partnerships to foster scientific education and curiosity. During this event, UB students learned how to assess quality research presentations and then evaluated recent research projects completed by Pharm4Good students. This gave UB students an opportunity to deepen their understanding of scientific research and engage with the Pharm4Good organization.

PARTICIPANT STATS

98%

of students persisted in school for the next academic year

100%

of seniors graduated high school in four years, compared with 81% of School District of Philadelphia seniors

80%

of seniors enrolled in post-secondary education, compared with 51% of School District of Philadelphia seniors

Program Highlights and Achievements

Questbridge

UB assisted two students with their QuestBridge applications. Successfully assisted UB student (West Philadelphia HS) in being named a QuestBridge finalist. In 2024, 7,288 finalists were selected of over 25,500 applicants. The student subsequently enrolled at New York University in the fall 2025 semester.

Senior Year Only Program

UB supported two Overbrook High School students through the Senior Year Only Program (SYOP). The Program allows students to earn college credits while completing their senior year at Community College of Philadelphia.

Reverse Science Fair

UB hosted a Reverse Science Fair in collaboration with Pharm4Good. Pharmacology graduate students instructed UB students on how to understand scientific research presentations and quality data. UB students viewed and judged research projects completed by pharmacology graduate students.

College Access & Success Ecosystem

Three UB team members joined the Philadelphia Education Fund’s College Access & Success Ecosystem (CASE) and UB’s associate director was named the chair of a subcommittee (HS graduation).

UPWARD BOUND

Summer Program Schedule

TIME	MONDAY 23			TUESDAY 24			WEDNESDAY 25			THURSDAY 26		
	STUDENT ARRIVAL			STUDENT ARRIVAL			STUDENT ARRIVAL			STUDENT ARRIVAL		
8:15AM – 8:30AM	MATH 12 TH	SCI. 11 TH	LANG. ARTS. 10 TH	MATH 12 TH	SCI. 11 TH	LANG. ARTS. 10 TH	MATH 12 TH	SCI. 11 TH	LANG. ARTS. 10 TH	MATH 12 TH	SCI. 11 TH	LANG. ARTS. 10 TH
8:30AM – 9:25AM	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS
9:30AM – 10:25AM	MATH 11 TH	SCI. 10 TH	HISTORY 12 TH	MATH 11 TH	SCI. 10 TH	HISTORY 12 TH	MATH 11 TH	SCI. 10 TH	HISTORY 12 TH	MATH 11 TH	SCI. 10 TH	HISTORY 12 TH
10:30AM – 11:25AM	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS
11:30AM – 12:30PM	MATH 10 TH	HISTORY 11 TH	LANG. ARTS. 12 TH	MATH 10 TH	HISTORY 11 TH	LANG. ARTS. 12 TH	MATH 10 TH	HISTORY 11 TH	LANG. ARTS. 12 TH	MATH 10 TH	HISTORY 11 TH	LANG. ARTS. 12 TH
12:35PM – 1:25PM	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS
1:30PM – 2:45PM	TRAVEL TO LUNCH LOCATION	TRAVEL TO LUNCH LOCATION	TRAVEL TO LUNCH LOCATION	TRAVEL TO LUNCH LOCATION	TRAVEL TO LUNCH LOCATION	TRAVEL TO LUNCH LOCATION	TRAVEL TO LUNCH LOCATION	TRAVEL TO LUNCH LOCATION	TRAVEL TO LUNCH LOCATION	TRAVEL TO LUNCH LOCATION	TRAVEL TO LUNCH LOCATION	TRAVEL TO LUNCH LOCATION
2:50PM – 4:05PM	LUNCH/MINI ACTIVITY	LUNCH/MINI ACTIVITY	LUNCH/MINI ACTIVITY	LUNCH/MINI ACTIVITY	LUNCH/MINI ACTIVITY	LUNCH/MINI ACTIVITY	LUNCH/MINI ACTIVITY	LUNCH/MINI ACTIVITY	LUNCH/MINI ACTIVITY	LUNCH/MINI ACTIVITY	LUNCH/MINI ACTIVITY	LUNCH/MINI ACTIVITY
4:05PM – 4:30PM	DISMISSAL "DETENTION"	DISMISSAL "DETENTION"	DISMISSAL "DETENTION"	DISMISSAL "DETENTION"	DISMISSAL "DETENTION"	DISMISSAL "DETENTION"	DISMISSAL "DETENTION"	DISMISSAL "DETENTION"	DISMISSAL "DETENTION"	DISMISSAL "DETENTION"	DISMISSAL "DETENTION"	DISMISSAL "DETENTION"
Science-Williams 201	Neuro-Williams 201											Chinese-Williams 201
Math-Williams 202	Business-Williams 202											Printmaking- Williams 203
History-Williams 203	Upcycled Fashion-Williams 203											Pharmacology-Williams 202
English-Williams 204												Sensor Seminar-Williams 202

TIME	SUNDAY	MONDAY 30			TUESDAY 1			WEDNESDAY 2			THURSDAY 3		
		BREAKFAST AT 1920 COMMONS			BREAKFAST AT 1920 COMMONS			BREAKFAST AT 1920 COMMONS			BREAKFAST AT 1920 COMMONS		
7:30AM – 8:15AM		MATH 12 TH	SCI. 11 TH	LANG. ARTS. 10 TH	MATH 12 TH	SCI. 11 TH	LANG. ARTS. 10 TH	MATH 12 TH	SCI. 11 TH	LANG. ARTS. 10 TH	MATH 12 TH	SCI. 11 TH	LANG. ARTS. 10 TH
8:30AM – 9:25AM	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS
9:30AM – 10:25AM	MATH 11 TH	SCI. 10 TH	HISTORY 12 TH	MATH 11 TH	SCI. 10 TH	HISTORY 12 TH	MATH 11 TH	SCI. 10 TH	HISTORY 12 TH	MATH 11 TH	SCI. 10 TH	HISTORY 12 TH	
10:30AM – 11:25AM	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS
11:30AM – 12:30PM	HIST. 10 TH	SCI. 12 TH	LANG. ARTS. 11 TH	HIST. 10 TH	SCI. 12 TH	LANG. ARTS. 11 TH	HIST. 10 TH	SCI. 12 TH	LANG. ARTS. 11 TH	HIST. 10 TH	SCI. 12 TH	LANG. ARTS. 11 TH	
12:35PM – 1:25PM	TRAVEL TO LUNCH LOCATION	TRAVEL TO LUNCH LOCATION	TRAVEL TO LUNCH LOCATION	TRAVEL TO LUNCH LOCATION	TRAVEL TO LUNCH LOCATION	TRAVEL TO LUNCH LOCATION	TRAVEL TO LUNCH LOCATION	TRAVEL TO LUNCH LOCATION	TRAVEL TO LUNCH LOCATION	TRAVEL TO LUNCH LOCATION	TRAVEL TO LUNCH LOCATION	TRAVEL TO LUNCH LOCATION	
1:30PM – 2:45PM	LUNCH – HOUSTON HALL	LUNCH – BOXED/PIZZA	LUNCH – BOXED/PIZZA	LUNCH – HOUSTON HALL	LUNCH – HOUSTON HALL	LUNCH – HOUSTON HALL	LUNCH – HOUSTON HALL	LUNCH – HOUSTON HALL	LUNCH – HOUSTON HALL	LUNCH – HOUSTON HALL	LUNCH – HOUSTON HALL	LUNCH – HOUSTON HALL	
2:50PM – 4:05PM	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS	
4:05PM – 5:30PM	FREE TIME "DETENTION"	FREE TIME "DETENTION"	FREE TIME "DETENTION"	FREE TIME "DETENTION"	FREE TIME "DETENTION"	FREE TIME "DETENTION"	FREE TIME "DETENTION"	FREE TIME "DETENTION"	FREE TIME "DETENTION"	FREE TIME "DETENTION"	FREE TIME "DETENTION"	FREE TIME "DETENTION"	
5:30PM – 6:25PM	Check In @ MBI Common Room COMMUNITY MEETING	DINNER-BOXED/PIZZA	DINNER AT 1920 COMMONS	DINNER AT 1920 COMMONS	DINNER AT 1920 COMMONS								
6:30PM – 8:30PM	STUDY HALL-BIO TECH COMMONS @7PM	STUDY HALL-BIO TECH COMMONS	STUDY HALL-BIO TECH COMMONS	STUDY HALL-BIO TECH COMMONS	STUDY HALL-BIO TECH COMMONS								
9:00PM	DORM CURFEW	DORM CURFEW	DORM CURFEW	DORM CURFEW	DORM CURFEW								
10:00PM	HALL CURFEW	HALL CURFEW	HALL CURFEW	HALL CURFEW	HALL CURFEW								
11:00PM	ROOM CURFEW	ROOM CURFEW	ROOM CURFEW	ROOM CURFEW	ROOM CURFEW								
Science-Williams 201	Neuro-Williams 201												Chinese-Williams 201
Math-Williams 202	Business-Williams 202												Printmaking- Williams 203
History-Williams 203	Upcycled Fashion-Williams 203												Pharmacology-Williams 202
English-Williams 204	Study Hall Rooms-1, 2, 3, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17												Senior Seminar-Williams 202
													STUDENT MOVE OUT-4:30

UPWARD BOUND

Summer Program Schedule

		UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA 2025 UPWARD BOUND SUMMER SCHEDULE - MEYERSON, 7/7/25 - 7/10/25											
TIME	SUNDAY	MONDAY 7			TUESDAY 8			WEDNESDAY 9			THURSDAY 10		
7:30AM - 8:15AM		BREAKFAST AT 1920 COMMONS			BREAKFAST AT 1920 COMMONS			BREAKFAST AT 1920 COMMONS			BREAKFAST AT 1920 COMMONS		
8:30AM - 9:25AM		MATH 12 TH SCI. 11 TH LANG. ARTS. 10 TH			MATH 12 TH SCI. 11 TH LANG. ARTS. 10 TH			MATH 12 TH SCI. 11 TH LANG. ARTS. 10 TH			MATH 12 TH SCI. 11 TH LANG. ARTS. 10 TH		
		TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS			TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS			TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS			TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS		
9:30AM - 10:25AM		MATH 11 TH SCI. 10 TH HISTORY 12 TH			MATH 11 TH SCI. 10 TH HISTORY 12 TH			MATH 11 TH SCI. 10 TH HISTORY 12 TH			MATH 11 TH SCI. 10 TH HISTORY 12 TH		
		TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS			TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS			TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS			TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS		
10:30AM - 11:25AM		MATH 10 TH HISTORY 11 TH LANG. ARTS. 12 TH			MATH 10 TH HISTORY 11 TH LANG. ARTS. 12 TH			MATH 10 TH HISTORY 11 TH LANG. ARTS. 12 TH			MATH 10 TH HISTORY 11 TH LANG. ARTS. 12 TH		
		TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS			TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS			TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS			TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS		
11:30AM - 12:30PM		HIST. 10 TH SCI. 12 TH LANG. ARTS. 11 TH			HIST. 10 TH SCI. 12 TH LANG. ARTS. 11 TH			HIST. 10 TH SCI. 12 TH LANG. ARTS. 11 TH			HIST. 10 TH SCI. 12 TH LANG. ARTS. 11 TH		
		TRAVEL TO LUNCH LOCATION			TRAVEL TO LUNCH LOCATION			TRAVEL TO LUNCH LOCATION			TRAVEL TO LUNCH LOCATION		
12:40PM - 1:20PM		LUNCH - HOUSTON HALL			LUNCH - BOXED/PIZZA			LUNCH - HOUSTON HALL			LUNCH - HOUSTON HALL (STAFF MEETING-B6)		
		TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS			TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS			TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS			TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS		
1:30PM - 2:45PM		NEURO BUSINESS UPCYCLED FASHION			PHARMA CHINESE PRINTMAKING			NEURO BUSINESS UPCYCLED FASHION			PHARMA CHINESE PRINTMAKING		
		TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS			TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS			TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS			TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS		
2:50PM - 4:05PM		NEURO BUSINESS UPCYCLED FASHION			SENIOR SEMINAR CHINESE PRINTMAKING			NEURO BUSINESS UPCYCLED FASHION			SENIOR SEMINAR CHINESE PRINTMAKING		
4:05PM - 5:30PM		FREE TIME "DETENTION"			FREE TIME "DETENTION"			FREE TIME "DETENTION"			FREE TIME "DETENTION"		
5:30PM - 6:25PM	Check In @ 6PM DINNER, COMMUNITY MEETING	DINNER-BOXED/PIZZA			DINNER AT 1920 COMMONS			DINNER AT 1920 COMMONS			DINNER-BOXED/PIZZA		
6:30PM - 8:30PM		STUDY HALL-BIO TECH COMMONS			STUDY HALL-BIO TECH COMMONS			STUDY HALL-BIO TECH COMMONS			TC WORKSHOPS		
9:00PM		DORM CURFEW			DORM CURFEW			DORM CURFEW			DORM CURFEW		
10:00PM	HALL CURFEW	HALL CURFEW			HALL CURFEW			HALL CURFEW			HALL CURFEW		
11:00PM	ROOM CURFEW	ROOM CURFEW			ROOM CURFEW			ROOM CURFEW			ROOM CURFEW		
Science-B13		Neuro-B5			Chinese-B5			Printmaking-B13			Pharmacology-B2		
Math-B2		Business-B2			Upcycled Fashion-B13			Senior Seminar-B2			Senior Seminar-B2		
History-B5		Upcycled Fashion-B13			Study Hall Rooms-1, 2, 3, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17			Study Hall Rooms-1, 2, 3, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17			Study Hall Rooms-1, 2, 3, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17		

		UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA 2025 UPWARD BOUND SUMMER SCHEDULE - MEYERSON, 7/14/25 - 7/17/25											
TIME	SUNDAY	MONDAY 14			TUESDAY 15			WEDNESDAY 16			THURSDAY 17		
7:30AM - 8:15AM		BREAKFAST AT 1920 COMMONS			BREAKFAST AT 1920 COMMONS			BREAKFAST AT 1920 COMMONS			BREAKFAST AT 1920 COMMONS		
8:30AM - 9:25AM		MATH 12 TH SCI. 11 TH LANG. ARTS. 10 TH			MATH 12 TH SCI. 11 TH LANG. ARTS. 10 TH			MATH 12 TH SCI. 11 TH LANG. ARTS. 10 TH			MATH 12 TH SCI. 11 TH LANG. ARTS. 10 TH		
		TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS			TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS			TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS			TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS		
9:30AM - 10:25AM		MATH 11 TH SCI. 10 TH HISTORY 12 TH			MATH 11 TH SCI. 10 TH HISTORY 12 TH			MATH 11 TH SCI. 10 TH HISTORY 12 TH			MATH 11 TH SCI. 10 TH HISTORY 12 TH		
		TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS			TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS			TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS			TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS		
10:30AM - 11:25AM		MATH 10 TH HISTORY 11 TH LANG. ARTS. 12 TH			MATH 10 TH HISTORY 11 TH LANG. ARTS. 12 TH			MATH 10 TH HISTORY 11 TH LANG. ARTS. 12 TH			MATH 10 TH HISTORY 11 TH LANG. ARTS. 12 TH		
		TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS			TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS			TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS			TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS		
11:30AM - 12:30PM		HIST. 10 TH SCI. 12 TH LANG. ARTS. 11 TH			HIST. 10 TH SCI. 12 TH LANG. ARTS. 11 TH			HIST. 10 TH SCI. 12 TH LANG. ARTS. 11 TH			HIST. 10 TH SCI. 12 TH LANG. ARTS. 11 TH		
		TRAVEL TO LUNCH LOCATION			TRAVEL TO LUNCH LOCATION			TRAVEL TO LUNCH LOCATION			TRAVEL TO LUNCH LOCATION		
12:40PM - 1:20PM		LUNCH - HOUSTON HALL			LUNCH - BOXED/PIZZA			LUNCH - HOUSTON HALL (STAFF MEETING-B6)			LUNCH - HOUSTON HALL		
		TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS			TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS			TRAVEL TO NEXT CLASS			TRAVEL TO CLOSING CEREMONY		
1:30PM - 2:45PM		NEURO BUSINESS UPCYCLED FASHION			PHARMA CHINESE PRINTMAKING			NEURO BUSINESS UPCYCLED FASHION			CLOSING CEREMONY 2-4PM		
2:50PM - 4:05PM		FREE TIME "DETENTION"			FREE TIME "DETENTION"			FREE TIME "DETENTION"			FREE TIME "DETENTION"		
4:05PM - 5:30PM		DINNER-BOXED/PIZZA			DINNER AT 1920 COMMONS			DINNER AT 1920 COMMONS			DINNER-BOXED/PIZZA		
5:30PM - 6:25PM	Check In @ 6PM DINNER, COMMUNITY MEETING	STUDY HALL-BIO TECH COMMONS			STUDY HALL-BIO TECH COMMONS			STUDY HALL-BIO TECH COMMONS			STUDY HALL-BIO TECH COMMONS		
6:30PM - 8:30PM		DORM CURFEW			DORM CURFEW			DORM CURFEW			DORM CURFEW		
9:00PM		DORM CURFEW			DORM CURFEW			DORM CURFEW			DORM CURFEW		
10:00PM	HALL CURFEW	HALL CURFEW			HALL CURFEW			HALL CURFEW			HALL CURFEW		
11:00PM	ROOM CURFEW	ROOM CURFEW			ROOM CURFEW			ROOM CURFEW			ROOM CURFEW		
Science-B13		Neuro-B5			Chinese-B5			Printmaking-B13			Pharmacology-B2		
Math-B2		Business-B2			Upcycled Fashion-B13			Senior Seminar-B2			Senior Seminar-B2		
History-B5		Upcycled Fashion-B13			Study Hall Rooms-1, 2, 3, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17			Study Hall Rooms-1, 2, 3, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17			Study Hall Rooms-1, 2, 3, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17		
English-B6		Study Hall Rooms-1, 2, 3, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17			Study Hall Rooms-1, 2, 3, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17			Study Hall Rooms-1, 2, 3, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17			Study Hall Rooms-1, 2, 3, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17		

Veterans Upward Bound

est. 1979

The Veterans Upward Bound program is a free, college preparatory program for 160 eligible veterans funded with a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The program offers college preparatory services to include academic assessment, advising, and counseling; non-credited academic classes and tutoring; college access; and educational support services.

The program seeks to encourage and empower college-bound veterans to the rigors of postsecondary education and training. The primary goal of the Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) program is to prepare eligible veterans to enter or reenter college and graduate from their postsecondary program.

The primary goal of the Veterans Upward Bound program is to prepare eligible veterans to enter or reenter college and graduate from their postsecondary program. The overall charge is to increase access, participation, engagement, and outcomes of students from under-resourced backgrounds or with limited opportunities.

SERVICES SNAPSHOT

101

participants identified as either first-generation, low-income, and/or high-risk for academic failure

7

trips and college tours for Summer 2025, reaching more than 30 participants

6

course offerings, including two refresher courses, for Spring and Summer 2025



Participant Testimonial

Veterans Upward Bound has truly changed my life. They blessed me with a scholarship, and what made it even more special was being invited to dinner with the family who created it in honor of a former soldier who went through the program. Hearing their story and feeling their love reminded me that this program is about so much more than just school, it is about people believing in you. VUB has also connected me with so many people who have helped me find grants and scholarships I never thought I would have access to. The VUB Team organized college tours and offered college fairs, opening doors that I did not even know were possible. The staff makes me feel supported, encouraged, and never alone in this process. Because of VUB, I feel hopeful and excited about my future in college. I know I would not be where I am today without their guidance, support, and the community they have built around me. I am deeply grateful to be part of this program

— Jazzmere W., pictured with VUB Director Dr. Miles and L'Salle Harvey family members

VETERANS UPWARD BOUND



VUB scholars visit West Chester University in August 2025.

Collaborations

The Veterans Upward Bound team has developed relationships with other colleagues outside Penn at a variety of institutions, such as Chestnut Hill College, Villanova University, Drexel University, and West Chester University. These partnerships allow veteran scholars to learn and engage with members of these institutions. In addition, the team has collaborated with other external stakeholders and has been invited and attended events to speak about the services offered through the Veteran Upward Bound program.

PARTICIPANT STATS

83%

rate of participant retention and completion of the program from year to year

30%

increase in participant engagement from previous year



VUB scholars visit Villanova University in August 2025.

Program Highlights and Achievements

Participant Recognition

The Veterans Upward Bound office held a recognition event in February 2025 to honor participants who have entered postsecondary education and completed the program. There was a total of two scholars who graduated from Drexel University, where VUB staff attended the campus recognition event to honor their achievements.

Course Offerings

For Spring 2025, the VUB program offered English, mathematics, Spanish, and physical science refresher courses. For Summer 2025, the program offered English and Math refresher courses. The program will also offer an upcoming biology refresher, a new course featured alongside the traditional English and math classes. These courses have allowed scholars to learn more about a specific area of education and to make them more comfortable with the academic content as they start their college journey.

VETERANS UPWARD BOUND

Virtual Refresher Courses

Fall 2024 (September 23- December 2)

- English Refresher- 5:30pm-7:30pm
 - Instructor: Alexa Wilson
- Math Refresher-4:30pm-6:30pm
 - Instructor: Daniel Cox
- Science Refresher 5pm-7pm
 - Instructor: Amanda Hagen
- Spanish Refresher 5:30pm-7:30pm
 - Instructor: Lena Powell

Spring 2025 (January 27-May 5)

- English Refresher- 5:30pm-7:30pm
 - Instructor: Alexa Wilson
- Math Refresher-4:30pm-6:30pm
 - Instructor: Daniel Cox
- Science Refresher 5pm-7pm
 - Instructor: Amanda Hagen
- Spanish Refresher 5:30pm-7:30pm
 - Instructor: Lena Powell

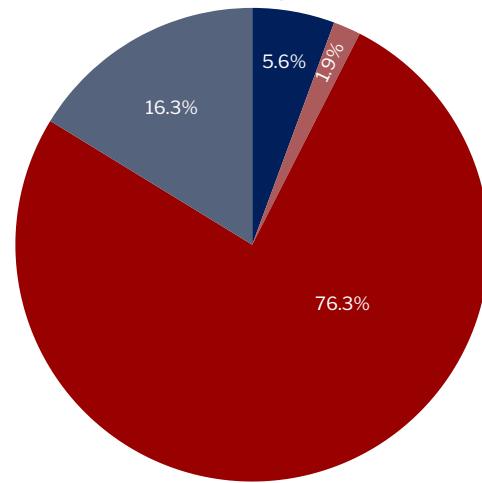
Summer 2025 (July)

- English Refresher- July 2025 5pm-7pm
 - Instructor: Alexa Wilson
- Math Refresher- July 2025 5pm-7pm
 - Instructor: Daniel Cox

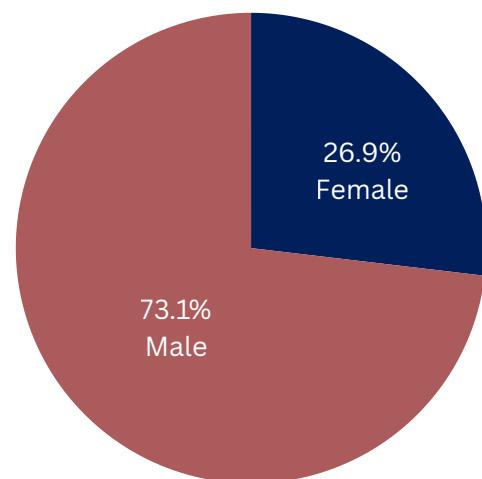
Fall 2025 (September 15-December 4)

- Math Refresher-Mondays- 5pm-7pm
 - Instructor: Daniel Cox
- Biology Refresher (New Course) 5pm-7pm
 - Instructor: Amanda Hagen
- Spanish Refresher 5pm-7pm
 - Instructor: Lena Powell

Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity



Enrollment by Gender



VPSE STEM Program

est. 2023

The VPSE STEM program engages Philadelphia middle school students in grades 6–8 in STEM and STEAM fields through experiential, hands-on programming that fosters creativity, critical thinking, problem-solving, and entrepreneurial skills.

Across Fall 2024, Spring 2025, Summer 2025, and Fall 2025, VPSE STEM engaged more than 94 students in structured programs that emphasized both individual skill-building and collaborative innovation. By combining robotics, coding, scientific exploration, and business innovation, the program empowers students to explore multiple STEM pathways while developing skills in teamwork, leadership, and project management.

PARTICIPANT STATS

100%

of participants successfully completed their business plan, Shark Tank Pitch, and STEM elective for summer 2025.

100%

of participants successfully completed their First Lego League Innovation Project and Robot Game.

First Lego League

Students in the VPSE STEM Fall 2024 and Fall 2025 cohorts designed and executed multi-run robot missions. Each cohort completed an Innovation Project and presented to mentors. The theme for Fall 2024 was “Submerged,” and the theme for Fall 2025 was “Unearthed.”



VPSE STEM students practice team-building skills by competing in a Tower Challenge.

Building Connections

VPSE STEM encourages students to develop collaboration and team-building skills through various group-based challenges. These challenges involve collaboration, creativity, and innovation in real-world problem-solving scenarios. All VPSE STEM activities are structured to make STEM learning exciting and accessible while reinforcing key concepts in science and technology.

VPSE STEM



VPSE STEM Summer 2025 participants strategize ahead of competing in the Egg Drop Experiment.



VPSE STEM students code their LEGO League robots with the support of mentor David Cade Jr. from L3Harris Technologies.

Summer 2025

Junior CEO Business Plan

The business plan consists of 10 sections, where students will complete 12 lessons across five weeks. Sections include topics such as Crafting Our Mission, Marketing Magic, and Smart Spending to help students develop a clear strategy and vision for their startup. At the end of the program, students will combine all their work into a final business plan for presentation and review.

STEM Electives

New for 2025, students had the opportunity to choose one Canvas-based elective course from three STEM-focused options. These electives ran throughout the five-week program, meeting twice a week, allowing students to explore additional STEM disciplines in a structured yet flexible format. The election options include Intro to CAD, Intro to Python, and Science Streets Unlocked.

Experiments & Workshops

Students engaged in hands-on experiments designed to reinforce foundational science concepts while fostering curiosity and problem-solving. Experiments covered topics such as robotics, engineering, biology, and environmental science. Interactive workshops introduced students to coding, circuit-building, and scientific inquiry.

VPSE STEM

First Lego League Program Schedule

Day 1 – Tuesday, August 12th, 2025

Time: 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM

Theme: Unearthed

Focus: FLL Introduction • Innovation Project • Robot Game Training

11:00 – 11:25 AM – Welcome + Season Kickoff

- Introduce the FIRST LEGO League and the season theme: Unearthed
- Show the official FIRST LEGO League season video:
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=exWkcUBS0j8>
- Overview of the LEGO League season: Innovation Project and Robot Game

11:25 – 11:30 AM – Engineering Notebooks + Team Assignments

- Distribute Engineering Notebooks
- Ensure each team has access to their tablets/computers and LEGO SPIKE Prime robots
- Watch season video:
- <https://www.Enigyoutube.com/watch?v=PIJ51XUoP-Q>

11:30 – 12:00 PM – Innovation Project: Introduction

- Complete Page 8 of EN
- Students read pages 5–6 of the Engineering Notebook
- Distribute and review:
 - Innovation Project Rubric Worksheet
 - Deliverables Overview Worksheet
- Team discussion:
 - What is the Innovation Project?
 - What will we need to turn in?
 - How will we be evaluated?

12:00 – 1:20 PM – Robot Game Training Session

- Using Session 2 of the Engineering Notebook. Students will use the SPIKE Prime app on the tablets provided. Each team will have 2 tablets and 2 robots and will split into two working groups.
- Complete the Tutorial Activities
- Start Training Camp 1: Driving Around
 - Teams work together to build basic driving skills, test code, and begin practicing teamwork in the robot game environment.

1:20 – 1:30 PM – Wrap-Up + Reflection

- Complete the Share and Reflect sections in the Engineering Notebook

Each team shares one thing they learned today

- Reflection Questions:
- What are you most excited about for this season?
- What's one challenge your team solved today?

VPSE STEM

First Lego League Program Schedule

Day 2 – Wednesday, August 13th, 2025

Time: 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM

Theme: Unearthed

Focus: Robot Game Mission Models • Innovation Project Inspiration

11:00 – 11:05 AM – Quick Introduction

- Review any announcements or reminders
- Briefly explain the tasks for the day
- Students move to their assigned team rooms

11:10 AM – 1:00 PM – Robot Game: Mission Model Build (Session 1 Task)

- Students complete the Robot Game task from Session 1 in the Engineering Notebook:
- Use Session 2 Introduction for framing the activity
- There are 13 mission models to build. Each student is assigned at least one model. Some students will build more than one model, since there are 13 in total.
- Models vary in size and complexity; some students will finish sooner and start another model
- Step-by-step printouts will be provided for each model
- After building, teams set up the game mat and field

1:00 – 1:30 PM – Innovation Project: Mission Model Inspiration Worksheet

- Students work in groups of 3
- Each group receives the Mission Model Inspiration Worksheet:
- Each group is assigned four different mission models to analyze
- Make sure no group analyzes the same models as another group
- Groups fill out the worksheet by connecting models to real-world problems or solutions
- Then, each group completes the Project Identification Worksheet
- 1 per group of 3
- Students complete the Share & Reflect section from Session 1 in the Engineering Notebook together as one whole team

Canvas Submission Instructions:

- One student per team uploads the worksheets to Canvas
- Submit a total of three Mission Model Inspiration Worksheets and three Project Identification Worksheets (one per group)
- The three different group ideas will be reviewed on Thursday to choose the final Innovation Project idea

VPSE STEM

First Lego League Program Schedule

Day 3 – Thursday, August 14th, 2025

Time: 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM

Theme: Unearthed

Focus: Robot Game Training Camps • Innovation Project Topic Selection & Research

11:00 – 11:15 AM – Introduction & Announcements

- Hand out the full season schedule
- Share any important announcements or reminders
- Students move to their teams

11:15 AM – 12:45 PM – Robot Game: Training Camp 2 & 3

- Using the Engineering Notebook, complete:
- Training Camp 2 (Session 3)
- Training Camp 3 (Session 4)
- Students work with their robots and tablets on the SPIKE Prime app
- Focus on advanced driving skills and line-following techniques

12:45 – 1:30 PM – Innovation Project: Topic Selection & Research

- Teams review the three Innovation Project ideas from Day 2:
- As a team, pick one main topic to focus on
- Complete the Chosen Innovation Project Worksheet based on their selected topic
- Split into groups of three for research
- Each group receives two Research Worksheets to complete (for a total of six sources per team)
- Groups research their assigned problem, filling out notes on their worksheets

Fall 2024 & Fall 2025:

- Weekly Saturday sessions (1:00–5:00 PM) for FLL preparation
- Weekly Zoom meetings for collaboration and mentorship
- Fall 2024 Theme: Submerged
- Fall 2025 Theme: Unearthed

Spring 2025:

- Weekly after-school STEM workshops, coding sessions, and entrepreneurial exercises
- Hands-on experiments in robotics, circuits, and environmental science
- Canvas assignments tracked participation and milestones

Summer 2025:

- Monday–Thursday, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, five weeks
- Junior CEO Program: business plan creation, Shark Tank-style presentations, STEM electives
- Canvas electives: Python, CAD, Science Secrets Unlocked
- Field trips to tech companies and university labs

VPSE STEM

Summer 2025 Program Schedule

VPSE STEM Academy Summer 2025 Weekly Schedule (6/23 - 7/24)

Week 1 (6/23 - 6/24)						
Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
10:00-10:10	Sign-in	Sign-in	Sign-in	Sign-in	Camden Adventure Aquarium	
10:10-10:25	Program Overview	Announcements	Announcements	Announcements		
10:25-10:30	Break (Moving to next Activity)	Break (Moving to next Activity)	Break (Moving to next Activity)	Break (Moving to next Activity)		
10:30-12:00	Junior CEO lesson 1	Junior CEO lesson 2	Junior CEO lesson 3	Junior CEO lesson 4		
12:00-12:30	lunch	lunch	lunch	lunch		
12:35-1:15	STEM Electives lesson 1	STEM Experiment / lesson Egg Drop	STEM Electives lesson 2	STEM Electives lesson 3		
1:15-2:00	Dismissed	Dismissed	Dismissed	Dismissed		

Professional Development Dates:	
Week 1	27-Jun
Week 2	3-Jul
Week 3	11-Jul
Week 4	18-Jul
Week 5	23-Jul

Week 2 (6/25 - 7/6)						
Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
10:00-10:10	Sign-in	Sign-in	Sign-in	Sign-in	Claymobile	
10:10-10:25	Announcements	Announcements	Announcements	Announcements		
10:25-10:30	Break (Moving to next Activity)	Break (Moving to next Activity)	Break (Moving to next Activity)	Break (Moving to next Activity)		
10:30-12:00	Junior CEO lesson 4	Junior CEO Presentation 1 On Business Plan Sections 1-3 (sessions 2-4)	Junior CEO lesson 5	Junior CEO lesson 6		
12:00-12:30	lunch	lunch	lunch	lunch		
12:35-1:15	STEM Electives lesson 3	STEM Experiment / lesson Soldering/Orbital Circuits	STEM Electives lesson 4	STEM Electives lesson 5		
1:15-2:00	Dismissed	Dismissed	Dismissed	Dismissed	Professional Development	

Week 3 (7/8 - 7/19)						
Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
10:00-10:10	Sign-in	Sign-in	Sign-in	Sign-in	Aerospace Engineering	
10:10-10:25	Announcements	Announcements	Announcements	Announcements		
10:25-10:30	Break (Moving to next Activity)	Break (Moving to next Activity)	Break (Moving to next Activity)	Break (Moving to next Activity)		
10:30-12:00	Junior CEO lesson 6	Junior CEO lesson 7	Junior CEO lesson 8	Junior CEO lesson 9		
12:00-12:30	lunch	lunch	lunch	lunch		
12:35-1:15	STEM Electives lesson 5	STEM Experiment / lesson Electric Dragsters Tournament	STEM Electives lesson 6	STEM Electives lesson 7		
1:15-2:00	Dismissed	Dismissed	Dismissed	Dismissed	Rocket launch	

Week 4 (7/14 - 7/17)						
Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
10:00-10:10	Sign-in	Sign-in	Sign-in	Sign-in	Franklin Institute	
10:10-10:25	Announcements	Announcements	Announcements	Announcements		
10:25-10:30	Break (Moving to next Activity)	Break (Moving to next Activity)	Break (Moving to next Activity)	Break (Moving to next Activity)		
10:30-12:00	Junior CEO lesson 8	Junior CEO lesson 9	Junior CEO lesson 10	Junior CEO lesson 11		
12:00-12:30	lunch	lunch	lunch	lunch		
12:35-1:15	STEM Electives lesson 7	STEM Experiment / lesson Part 2 Soldering/Escape Room	STEM Electives lesson 8	STEM Electives lesson 9		
1:15-2:00	Dismissed	Dismissed	Dismissed	Dismissed		

Week 5 (7/21 - 7/24)						
Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
10:00-10:10	Sign-in	Sign-in	Sign-in	Sign-in	Franklin Institute	
10:10-10:25	Announcements	Announcements	Announcements	Announcements		
10:25-10:30	Break (Moving to next Activity)	Break (Moving to next Activity)	Break (Moving to next Activity)	Break (Moving to next Activity)		
10:30-12:00	Junior CEO Presentation 3 On Business Plan Sections 7-9 Junior CEO lesson 11 (while other groups are presenting)	Junior CEO lesson 12 Business Plan Due	Professional Development	Junior CEO Presentation Practice (10:00-10:45), Round 2 Final Presentations before lunch		
12:00-12:30	lunch	lunch	lunch	lunch (11:30 - 12:00)		
12:35-1:15	STEM Electives lesson 9	STEM Experiment / lesson Basic Arduino Circuits	STEM Electives lesson 10	Final Junior CEO Pitch (12:00 - 2:30)		
1:15-2:00	Dismissed	Dismissed	Dismissed	Dismissed		



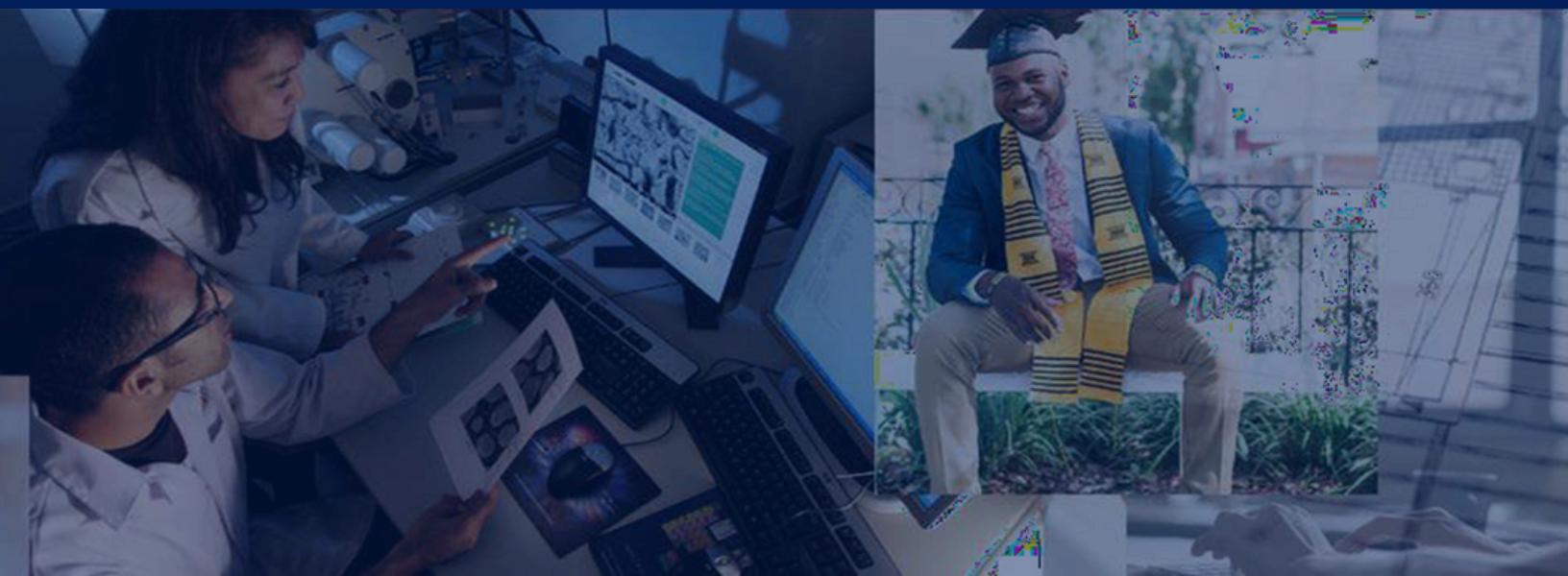
A VPSE STEM Summer 2025 participant prepares for the Egg Drop experiment.



Students created their own business plans in the Junior CEO component of the VPSE STEM Summer program.



VPSE STEM Summer 2025 participants visit the Adventure Aquarium in Camden, New Jersey.



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