



A+ Test Prep and Tutoring Newsletter

April, 2008

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### Pre-College Summer Programs



Many colleges and universities offer pre-college summer programs. Such programs have become increasingly popular as a productive and educational way to spend summer vacation. Colleges offer courses in a variety of fields to teenagers interested in expanding their knowledge of particular subject areas. These programs also offer a way to experience life on a college campus. Although often expensive, they range in price depending on the length of the program. In some cases financial aid is available. Penn State offers 2-, 3- and 6-week sessions; Brown University mini-courses lasting from 1 week to 6 weeks. Attending a shorter program will still enable a student to work for some of the summer or go on a family vacation. Another benefit of attending a summer program is that it demonstrates to colleges your desire to pursue your academic interests beyond your high school curriculum.

Two important considerations as you look into these programs are 1) the location of the program and 2) what you wish to study. If you think you are interested in attending a "Big Ten" school like Penn State, it would make sense to preview what life on the campus is like by applying to its summer program, although admission to the summer program is no guarantee of regular admission later on. Or, if you're not sure of the college you want to attend but want to experience living in a big city such as New York, choose a program in the city of your choice. Alternatively, if you are interested in a particular field of study--say, marine biology or music--and location is secondary, then consider colleges that offer courses in that specialized field. Go on-line to find the summer program that best matches your criteria. Some programs have already been filled for 2008, so inquire in each case.

The following list represents a small sampling of the many programs that are available:

**Columbia University High School Summer Programs (NYC and Barcelona):** Rigorous summer pre-college academic programs for students in grades 9 through 12. Between classes, students have numerous extracurricular options to choose from, including organized sports on Columbia's campus, excursions to local restaurants and attractions, community outreach projects, and special events such as a college fair and a talk on the college application process. In addition to its New York City location, Columbia also runs a program in collaboration with the Universitat de Barcelona where students entering 11th or 12th grade spend 3 weeks in Barcelona, Spain learning about art, history, and culture. <http://www.ce.columbia.edu/hs/index.cfm>

**Pre-College Summer at Brown University:** Allows exceptional high-school students to experience life on an Ivy League campus. Offers 7-week programs and also mini-courses ranging from 1 to 6 weeks in length. Over 150 academic courses to choose from, in addition to special programs such as The Leadership Institute, TheatreBridge Language & Culture, and SPARK-Science for Middle School (for rising 7th & 8th graders). Financial aid available. [http://www.brown.edu/Administration/Continuing\\_Studies/pc/index.php](http://www.brown.edu/Administration/Continuing_Studies/pc/index.php)

**Penn State Summer Study Programs:** Offers a 6 1/2-week college credit program where you can choose from 75 college credit courses, 25 non-credit enrichment classes, and intensive workshops in Habitat for Humanity and Penn State. Alternatively, Penn State also offers 2 and 3 1/2-week non-credit programs. Students can participate in college visitation weekend to nearby colleges and visit Hershey Park. <http://www.summerstudy.com/pennstate/index.cfm>

**Northeastern University Summer Discovery Program:** Offers pre-college enrichment and internships for high school students in Boston, the ultimate college town. The program features a combination of academics, culture, activities, and weekend road trips. <http://www.spcs.neu.edu/summersession/hs.php>

Another noteworthy summer program available exclusively to high school students residing in Pennsylvania is the **Pennsylvania Governor's Schools of Excellence (PGSE)**. This program is sponsored by the PA Department of Education and is aimed at meeting the needs of artistically and academically talented students. It consists of five long summer residential programs on various college campuses across the state. The PGSE application process is selective and each program has its own application requirements, some of which are quite rigorous. PGSE is a competitive yet affordable summer option--the State of PA pays for tuition, room and board, instructional materials and activities for the 5-week period. Students, however, are responsible for transportation to and from the campus, pocket money, and a residential life deposit (the amount of which varies from college to college) that is refunded at the end of the program provided the student has not damaged any school property. For more information, follow this link: [http://pgse.cmagic.com/component/option,com\\_frontpage/Itemid,1/](http://pgse.cmagic.com/component/option,com_frontpage/Itemid,1/)

Featured Test Prep Student



**Eric Rzepnicki**  
Pottsgrove High School  
370 Point SAT Score Increase

Featured Academic Tutoring Student



Andrew Jacoby, a junior at Roman

A+ Test Prep not only helped me prepare for my SAT, but also helped me grow as a student in general. This program taught me test-taking strategies, gave me more of an idea of what to expect on test day, and showed me how to handle a big task like the SAT.

Going into this experience I knew I was never a great standardized-test taker, and really had doubts about myself. The thought of college and getting a high SAT score has constantly been on my mind since junior year, and the pressure leading up to test day was growing. While A+'s SAT prep tutoring program required me to spend many hours preparing for the test, I know that if I had just used a book on my own, I would not have dedicated so much of my time towards my preparation.

My math tutor, Sai Tikkani, really helped me freshen up my math skills. Even if throughout the lessons he was not my favorite person (because of all the homework), taking the tests made me realize that it was really the only way to get better at taking the SAT. He also made me actually work through the problems when I could not get them, instead of just giving me the answers, which really seemed to help me. I had to learn how to rework problems, pull out the essential information, and not stop working.

My verbal tutor was absolutely an invaluable asset in learning the key aspects of the reading and writing portions of the SAT. Jennifer Gregory is a great tutor. I really like the way she formats the sessions to the specific needs of the student, really focusing on that aspect until they feel comfortable. She not only helped me with what to me was the hardest part of the SAT, the essay, but also helped me improve my writing in school. I write a lot better now, and received my first "A" on a graded paper in my AP English class. I cannot say enough great things about her as a tutor.

I learned so much that helped me not only do better on the SAT, but with my high school courses, and most importantly my college future. Thanks A+ for such a great program.

Eric Rzepnicki

Catholic High School in Philadelphia, was struggling in his AP Chemistry course last fall. He was having particular difficulty with time management during tests. Andrew began tutoring with A+ tutor Barbara Lommer in November, who identified that Andrew lacked much of the background knowledge upon which his chemistry course was based. Since tutoring began, Andrew has shown steady improvement in both content knowledge and time management. He received an A for the second quarter, and his composite score for the first semester, including the mid-term, was a solid B.

Andrew describes Barbara as a "wonderful tutor" and "very down-to-earth." "She explains concepts from a variety of angles to help me better understand them. I can ask her questions freely and she helps me to stay focused on the important issues."

Andrew continues to be tutored weekly by Barbara in the Jenkintown office in preparation for the Advanced Placement Chemistry exam which he will take in May and for his school final which he will take in June. We congratulate Andrew on all of his hard work and Barbara for being such an outstanding tutor!

#### Featured Tutor



We would like to introduce you to Kristine Mulroney, a tutor who joined the team last year. She tutors a wide range of subjects: SAT prep (both math verbal), pre-Algebra through Algebra II, Spanish, and language arts.

Kristine graduated in 2004 from the College of New Jersey with a double major in Criminal Justice & Psychology, and will obtain her Master's certification in Special Education from Temple University this May.

In addition to tutoring for A+, Kristine draws on her educational background as a full-time teacher at a middle school in Philadelphia that services at-risk youth from the Philadelphia area. This is a challenging position that involves working with a population of predominantly male 11-14 year olds who often require remedial help in math, science, language arts, and reading. Patience, diplomacy, and a sense of humor are some of her "tools of the trade."

As an A+ tutor, Kristine enjoys working with teens who are motivated to achieve and go on to higher education. When not tutoring, teaching, and attending school herself, Kristine enjoys relaxing at her Horsham home with her boyfriend, his daughter, her German Shepherd, Brandy, and her cat, Zoey. Kristine played ice hockey in high school and college; if she had more free time she would love to join the women's team and play again!



A+ Test Prep and Tutoring provides in-home One-to-One Test Prep tutoring throughout the Delaware Valley.

We also provide in-school Test Prep courses through our School Partners program. For more information please contact me at 215.886.9188.

Daniel Ascher  
President

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