

# FFA Fact Sheet

<http://firm-foundation.org>

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## **Firm Foundation Academy**

Firm Foundation Academy (FFA) is a niche educational technology school focused on developing software and immersion courses for radically enhanced reading comprehension and appreciation of great literature. Our team is composed of a band of educators and software engineers who share a common passion -- reading.

## **Cutting Edge Technology**

Our combination of cutting-edge technology and intensive programs of study is completely unique -- the only one on the planet. Our students are each issued a tablet computer pre-loaded with a library of books and our unique immersive-reading software. Our software constantly assesses each student's strengths and weaknesses to optimize vocabulary acquisition and maximize comprehension. We combine our optimizing educational software with high expectations and intense schedules to achieve a great deal of learning in just a few short weeks. The students will learn what they are capable of, and that will be life-changing.

## **Summer 2016 Onsite Programs**

FFA will be hosting two sessions of our intensive reading course during the Summer of 2016:

*"The Examined Life"* - 21 days - a survey of some of the most challenging ideas in the history of human thought.

Session 1: **27 June - 17 July, 2016**

Session 2: **25 July - 14 August, 2016**

Students will collaborate to identify, analyze and discuss the major themes.

## **Tuition, Fees and Scholarships**

We don't want the cost of this program to be prohibitive for any student. Our summer course, including all student costs -- tuition, equipment, housing and food -- is \$5,000. We have payment plans and scholarships from generous sponsors to ensure that everyone who wants to attend our summer courses can afford to do so.

**What to Expect**

Our aim is to impart skills and habits which the student can draw on for the rest of his or her life. From the very first day, our students are assigned a reading group and a tablet computer loaded with a thousand of the world's most difficult and rewarding books. The groups will rise at the break of dawn and struggle together until night fall to scale the heights of human thought. The brain is a muscle and this experience is like mountain climbing. It will hurt. But it will also be a lot of fun. There will be laughter and tears and friendships will ensue.

**Facilities**

Our beautiful school facility is on 20 acres nestled into the Tahoe National Forest in Northern California. It includes hiking trails, full track and field, gymnasium, dormitories, commercial kitchen, a resourceful library and spacious classrooms with vaulted ceilings designed to distribute abundant natural light. We have perhaps the most un-school-like classrooms you have ever seen. Since our students study for long hours together, we did everything to make them comfortable. Starting with plush leather sofas and ottomans, reclining chairs and coffee bars in every classroom.

**Insurance**

FFA has all of the legally required insurance policies, including fire, theft, liability. We do not provide health insurance, and hence we require all incoming students to have personal medical insurance coverage. Should there be a crisis, our insurance covers helicopter airlift directly from our school to a major hospital. Once at the hospital, the student's medical insurance must assume any further coverage responsibility.

**Airport Pickup**

Students may be dropped off at the school on the arrival day (27 June and 25 July) or be picked up from the Sacramento International Airport (SMF) by one of our shuttle buses. Please consult with a member of staff for shuttle bus schedules and in order to reserve a seat in advance.

**What this is Not!**

Our facility is beautiful and peaceful. But our school does not offer relaxing vacations. Many of our students tell us that this was the most challenging course of study they have ever undertaken.