



Partner Academic Elective Overview

Mission, Aims, Goals
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Breakthrough Cincinnati's Mission

Breakthrough Cincinnati (BTC) transforms the lives of young people through a one-of-a-kind summer learning experience that extends over four pivotal years. The six-week summer academic enrichment program gives rising 6th through 9th-grade students a boost through meaningful academic, leadership and college-preparatory experiences. Instead of losing valuable ground at school and navigating the temptations of an unstructured summer, students experience the program's "it's cool to be smart" culture.

Breakthrough Students

- 65% Female; 35% Male
- 98% Ethnic or Racial Minority
- 74% Low Income
- 12% English as a Second Language
- 66% First-Generation College Student
- 100% AMAZING

The Breakthrough Cincinnati Academic Elective experiences aim to provide students with exposure to:

- "soft skills" needed to be a successful employee in any environment.
- a variety of arts-based experiences.
- a safe environment to test actions and ideas.

Through this experience, Breakthrough Cincinnati would like students to:

- affirm their self-worth.
- become confident in their skill sets.
- learn tools for success.
- explore their creativity.



Academic Elective Partnerships

Breakthrough feels community partners are integral in helping our students and Teaching Fellows expand their understanding of the world. The wealth of expertise and passion for learning can not be limited to only BTC staff, thus outside partners are valued for their contributions. Together we can reach our aims and achieve our goals.

Role of Community Partner:

- 1) Provide activities/curriculum to support student sessions.
- 2) Meet with Teaching Fellows to complete 2 hr training, including a practice session prior to student programming.
- 3) Share resources to support student sessions and final projects.
- 4) Communicate regularly with TFs and BTC staff to ensure aims and goals are in progress.

Role of BTC Staff:

- 1) Provide session support with Teaching Fellows.
- 2) Provide evaluation support with the administration of evaluations.
- 3) Recruit 8-12 students per site to be a part of sessions and celebratory events.
- 4) Communicate regularly with Partners to ensure aims and goals are in progress.

Tips and Tools for a Successful Activity

Our aim is for the experience to be meaningful for Breakthrough Cincinnati students and for teaching fellows. Keeping the following tips in mind during planning will help ensure a smooth experience:

- View the planning and delivery of the experience as a collaborative venture and share plans often. [[Academic Elective Planning Sheet](#)]
- Environment, seating, group size, timing, materials, technology
 - Refer to Breakthrough staff for group size (typically 8 students per classroom) and a more intimate knowledge of potential groups dynamics.
 - Share resources and needs well in advance to ensure readiness for each session.
- Create activities that allow for a variety of experiences, both informative and hands-on.
- Develop activities, games or simulations that model real world scenarios.
- Draw connections to professional and academic skills. [[Curriculum Targets by Grade Level](#)]
- Plan more than is needed, things usually go faster than you think.
- Share ways to prepare students for their experience (dress, pre-discussion topics, vocabulary)
- Be flexible, kids are unpredictable.
- Have fun!



Tentative 2023 Schedule

There are roughly 13 sessions of planned Academic Elective activities. Sessions should lead into a final project or showcase to share at the End-of-Summer Celebration on July 31. There may be other opportunities to share learning throughout the summer as well.

	Monday	Tuesday	Thursday
Week 1 (June 21-25)	Establish Community	Establish Goals	Session 1
Week 2 (June 28-July 2)	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4
Week 3 (July 6-9)	Session 5	Session 6	Session 7
Week 4 (July 12-16)	Session 8	Session 9	Session 10
Week 5 (July 19-23)	Session 11	Session 12	Session 13
Week 6 (July 26-30)	Final Project	Final Project/Eval	No Session

Reflection

We will have a post-Academic Elective evaluation/feedback with students and partners.

- Students will be asked what they liked, what they learned, and what they want to do next.
- Partners will be asked what went well, what could be changed, and what should be considered in the future.
- Please share with staff if any specific feedback is needed.
- [STUDENT EXIT TICKET](#)

Partnership Preparation

Meetings	Purpose (tools)	Date
Confirm Partnership/ Date	Collaborate and set the tone of partnership. (Tool: Draft Overview)	TBD
Share Course Description	Share short 'middle school sexy' course description (100 words or less) to be used at Orientation in course selection.	March 5
Activity Sharing	Share activities, materials, needs. (Tool: Academic Elective Planning Sheet)	April 9
Staff Introductions/ Training	Connect staff and partners. Share program interests and Academic Elective Activities. (Tool: Academic Elective Planning Sheet)	June TBD Time TBD (2 hours)
Mid-Summer Check In with TFs	Check in with TFs via Google Hangouts or In-person (Tool: Academic Elective Planning Sheet)	July 7 2:30-3:00
Celebration	Engage with students.	July 31