

"Being a student is easy. Learning requires actual work."—William Crawford

January
2026



School Counselor Bulletin

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Announcements:

NACAC National College Fair 1/27/2026

All 11th grade students will be attending the NACAC Fair the morning of 1/27. There is an evening session if you would like to attend with a parent 6:30pm-9:30pm.

SAT test day for all 11th grade students is March 18th. All 11th grade students will take the SAT here at CAPA for free, no registration is necessary.

Metallica (yes, the band!) Skilled Trades Academy @ CCAC Not sure college is your thing? That's okay. Explore high-demand careers, work with your hands, and learn from the pros—all at no cost. Try it out, eat free lunch, and discover a path that fits *you*. 9-12 students are eligible.

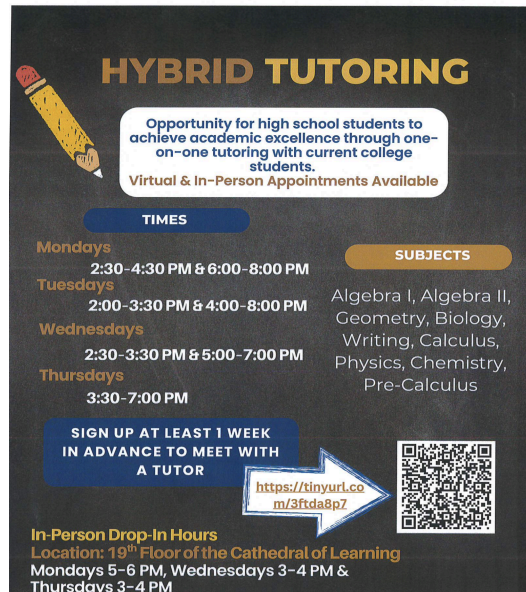
<https://www.ccac.edu/workforce-and-community/workforce-development/metallica-skilled-trades-academy.php>

All 9-12 students: Update your resume in Naviance! Also, make sure you are all up to date with all of your Naviance tasks. Ms. Niedomys and Mr. Coyne have been in classes to work through all of the tasks.

Tutoring:

"The most useful piece of learning for the uses of life is to unlearn what is untrue."—Antisthenes

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A poster for Hybrid Tutoring. At the top left is a yellow pencil icon. The title "HYBRID TUTORING" is in large, bold, yellow letters. Below it, a white box contains the text: "Opportunity for high school students to achieve academic excellence through one-on-one tutoring with current college students. Virtual & In-Person Appointments Available". Below this is a blue box with the word "TIMES" in white. To the left of the times, the days of the week are listed in yellow: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. To the right of the times, the subjects are listed in a yellow box: Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Biology, Writing, Calculus, Physics, Chemistry, and Pre-Calculus. At the bottom left, a blue box says "SIGN UP AT LEAST 1 WEEK IN ADVANCE TO MEET WITH A TUTOR". To the right of this is a blue arrow pointing to a QR code, with the URL "https://tinyurl.com/3ftda8p7" written inside the arrow. At the bottom left, there is a section for "In-Person Drop-In Hours" with the location "19th Floor of the Cathedral of Learning" and the times "Mondays 5-6 PM, Wednesdays 3-4 PM & Thursdays 3-4 PM".

HYBRID TUTORING

Opportunity for high school students to achieve academic excellence through one-on-one tutoring with current college students. Virtual & In-Person Appointments Available

TIMES

Mondays
2:30–4:30 PM & 6:00–8:00 PM

Tuesdays
2:00–3:30 PM & 4:00–8:00 PM

Wednesdays
2:30–3:30 PM & 5:00–7:00 PM

Thursdays
3:30–7:00 PM

SUBJECTS
Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Biology, Writing, Calculus, Physics, Chemistry, Pre-Calculus

SIGN UP AT LEAST 1 WEEK IN ADVANCE TO MEET WITH A TUTOR

<https://tinyurl.com/3ftda8p7>

In-Person Drop-In Hours
Location: 19th Floor of the Cathedral of Learning
Mondays 5–6 PM, Wednesdays 3–4 PM & Thursdays 3–4 PM

Pittsburgh Public Schools Tutoring

<https://www.pghschools.org/academics/academic-programs/tutorcom>

Sarah Heinz House:
412.237.2377 www.sarahheinzhouse.org
(10 min. walk from CAPA)

Khan Academy
www.khanacademy.org

Supplemental School program that offers tutoring, career info, test prep, etc.

Urban League of Pittsburgh
<https://uifpgh.org/>

Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation
<https://bloomfield-garfield.org/>

Gwen's Girl's
<https://gwensgirls.org/programs/academic-support-initiative/>

Transcripts

Transcripts are your official record of grades here at CAPA.

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Please allow at least 15 school days for your transcript to be sent.

12th grade:

Students: To have a transcript sent to the colleges to which you are applying:

All Transcripts for colleges must be requested through Naviance, whether applying via the Common app or directly to through the school's application

For Coalition Application schools: <http://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org>, just invite Mr. Coyne or Ms. Niedomys to the app.

Please allow at least 15 school days for your transcript to be sent.

9th-11th grade

Students should: Email or invite Mr. Coyne (A-L) or Ms. Niedomys (M-Z) to submit transcripts for programs/ dual enrollment/ classes, etc.

bcoyne1@pghschools.org or aniedomys1@pghschools.org

College Visits

Visits are for 11th and 12th grade only. **Students must sign up for visits on Naviance at least 2 days before the visit date.** Upcoming Visits (Added Daily, so keep checking Naviance):

NACAC National College Fair 1/27/2026

All 11th grade students will be attending the NACAC Fair the morning of 1/27. There is a an evening session if you would like to attend with a parent 6:30pm-9:30pm.

Scholarships

The links below are some of the more popular scholarship search sites. Students should check their school emails weekly for more opportunities.



[Naviance](#)

www.pittsburghfoundation.org

www.collegeboard.com

www.fastweb.com

www.finaid.org

<http://www.needid.org>

<https://www.scholarships.com/>

<https://www.petersons.com/college-search.aspx>

The Pittsburgh Foundation

The Pittsburgh Foundation is a great place to search for scholarships. A list of all scholarship funds can be found at http://www.pittsburghfoundation.org/scholarship_search



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Details and applications for scholarships may be accessed by searching for a specific fund on the Pittsburgh Foundation’s website. Applications and deadlines will be updated near the end of October. Some of the scholarships available are highlighted here:

William J. Wolf Memorial Scholarship Fund is for students of the Lutheran denomination residing in the Allegheny County. The award will be up to \$5, 000.00 per year for four years.

Irene S. and Harry Louik College Scholarship is for students who demonstrate special aptitude, ability, or achievement in performing arts, live in Allegheny County and demonstrate financial need.

The Comptaro, Elden, Lewis and Sparks Fund Scholarship is for students who plan to attend an accredited career/technical school.

Anna N. Dosen Serbian Educational Fund Scholarship is for students who will be pursuing a degree in Engineering and Health Sciences, maintain a 2.0 GPA and plan to attend a 2- or 4-year college.

Louise Salinger Academy of Fashion Fund is for students who would like to pursue a career in fashion design, have at least a 2.0 GPA and demonstrate financial need. You will need to submit 2 letters of reference and an essay.

Oliver L. Johnson and William A. Lester Families Fund is for students who demonstrate financial need who plan to attend a 2- or 4- year college or tech school. Preference will be given to students born in Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal-Gambia, Zaire, Kenya or Cameroon, or African American students. You will need to complete an application, maintain a GPA of 2.50 and submit an essay.

Melville Alexander Eberhardt Memorial Fund provides scholarship assistance to worthy and deserving high school graduates who are residents of Pennsylvania. Students must attend high school at/in: any public, private or preparatory school in W PA, have a GPA of at least 3.00, demonstrate financial need and be planning to attend 2- or 4-year accredited college or university.

Ron Brown Scholar Program

Provides academic scholarships for young African Americans of outstanding promise. Upon acceptance, scholars are awarded \$40,000 (\$10,000/year) to be used at the college or university of their choice. For more information, visit <http://www.ronbrown.org/Home.aspx>

Quest Bridge

Quest Bridge is a powerful platform bridging the nation's brightest, under-served youth and leading institutions of higher education and further opportunities. www.questbridge.org



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Jack Cooke Kent Scholarships

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation’s scholarship programs are designed to encourage and support outstanding students who work hard and have financial need. Our scholarships provide financial assistance and academic support to high school, undergraduate, and graduate students. In addition to the monetary award, students join a thriving network of nearly 2,500 Cooke Scholars.

<https://www.jkcf.org/our-scholarships/>

AXA Equitable Scholarships

Achievement and community scholarships.

<https://us.axa.com/axa-foundation/AXA-achievement-scholarship.html>

The Prudential Spirit of community awards program (NASSP)

All students who have participated in community service activities over the past year. Deadline November 8, 2019 <http://spirit.prudential.com> or www.nassp.org/spirit

Jewish Scholarship Service (Formerly: Central Scholarship and Loan Referral Service CSLRS)

The Jewish Scholarship Service is a non-profit scholarship agency providing needs-based grants to local students residing in Allegheny County for at least two years. Any Jewish high school senior with a demonstrated financial need is eligible to apply. When a student applies for aid, the CSRLS committee matches the student with the funding source most likely to consider the application. Some funding sources require high academic achievement; ALL require students to demonstrate financial need. The online application will be made available in late November at <http://www.centralscholarship.org>. The deadline for applications is in February.

Scholastic Art & Writing Awards

Grades 7-12 www.artandwriting.org

NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing

Recognizes women in high school for Computer related achievements.

<https://www.aspirations.org>

Horatio Alger Scholarship

53 scholarships available. Minimum GPA of 2.0, financial need.

<https://scholars.horatioalger.org/scholarships/>

Jackie Robinson Foundation College Scholarship

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Selects highly motivated student's with financial need to receive up to \$28,000 in college aid over four years. Must be a graduating senior. Minimum SAT score of 1000 combined on math and critical reading sections or composite ACT score of 21. Apply at www.jackierobinson.org



Blackwood Music Scholarship

scholarships ranging from \$2,000 to \$5,000 are available for students pursuing a career in instrumental music performance. Applications at www.blackwoodmusic.org

Burger King Scholars Program

For High School Seniors of a Burger King employee are eligible to receive up to \$50,000 in scholarship awards. Applications deadline: December 15, 2019. Apply online: www.bkmclamorefoundation.org/WhatWeDo/ScholarsProgram

Young Arts Foundation

Grades 10-12 Actors, Dancers, Designers, Filmmakers, Musicians, Photographers, Singers, Visual Artists, Writers. Awards up to \$10,000, Master classes, Scholarships. www.youngarts.org October 13 deadline

Boston University trustee scholarship

4 year full-tuition
scholarship.<http://www.bu.edu/admissions/apply/tuition-aid-scholarships/scholarships/>

Danforth Scholars Program

(Washington University in St Louis) students who exhibited a capacity for service and leadership as well as academic excellence. Deadline for nominations November 15, 2019.

Duquesne University Leading Teacher Program

50% Tuition and Fee Scholarship. All accepted students receive the scholarship if enrolled. www.duq.edu

The Ohio State Alumni Club of Pittsburgh

would like to inform you of an excellent opportunity for any student interested in attending Ohio State. We will be awarding multiple \$2000 scholarships to deserving students. <https://pittsburghbuckeyes.alumni.osu.edu/scholarships-4/>

SAT/ACT

Although many colleges have moved to test optional admissions, not all have, and many schools still use SAT/ACT scores to award Scholarships. You are encouraged to take the test at least once, typically in the Spring of 11th grade (All 11th grade students take the SAT on March 18 for Free at CAPA)

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Upcoming SAT Test Dates:

www.collegeboard.org

SAT Test Date*	Registration Deadline	Deadline for Changes, Regular Cancellation, and Late Registration**
March 18	11th grade taking SAT for	free at CAPA. No registration needed
May 2	April 17	April 21
June 6	May 22	May 26

ACT:

2026 National Test Dates Schedule

Test Date	Regular Registration Deadline Late Fee Applies After This Date	Late Registration Deadline
September 6, 2025	August 1	August 19
October 18, 2025	September 12	September 30
December 13, 2025	November 7	November 24
February 14, 2026	January 9	January 23
April 11, 2026	March 6	March 24
June 13, 2026	May 8	May 29
July 11, 2026*	June 5	June 24

www.act.org

****Fee waivers for SAT or Act are available through Mr. Coyne or Ms. Niedomys. You're eligible for fee waivers if you say "yes" to any of the following:

- Your annual family income falls within the [Income Eligibility Guidelines](#) set by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service.
- You're enrolled in a federal, state, or local program that aids students from low-income families (e.g., Federal TRIO programs such as Upward Bound).
- Your family receives public assistance.
- You live in federally subsidized public housing or a foster home, or are homeless.
- You are a ward of the state or an orphan.

Financial Aid

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):

<https://studentaid.gov/>

You can start applying for FAFSA October 1 of your 12th grade year. Students and parents are required to complete their own separate FSA ID. It is recommended to complete the ID registration before applying for the FAFSA

State Aid: www.pheaa.org

Although deadlines for the FAFSA/PHEAA are June 1 /May 1, each college has their own deadline for financial aid. You must check each school you apply to make sure you make their deadline.

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CSS Profile: The CSS Profile is an online application used by colleges and scholarship programs to award non-federal institutional aid. Only select schools use the CSS Profile, and there is a fee to apply.

<https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>



Financial Aid Links

www.studentaid.gov

www.pheaa.org

www.collegeboard.com

<https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college>

<http://www.needid.org>

College Search Searching for college/post-secondary options is a process. We use Naviance as the main search tool for college and careers.

Mr. Coyne and Ms. Niedomys work with students during classroom visits throughout the year to complete Naviance tasks that lead students through the college/career process.

College Search Links

[Naviance](#)

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search>

www.pheaa.org

<https://www.princetonreview.com/college-search>

<https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges/college-search>

www.collegeconfidential.com

<https://www.petersons.com/college-search.aspx>

The Pittsburgh Promise



The Pittsburgh Promise is a scholarship for students who are residents of Pittsburgh attending the **Pittsburgh Public Schools through the class of 2028**

- Live in the City of Pittsburgh, continuously, without interruption, for at least the four years of high school.
- Attend Pittsburgh Public Schools, continuously, without interruption, from at least the beginning of 9th grade, and through to graduation.
- Graduate with a cumulative, un-weighted GPA of 2.5 or better.

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- Maintain an attendance record of 90%.
- Use your scholarship at an accredited college, university, or trade and technical school in Pennsylvania.

www.pittsburghpromise.org

Jobs

Work Permits

<https://www.pghschools.org/student-supports/work-permits/home>

Job Search

www.snagajob.com

<https://www.indeed.com/q-high-school-student-l-pittsburgh,-pa-jobs.html?vjk=8072c7487956d0d3>

Learn & Earn

<https://www.partner4work.org/learn-earn>

Volunteer/Community Service

<https://www.pittsburghcares.org/>

<https://www.idealists.org/en/volunteer>

Food security and community services

- **Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank:** Sort and repackage food, assist with distributions, and help with farm programs or The Market.
- **412 Food Rescue:** Help rescue and redistribute food.
- **North Hills Community Outreach (NHCO):** Support various programs and services.
- **YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh:** Assist with events like the YMCA Turkey Trot, various healthy kids initiatives, and other community events.

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Environmental and animal welfare

- **Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy:** Participate in park maintenance like tree planting, invasive vine removal, and gardening during Stewardship Days, or become an ambassador.
- **Western Pennsylvania Conservancy:** Help with tree planting, river cleanup, and nature preserve maintenance.
- **Hope Haven Farm Sanctuary:** Assist with farm chores, animal transport, and event-related tasks.
- **Animal Friends:** Volunteer with rescued animals.
- **Ricki's Rescue:** Help with cat feeding and playtime.

Education and mentorship

- **Literacy Pittsburgh:** Tutor adults and families in reading and other essential skills.
- **Amachi Pittsburgh:** Mentor children and teens (ages 6-18).
- **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh:** Become a mentor to a child through community-based, site-based, or mentor2.0 programs.

Health and social services

- **Ronald McDonald House:** Help families with children receiving medical treatment.
- **Foster Love Project:** Support children in foster care and their families.
- **Heartland Hospice:** Visit patients in nursing homes.
- **Allegheny County Emergency Management Agency:** Assist with emergency preparedness and response through the CERT program.

Arts and culture

- **Three Rivers Arts Festival:** Support various aspects of this iconic event through the YMCA partnership.

Summer Programs

Duquesne University Summer STEM Camp by the Howmet Aerospace Foundation.

The STEM Camp is in its fourth year and it is sponsored by the School of Science and Engineering. It will take place June 15th – 19th on the campus of Duquesne University and is designed for rising sophomores, juniors, and senior high school students that have demonstrated a strong interest in STEM. We would like to expose high school students to STEM via an immersive, diverse, hands-on learning experience. Reside on campus from Sunday, June 14 – Friday, June 19. I have attached the flyer for your review and distribution. The deadline is March 27th.

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Here is the website as well: www.duq.edu/stemcamp

SUMMER WELDING BOOTCAMP

is the foundational program of the Industrial Arts Workshop. Each summer a cohort of 10 ten students, ages 14-18, are selected from a pool of applicants to participate in a 10 week bootcamp where they learn everything from the technical side of welding to the creative side of planning and constructing a large scale public sculpture for the Pittsburgh Community!

<https://iawpgh.org/summer-welding-bootcamp/>

15 Summer Programs for High School Students in Pittsburgh

1. Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) Pre-College – AI Scholars

Location: Carnegie Mellon University campus

Cost: Free

Acceptance rate/cohort size: Highly selective

Dates: June 21 - July 19

Application deadline: March 1

Eligibility: Rising high school seniors (U.S. citizens, permanent residents, or DACA students) who are at least 16 years old at the start of the program

The AI Scholars Program at Carnegie Mellon University is a four-week, fully funded summer experience for rising high school seniors. **Held on CMU’s campus in Pittsburgh, it offers an immersive introduction to artificial intelligence through college-level courses, hands-on projects, and mentorship from leading researchers and faculty.** You’ll work in teams to apply AI to real-world problems like healthcare, sustainability, or social impact and present your final project at the end of the program. Alongside the technical learning, you’ll attend sessions on college admissions, financial aid, and personal development.

2. CMU Pre-College – CS Scholars Program

Location: Carnegie Mellon University campus

Cost: Free

Acceptance rate: Competitive

Dates: June 21 - July 19

Application deadline: March 1

Eligibility: Current high school sophomores (rising juniors) who are U.S. citizens, permanent residents, or DACA recipients; must be 16+ by program start.

The CS Scholars Program at Carnegie Mellon University is a four-week, fully funded summer experience for rising high school juniors who are curious about computer science. **Held on CMU’s campus in Pittsburgh, the program introduces you to core programming concepts, like variables, loops, conditionals, functions, and data structures, using Python.** You’ll also learn problem-solving techniques such as algorithmic thinking, top-down design, and debugging. Beyond the technical content, you’ll take part in weekly sessions focused on college readiness, financial aid, and personal development.

3. Magee-Womens Research Institute (MWRI)’s High School Summer Internship Program

Location: Magee-Womens Research Institute

Stipend: \$1800 (if household qualifies for the [National School Breakfast and Lunch Program](#) for Pennsylvania)

Acceptance rate/cohort size: Competitive

Dates: 6 weeks starting June 16

Application deadline: February 7

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Eligibility: High school students currently in their sophomore or junior year | Over 16 years old by the program start date | Permanent/primary residence in the local southwest Pennsylvania region

At the Magee-Womens Research Institute in Pittsburgh, you can spend six weeks immersed in biomedical research with a focus on women’s health, reproductive biology, and infant health. **Each intern is paired with a research mentor and lab team, allowing you to contribute to ongoing scientific studies in either basic, translational, or clinical research.** Your daily activities may involve running experiments, handling lab equipment, or analyzing data, all while learning professional research practices. Weekly “Lunch & Learn” sessions expose you to different career paths in biomedical science through discussions with faculty and researchers. The program concludes with a presentation day.

4. Lumiere Research Scholar Program

Location: Virtual

Cost: Varies according to program type; full financial aid is available

Acceptance rate/cohort size: Moderate

Dates: Multiple cohorts during the year

Application deadline: Varies by cohort

Eligibility: High school students who demonstrate a high level of academic achievement (Note: accepted students have an unweighted GPA of 3.3 out of 4)

The Lumiere Research Scholar Program is a 12-week research experience for high school students. **You get paired one-on-one with a Ph.D. mentor from a top university and work together on a research project in a subject you choose, like psychology, economics, computer science, engineering, and more.** By the end of the program, you’ll have written your own research paper. You meet with your mentor weekly, get help from writing coaches, and can even present your work at a research symposium.

5. Veritas AI

Location: Virtual

Cost: Varies by program; financial aid available

Dates: Multiple 10- to 15-week cohorts in a year, including winter, fall, spring, and summer

Application deadline: Varies by the cohort

Eligibility: High school students | AI Fellowship applicants should either have been AI Scholars participants or have some familiarity with AI concepts or Python

Veritas AI is an online program designed for high school students who want to explore artificial intelligence. If you're new to the field, the AI Scholars program is a great starting point. **It covers the basics of AI and data science over ten sessions, and includes small projects to help you apply what you learn.**

If you already have some experience, the AI Fellowship lets you work one-on-one with a mentor on an independent project. **You can choose a topic like healthcare, climate change, or finance, and build an AI model that tackles a real-world problem.** The program focuses on both theory and application, so you’ll understand the concepts and also see how they’re used in practice.

6. Carnegie Mellon’s Summer Academy for Math and Science (SAMS)

Location: Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA

Cost: Fully funded

Acceptance rate/cohort size: Highly competitive

Dates: June 21 – August 2

Application deadline: March 1

Eligibility: Current high school juniors (rising seniors) who are 16+ by program start and from underrepresented backgrounds in STEM (e.g., first-gen, low-income, ESL households)

The Summer Academy for Math and Science, known as SAMS, is a six-week program on CMU’s campus designed to help you deepen your skills in STEM while connecting with peers from across the country. **Before you arrive, you’ll take part in a required two-day virtual “Jumpstart” that introduces you to key concepts and skills so you are ready for the pace of the in-person experience.** Once on campus, your days are filled with classes, workshops, and projects taught by faculty and staff who focus on both the academic and personal growth of participants. It all culminates with a symposium where you’ll present your STEM project.

7. CMU Pre-College – Writing & Culture

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Location: CMU campus

Cost: Residential: \$9,310; Commuter: \$7,038 + \$50 application fee; financial aid available

Acceptance rate/cohort size: Selective

Dates: June 21 – July 19

Application deadline: March 1

Eligibility: Rising juniors and seniors (must be 16+ by program start)

Carnegie Mellon’s Writing & Culture program is a summer experience for high school students who want to explore storytelling in different formats. **Over several weeks, you’ll experiment with poetry, short stories, screenwriting, and film production, learning directly from CMU’s Department of English faculty.** You’ll create a portfolio that may include poems, scripts, short stories, and even a short film. Along the way, you’ll get regular feedback to refine your work and see how written and visual mediums shape the way stories are told.

8. CMU Pre-College – Art

Location: CMU campus

Cost: 6 Weeks - Residential: \$11,791 and Commuter: \$8,733 | 3 Weeks - Residential: \$7,676 and Commuter: \$5,975

Acceptance rate/cohort size: Selective

Dates: June 21 – August 2

Application deadline: March 1

Eligibility: Students between 10th and 11th grade or 11th and 12th grade during the summer who are 16 years of age by program start

Carnegie Mellon’s Pre-College Art Program is a six-week, studio-based experience for high school students who want to deepen their artistic practice in a college-level environment. **You’ll work in the College of Fine Arts building, using both traditional tools and modern technologies to explore drawing, design, fabrication, and conceptual development.** Classes run Monday through Thursday, with Fridays reserved for elective workshops that let you experiment beyond your core courses. Evenings include open studio sessions, giving you time to refine your work and build your portfolio.

9. UPMC Hillman Academy

Location: UPMC Hillman Cancer Center sites

Cost: Free; stipend may be available

Acceptance rate/cohort size: Highly selective

Dates: June 16 – August 1

Application deadline: Early December to mid-February

Eligibility: High school students in good academic standing who are at least 16 years old by the program start

At the UPMC Hillman Academy, you’ll spend your summer working on cancer and biomedical research alongside faculty at the University of Pittsburgh and UPMC. **You’ll be placed at a research site focused on areas like cancer biology, computational biology, surgery, pathology, immunology, or women’s health.** Your day-to-day work may include lab experiments, computational modeling, data analysis, or even shadowing physicians and scientists. Each week, you’ll attend lectures and seminars where researchers share their projects and career paths. You’ll also receive close mentorship from a faculty researcher and lab team who will guide your progress throughout the program.

10. CMU Pre-College – National High School Game Academy

Location: Entertainment Technology Center

Cost: \$12,529 + \$50 application fee

Acceptance rate/cohort size: Selective

Dates: June 21 – August 2

Application deadline: March 1

Eligibility: Students between 10th and 11th grade or 11th and 12th grade during the summer who are 16 years of age by program start

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The National High School Game Academy (NHSGA) at Carnegie Mellon University is a six-week residential program where you’ll experience the full process of video game development. **The first two weeks focus on structured classes in programming, visual art, music and audio, storytelling, and game design.** While you’ll study all these areas, faculty will assign you a primary role, such as programmer, artist, designer, or composer, based on your portfolio and interests. From the third week onward, you’ll join a team to create original game prototypes. Each student completes two projects, giving you the chance to work with different groups and explore varied creative approaches.

11. University of Pittsburgh Health Career Scholars Academy

Location: University of Pittsburgh

Cost: \$3600 (optional social activities not included)

Acceptance rate/cohort size: Selective; 100 students

Dates: June 29 – July 26

Application deadline: February 25

Eligibility: Current high school sophomores and juniors; at least 15 years of age by application deadline

The University of Pittsburgh Health Career Scholars Academy (UPHCSA) is a four-week residential summer program for high school sophomores and juniors interested in healthcare. **Hosted on Pitt’s campus and connected with the UPMC Health System, the program gives you direct exposure to medical careers and public health.** You’ll take part in classroom sessions, small group discussions, site visits, simulations, and shadowing in clinical settings. Alongside general sessions like Caring for Health and Making a Difference, you’ll also focus on one concentration area, such as global health, geriatrics, or behavioral health, depending on the year’s offerings. Evenings are spent working with peers on assignments and preparing presentations.

12. Pitt Public Health Science Academy

Location: University of Pittsburgh campus

Cost: Free

Acceptance rate/cohort size: Selective

Dates: June 23-July 18

Application deadline: March 3

Eligibility: Current 10th and 11th-grade students at select public high schools in Pittsburgh

The Public Health Science Academy at the University of Pittsburgh is a four-week summer program for current 10th and 11th-grade students from select Pittsburgh public high schools. **The program is built to show you how science connects with real-world public health issues while giving you a window into careers in healthcare, research, and community advocacy.** Your schedule includes lectures, interactive exercises, and panel discussions, along with field trips to local public health organizations where you’ll see how public health ideas are applied in practice. You’ll also work on a group research project under the guidance of a Pitt faculty mentor and present your findings at a final symposium.

13. University of Pittsburgh – Experiencing Architecture Program

Location: University of Pittsburgh campus

Cost: Free

Acceptance rate/cohort size: Selective

Dates: July 7–25

Application deadline: April 18

Eligibility: High school students (grades 9–12) from the Pittsburgh region interested in architecture, design, or urban studies

The Experiencing Architecture Program at the University of Pittsburgh is a free, three-week summer studio for high school students interested in architecture, design, or urban studies. **You’ll build foundational skills like sketching, drawing, and model-making while working on your own design projects in Pitt’s studios and maker spaces.** The program also includes walking tours of Pittsburgh’s buildings and public spaces, along with visits to construction sites and architecture firms where you’ll see how design ideas are applied in practice.

14. Point Park University – Film Intensive

Location: Point Park University, Downtown Pittsburgh

Cost: Commuter: \$1,600 | Resident: \$3,100

“The most useful piece of learning for the uses of life is to unlearn what is untrue.”—Antisthenes

“Being a student is easy. Learning requires actual work.”—William Crawford

Acceptance rate/cohort size: Moderate

Dates: June 16–27

Application deadline: Rolling; first 16 students accepted

Eligibility: Students entering grades 9-12 in the Fall and/or recent high school graduates

Point Park University’s Film Intensive introduces you to the fundamentals of filmmaking, from writing and directing to cinematography and editing. **You’ll take part in lectures, screenings, and workshops while also working hands-on with digital cameras and Adobe Premiere Pro to create short films.** In addition to your own project, you’ll rotate through different crew roles on your classmates’ films, gaining experience with the collaborative side of production. The daily schedule balances theory and practice so you build both creative and technical skills. By the end, you’ll have a completed short film screened at a final showcase for friends and family.

15. Venture Outdoors Leadership Academy

Location: Citywide

Cost: None; stipend \$15/hour

Acceptance rate/cohort size: Selective

Dates: July–August

Application deadline: Varies

Eligibility: Pittsburgh high school students

Through the Venture Outdoors Leadership Academy, you can spend your summer developing leadership skills while gaining paid experience in the outdoor industry. **The program partners with local organizations to introduce you to areas like survival skills, first aid, equipment repair, and nonprofit management.** Each week combines outdoor adventures with workshops on resume building, marketing, media literacy, and grant writing. You’ll also meet professionals across Pittsburgh who share their career paths in outdoor and community-focused work.

Point Park Summer Programs:

<https://www.pointpark.edu/about/aboutpittsburgh/livingandlearninginpittsburgh/community-and-summer-programs/index>

Interlochen Arts Camps – January 15th Deadline

At Interlochen Arts Camp, students in grades 3–6, 6–8, and 9–12 come together from around the world to learn, create, and connect. Campers enjoy world-class instruction, meaningful friendships, and the joy of summer in a vibrant, artistic community

<https://www.interlochen.org/art-summer-camp>

Popular Programs & Institutions

- **Visual Arts:** Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD), Pratt Institute, Carnegie Mellon (CMU), School of Visual Arts (SVA), Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA).
- **Performing Arts:** Interlochen Arts Camp (music, theatre, dance), Point Park University (dance, theatre, film).
- **Design:** Parsons School of Design (Fashion, Design), Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT).

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“Being a student is easy. Learning requires actual work.”—William Crawford

- **University-Specific:** UCLA Summer Institute, University of Michigan (BFA Preview), Boston University (Visual Arts).

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