

FREE PRE-COLLEGE PROGRAMS

AT VIRGINIA COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Explore free academic and career-focused programs offered by Virginia colleges and universities. These opportunities help high school students experience college life, earn credits, and plan for education after graduation.

PUBLIC 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES



Christopher Newport University- Community Captains

An early admission, two-year college preparatory program for sophomores at Newport News public high schools. The program includes a range of supports like early admission, mentoring by CNU students, educational events and a free for-credit course, focusing on first-generation students.



George Mason University-Early Identification Program (EIP)

Since its establishment in 1987, EIP has empowered first-generation students to achieve their higher education goals, providing year-round academic enrichment, personal development, civic engagement and leadership training.



James Madison University - Valley Scholars

The Valley Scholars program engages first-generation, financially eligible students from selected districts, providing educational and cultural enrichment from middle school through high school, aiming to prepare them for college with the opportunity for scholarship support at JMU.



Norfolk State University - FastStart by Modern States

The FastStart program at NSU, in partnership with Modern States, offers free college credit through CLEP exams for high school students, facilitating early college credit and significant tuition savings.



Radford University - Summer Bridge: CYBER CAMP & Women in STEM

Radford's Summer Bridge program offers week-long residential experiences for rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors. It includes specific camps like CYBER CAMP, focusing on interactive experiences like a Capture the Flag Competition and Women in STEM, which covers areas like physics, math and engineering.



University of Virginia's College at Wise - Ballad Health Academy

A unique partnership with local schools and healthcare providers offering a pathway into healthcare careers through an innovative school-within-a-school model. This program integrates career training with high school education, enabling students to enter healthcare jobs directly after graduation.



Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU)

Diversity P.A.T.H.S. Programs

VCU's Diversity P.A.T.H.S. (Providing Access to Healthcare Sciences) Programs support students from middle school through post-baccalaureate in their journey toward healthcare careers. These programs include a variety of academic and career exploration activities, aimed at increasing diversity within healthcare professions.

VCU-Dental Careers Exploration Program

Dental Careers Exploration is a summer program for Richmond area high school students who are interested in exploring a career in dentistry through interactive workshops and lab activities. Students from outside the Metro Richmond area can also apply but will be responsible for their own housing and/or transportation to the program if accepted.



Virginia Tech-Pathways for Future Engineers

A multi-year program from Virginia Tech's College of Engineering designed to support first-generation students from high school to an engineering degree. It includes pre-college and in-college support like summer engineering programs, college application support, campus visits and community-building activities. The program also offers ongoing support once students are admitted to the College of Engineering.

PRIVATE 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES



Bridgewater College- Future Scholars Institute

Bridgewater's Future Scholars Institute is a grant-funded, two-week residential program that allows local rising high school juniors and seniors to experience college life firsthand by living and studying on campus.



Hampton University - Pre-College Summer Program

The Hampton University Pre-College/Summer Bridge Program is a five-week, academic enrichment, residential program. The Pre-College/Summer Bridge Program promotes and secures an environment where students will have an opportunity to grow personally, while they enhance their academic and leadership possibilities.



Marymount University - Summer Institutes

Marymount offers several summer courses for rising high school juniors and seniors to earn college credits in fields like Maker-ngineering, STEM, Psychology, Communications/Journalism, or Criminal Justice.



University of Richmond - Pathways to a College Experience (PACE) Program

PACE (Pathways to a College Experience) introduces the possibility of a college education to Richmond area middle and elementary school students by offering a comprehensive full-day or half-day tour experience at the University of Richmond.