Pre-Collegiate Program in Early American History

Our National Institute of American History and Democracy (NIAHD) at the College of William and Mary began in Fall 2001 as a joint partnership between the College and the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. The institute began in Summer 2002 as a residential academic course for high school students. Dr. Carolyn Whittenburg is the director of the NIAHD.

PROGRAM GROWTH

The program attracts students from throughout the United States to take the academic course. In Summers 2002 and 2003, the program offered one session. Between 50 and 60 students came each session. Due to a growing demand from students, we expanded to two sessions in Summer 2004 and doubled the number of students attending.

The COURSES

We currently offer two courses in the summer program:

- “From Jamestown through the American Revolution”
- “From the American Revolution through the Civil War.”

Other Program Strengths:

- Sharing a passion for the study of History
- Experiencing college and dorm life under the supervision and guidance of a large staff of instructors and RAs
- Creating friendships with students from throughout the United States
- Meeting with W&M admissions counselors and Financial Aid officers
- Rigorous, demanding, and great fun!!

Course Strengths:

- 4 hours of college credit
- Field trips to historic places, museums, and archaeological sites
- Small 10-person discussion seminars
- Electronic journals in which students synthesize, analyze, and evaluate nightly readings with field trips and discussions
- Strengthening of reading, writing, and analytical skills
- Intellectual stimulation
- Guest speakers: experts in History, Archaeology, and Museum Education
- Character interpreters from the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
- Optional Music/Dance instruction in colonial and early nineteenth century music
- Pre-Collegiate Freshmen Program in colonial and early American History
- Contact: Dr. Carolyn Whittenburg

To learn more about the Pre-Collegiate Program in Early American History, please contact:

Dr. Carolyn Whittenburg
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High school students who completed the Pre-Collegiate Program in Early American History have gone on to attend...

Agnes Scott College  
American Academy of Dramatic Arts  
American University  
Arizona State University  
Augustana College, SD  
Ball State University  
Birmingham-Southern College  
Boston University  
Boston College  
Bowdoin College  
Brandeis University  
Bridgewater College  
Brigham Young University  
Brown University  
Bryn Mawr College  
Bucknell University  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Centre College  
Christopher Newport University  
Claremont McKenna College  
Clermont College  
Colgate University  
College of Charleston  
College of the Holy Cross  
College of St. Rose  
The College of William and Mary  
College of Wooster  
Colorado University  
Connecticut College  
Cornell University  
Creighton University  
Dickinson College  
Duke University  
East Carolina University  
Emory University  
Florida State University  
George Mason University  
George Washington University  
Georgetown College  
Georgetown University  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
Gettysburg College  
Goucher College  
Grand Valley State University  
Hamilton College  
Harvard University  
Hollins University  
James Madison University  
Johns Hopkins University  
Kalamazoo College  
Kansas State University  
Lehigh University  
Louisiana State University  
Marquette University  
Mary Baldwin College  
Middlebury College  
Morehouse College  
Mount Holyoke College  
New York University  
North Carolina State University  
Northwestern University  
Occidental College  
Ohio State University  
Ohio University  
Old Dominion University  
Oxford University  
Pennsylvania State University  
Princeton University  
Purdue University  
Quinnipiac University  
Ralphs-Macon College  
Rollins College  
Rutgers University  
Sewanee University  
Saint Francis University  
St. John's College  
St. Mary's College  
Salem College  
Salvation College  
Sewanee College of Art & Design  
Skidmore College  
Smith College  
Southern Methodist University  
Stanford University  
Stetson University  
SUNY – Albany  
Swarthmore College  
Syracuse University  
Texas A&M University  
Texas Tech University  
Tufts University  
Tufts University  
University of Arizona  
University of California, Berkeley  
University of California, Davis  
University of California, San Diego  
University of California, Los Angeles  
University of Chicago  
University of Colorado, Boulder  
University of Colorado, Denver  
University of Delaware  
University of Georgia  
University of Illinois  
University of Maryland  
University of Michigan  
University of Missouri, Columbia  
University of New York  
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill  
University of North Carolina, Wilmington  
University of Notre Dame  
University of the Pacific  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of Pittsburgh  
University of Portland  
University of Rhode Island  
University of Richmond  
University of Rochester  
University of St. Thomas  
University of St. Louis  
University of St. Andrews  
University of Texas, Austin  
University of Texas, Pan American  
University of Vermont  
University of Virginia  
University of Wisconsin  
University of Wisconsin  
University of Wyoming  
Vanderbilt University  
Vassar College  
Villanova University  
Virginia Tech  
Wake Forest University  
Washington & Lee University  
Washington College  
Wellesley College  
Wheaton College  
Wheaton College  
Williams College  
Xavier University  
Yale University

PARENTS’ COMMENTS

“I remain in awe of the program that you have put together at William and Mary. The intellectual maturation I witnessed while my daughter was under your tutelage continues to astound me.”

“We wanted to compliment you on a fine summer program thus far. We are really impressed with your educational and enjoyable course. The faculty and speakers have shared remarkable knowledge/background and sparked new ideas, and the details for the daily schedule, overall goal of the course, and the well being of the visiting students is so well thought out. We know this because of the experience and enthusiasm we’re hearing from our daughter.”

“I want to thank you for putting together such an incredible program. It was well done at every level. My son has learned so much about VA history and in fact, we did as well from reading his website. Further, you were sensitive to the needs of high school kids and that concern came through loud and clear!”

“I wanted to again praise the William & Mary summer program in early American History. It has been such a phenomenal development for my daughter that there is no way I can praise it enough....My daughter now considers it one of the most significant experiences of her life.”

“Your program has given our sixteen year old daughter the intellectual stimulation and curiosity that she has been craving. There are a hundred light bulbs going off in her head. All at the same time. You and your staff have made an impact in someone’s life. Thank you.”

“I cannot express to you my gratitude for all that you have done for me this past week in the NIAHD Pre-Collegiate program. Your kindness, companionship and generosity throughout the entire program helped to make this July one of the most incredible times of my life. I have learned so much in these past weeks due to your unfailing dedication to teach and inspire your students. The knowledge both of colonial history and Civil War history with which you provided me truly is invaluable....This program has changed my life in so many incredible ways.”

“This experience has become the most memorable of my life. I created friendships that will forever impact me....Another alteration I’ve undergone is the exposure to life and my newfound zeal for knowledge. Thank you for creating such a wonderful program, you have taken the fear of college life away and replaced it with a yearning to discover.”

“Participating in your program reaffirmed my love and interest for history. In addition to meeting so many wonderful and kind people I was provided with the opportunity to carefully examine the way in which we study the past which can be so beneficial in paving the future.”

“It was one of the best experiences of my life. I’ll really never forget those three weeks. The readings and discussions really made you think... It wasn’t just memorizing facts or dates. There was room to make connections and think about WHY things happened and not just when and how I enjoyed that.”

“Thank you so much for putting the Summer Program together. I had so much fun on all the trips, and learned a lot during the three weeks I was with you. Studying American History, my favorite subject, at an intimate and hands-on level was a great experience. Being able to meet with important scholars was very interesting, and getting to know others from all over the country was amazing.”

“Since the moment I arrived on campus, I felt welcome and important and I knew that the Pre-Collegiate Program would be a life changing experience. The professors and guest speakers were incredible and I am thankful for the opportunity to work with such scholarly instructors.”

“An unforgettable experience, enhanced by great counselors and professors, and the opportunity to meet and make new friends from across the nation. I learned so much from our site visits, and had fun while doing so—the ultimate way to learn!”

UNSOULICITED COMMENTS

STUDENTS’ COMMENTS

“I had an incredible experience while I was there, which was contributed to by the field trips, readings, discussions and dorm life. I really felt that I have grown as a student as well as a person by immersing myself in Colonial history. The challenge of putting together the pieces of history by visiting the sites and understanding the readings caused me to think in a way that I have never done before, and form my own opinions of history’s events and people.”