Pre-Collegiate Program in Early American History

Celebrating our 13th Anniversary

Our National Institute of American History & 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 offered the first Pre-Collegiate Program in Early American History in Summer 2002. The academic course offers four hours of college credit and is an extension of a W&M freshman seminar. Dr. Carolyn Whittenburg is the director of the NIAHD.

PROGRAM GROWTH

The program attracts students from throughout the United States and abroad. In Summers 2002 and 2003, the program offered one session, which accommodated 50 to 60 students each summer. Due to a growing demand from students, we expanded to two three-week 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”

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

Dr. Carolyn Whittenburg
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www.wm.edu/niahd
Course Strengths:

- 4 hours of college credit
- Field trips to historic places, museums, and archaeology sites
- Small 10-person discussion seminars
- Assigned essays in which students synthesize, analyze, and evaluate nightly readings with field trips and discussions
- Strengthening of reading, writing, and analytical skills
- Intellectual stimulation
- Participation in an archaeology dig
- 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
- Rigorous, demanding, and Great Fun!!

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 Staff for college application guidance

THE STUDENTS

More than 1,370 students from Europe, South America, the Caribbean, Asian, and 890 high schools in 47 U.S. states have attended NIAHD’s Pre-Collegiate Program.
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
Clemson University
Colgate University
College of Charleston
College of the Holy Cross
College of St. Rose
The College of William and Mary
College of Wooster
Columbia 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
Moravian College
Mount Holyoke College
New York University
North Carolina State University
Northwestern University
Occidental College
Ohio State University
Oklahoma State University
Old Dominion University
Oxford University
Pennsylvania State University
Princeton University
Purdue University
Quinnipiac University
Randolph-Macon College
Rollins College
Rutgers University
St. Andrews University
St. Francis University
St. John’s College
St. Mary’s College
Salem College
Savannah 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
Tulane 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 Mary Washington
University of Miami
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 Redlands
University of Richmond
University of Rochester
University of the South
University of South Carolina
University of South Florida
University of St. Andrews
University of Texas, Austin
University of Texas, Pan American
University of Vermont
University of Virginia
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
Whittier College
Wofford College
Xavier University
Yale University

High school students who completed the Pre-Collegiate Program in Early American History have gone on to attend…
What Parents and Students are saying about us...

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.”

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 feel 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 history’s events and people.”

“I cannot express to you my gratitude for all that you have done for me these past weeks 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 reach 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 new found 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 studying the past can be so influential 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 such an intense 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.”

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