



WILLIAM & MARY
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
AMERICAN HISTORY & DEMOCRACY

NIAHD Pre-College Program FAQ

Spring 2022

Definitions

- ◆ *International Students* are non-residents and non-immigrants of the United States
- ◆ *Domestic Students* are U.S. Citizens, U.S. Dual Citizens, and U.S. Permanent Residents
- ◆ A *Session* is 3 weeks long; the Pre-College Program runs two sessions per summer
- ◆ *Courses* are the classes that NIAHD teaches in each session during the Pre-College Program
- ◆ Students will meet with their instructor and members of their *seminar* group for afternoon discussions throughout the session

Sessions & Courses for Summer 2022

Session 1 (June 19 - July 9, 2022)

- ◆ History 217: The Road to the American Revolution
- ◆ History 218: The Road to the United States Civil War

Session 2 (July 10 - July 30, 2022)

- ◆ History 217: The Road to the American Revolution
- ◆ History 218: The Road to the United States Civil War
- ◆ History 213: Founders & Foundings

Table of Contents*

Application Information	Page 2
Program Costs	Page 6
Course Information	Page 8
Summer Program Logistics	Page 10

* Information updated since the January 2022 Zoom Q&A Session is indicated with an asterisk and footnote.

Application Information

General program information and admissions details

Q: When can I attend NIAHD's Pre-College Program?

A: The Summer 2022 Pre-College Program in American History will have two sessions:

- ◆ Session 1: June 19 - July 9, 2022
- ◆ Session 2: July 10 - July 30, 2022

<https://www.wm.edu/as/niahd/precol/about/when/index.php>

Q: How many classes do I take as a Pre-College student?

A: Students take one of NIAHD's three Pre-College courses: History 217, History 218, or History 213. You will rank your preferred courses and sessions in the Applicant Portal, and if admitted into the Program, we will enroll you in your top choice, as long as it is still open.

<https://www.wm.edu/as/niahd/precol/about/courses/index.php>

Q: How many applications does NIAHD receive for the Pre-College Program?

A: In 2021, approximately 160 students started an application for NIAHD's Pre-College Program. A total of 54 students attended virtual classes last summer.

Q: How many students will NIAHD admit to the Summer 2022 Pre-College Program?

A: While NIAHD does not have a predetermined number of students to admit for History 217 and History 218, we will have plenty of dorm space to welcome over 200 students to the William & Mary campus in 2022! Additionally, given its virtual format, there is no limit on the number of students we can admit to History 213. Seminar groups will be capped at 12 students per instructor for History 217 and History 218, and 10 students per instructor for History 213.

Q: What are the demographics of NIAHD's Pre-College Program? *

A: Students from diverse racial, ethnic, religious, cultural, and geographic backgrounds have thrived in our program each summer, and our program design reflects an evidence-based pluralist history. We welcome applications from Black, Hispanic/Latino, Asian-American, Middle Eastern, LGBTQ+, ESL, neurodivergent, dis- and differently abled, and international students, as well as Americans living abroad. Students with questions about the capacity of the NIAHD program to accommodate particular social, cultural, or medical needs should reach out to precol@wm.edu.

* New Q&A added March 2022

Q: Do I need to have straight A's in high school to be a student in the Pre-College Program?

A: No, you do not need to have straight A's in your high school classes!

We look for students who like history, who want to think critically about the places where historic events took place, and who are ready for the challenge of a college-level class. Pre-College students are people who want to know why dates of historic events and people are important. Students in NIAHD classes also like to question the meaning of the information that they read and that they hear at site visits.

Both the essay that you submit, and your letter of recommendation will help us learn about you as a student and as a person who wants to learn more than the basic information you find in a history textbook.

Q: What kind of essay should I submit?

A: We would like you to submit an essay that you enjoyed writing for one of your high school classes, an essay that shows your writing ability, or an essay that one of your teachers really liked.

Q: Do I need a letter of recommendation?

A: Yes, all students need to have a letter of recommendation as part of their application to the Pre-College Program. We want to have a letter of recommendation from a teacher (History, Government, or English) who can tell us about you as a student and comment on your capacity to thrive in the NIAHD setting to which your application pertains (residential or virtual).

Also, if you are an International Student who speaks English as your second language, we ask you to submit a second letter from a teacher who can tell us about your ability to read, write, and speak English in an English-only class.

<https://www.wm.edu/as/niahd/precol/apply-dates/index.php>

Q: How should I submit my official transcript?

A: You must ask your school's transcript administrator to send your official transcript to NIAHD. Transcripts sent by students and parents are considered unofficial, which will also be true when you apply to college.

Your school's administrator may email a signed PDF of your official transcript to precol@wm.edu. If your school uses a records management portal for official transcripts, please make sure that the invitation to view the transcript is sent to precol@wm.edu, and not W&M's Office of Undergraduate Admissions or the Office of the Registrar.

We will also accept mailed official transcripts, signed and enclosed in a sealed envelope (stamped or signed on the opening), and sent directly from your administrator to:

US Postal Service Address

NIAHD
William & Mary
P. O. Box 8795
Williamsburg, VA 23187

Shipping Address (UPS, FedEx, DHL, etc.)

NIAHD
William & Mary
James Blair Hall, Room 327
250 James Blair Drive
Williamsburg, VA 23185

<https://www.wm.edu/as/niahd/precol/apply-dates/index.php>

Q: Is the application process different if I am homeschooled?

A: In addition to the online application, a letter of recommendation, and an official high school transcript, we want you to include results of standardized tests that you may have taken (PSAT, SAT, or AP exams) and official transcripts from any college courses you may have taken as part of your homeschooling curriculum.

<https://www.wm.edu/as/niahd/precol/apply-dates/index.php>

Q: When is my application due?

A: There are a few dates to keep in mind for Summer 2022 Pre-College applications:

- ◆ Friday, 1 April 2022 - Program Application Deadline for International Students applying for History 217 & History 218 in either Session 1 or 2
- ◆ Friday, 10 June* 2022 - Financial Assistance Application Deadline for Domestic Students interested in applying for assistance provided by NIAHD
- ◆ Friday, 10 June 2022 - Program Application Deadline for Domestic Students applying for all Session 1 and Session 2 courses, and International Students applying for History 213

<https://www.wm.edu/as/niahd/precol/apply-dates/index.php>

Q: When will I know if I've been admitted?

A: NIAHD will begin to send admissions decisions for completed Program Applications from both Domestic and International students in mid-February 2022.

International Students applying to History 217 and History 218 in either Session 1 or Session 2 will receive an admissions decision on or before Sunday, 1 May 2022.

* Deadline extended from 1 May 2022 to 10 June 2022.

Application Information, cont.

Domestic Students applying for any course in either Session 1 or Session 2, and International Students applying to History 213 will receive an admissions decision on or before Saturday, 11 June 2022.

We will send admissions decisions on a rolling basis throughout the Spring semester until the dates above, or until the Program is full. We will let you know if any of the courses or sessions fill before these dates.

We do not read through your application packet until we have all your supporting documents: the online application indicating your primary session and course preference; your essay; your official high school transcript; letter (or letters) of recommendation; (and a TOEFL Report for International Students whose native language is not English).

Also, if you and your family submit a request for financial assistance, we will review your program application packet and your financial assistance application packet once all materials for both packets are received. We will have enough time to review your application and financial assistance request for any student who wants to attend Session 1.

Program Costs

Information about tuition & fees

Q: How much will it cost for me to be a Pre-College student?

A: Here is a breakdown of the cost of the Summer 2022 Pre-College program:

History 217 and History 218

- ◆ For Domestic Students
 - ✓ \$4,700
- ◆ For International Students
 - ✓ \$4,900 (\$4,700 + \$200 admin fee)

History 213

- ◆ For all students regardless of citizenship
 - ✓ \$2,400

<https://www.wm.edu/as/niahd/precol/finance/index.php>

Q: What is included in the program cost?

A: For all students in History 217 or History 218, the program cost covers:

- ◆ Tuition and fees for 4 hours of transferable college credit
- ◆ Room and meals during the 3-week session
- ◆ Admission for all class-related site visits
- ◆ All required readings and course materials

For International Students in History 217 and History 218, the additional \$200 administrative fee covers:

- ◆ Immigration Paperwork
- ◆ Transportation between the airport or train station and campus on Move-In / Move-Out days

For all students in History 213, the program cost covers:

- ◆ Tuition and fees for 3 hours of transferable college credit
- ◆ Admission for all virtual tours
- ◆ All required readings and course materials

<https://www.wm.edu/as/niahd/precol/finance/index.php>

Q: What expenses are not included in the Program Cost for History 217 and History 218?

A: The program cost does not include:

- ◆ Transportation to or from William & Mary for Domestic Students
- ◆ Use of the laundry facilities in the dorm
- ◆ Snacks and drinks
- ◆ Money for souvenirs

Q: How do I apply for Financial Assistance from NIAHD for the Pre-College Program?

A: First, you do not need to use FAFSA, because financial assistance for the Pre-College program comes from NIAHD, not from William & Mary.

Please fill out the Financial Assistance Application found on NIAHD's Pre-College Program website and submit it directly to NIAHD with copies of your family's 2021 federal tax returns and your personal statement.

You can email your financial assistance request to NIAHD at precol@wm.edu, or send us a hard copy of the information through the mail:

US Postal Service Address

NIAHD
William & Mary
P. O. Box 8795
Williamsburg, VA 23187

Shipping Address (UPS, FedEx, DHL, etc.)

NIAHD
William & Mary
James Blair Hall, Room 327
250 James Blair Drive
Williamsburg, VA 23185

<https://www.wm.edu/as/niahd/precol/finance/assistance/index.php>

Course Information

Details about History 213, History 217, and History 218

Q: What historic sites and museums will I visit during the Pre-College Program?

A: We are working with colleagues at museums and historic sites to schedule this summer's site visits. Here is a list of confirmed site visits for each course in the Summer 2022 Pre-College Program:

History 217

- ◆ Historic Jamestowne
- ◆ Bacon's Castle
- ◆ Colonial Williamsburg
- ◆ Historic Christ Church
- ◆ Yorktown National Battlefield

History 218

- ◆ Colonial Williamsburg
- ◆ James Madison's Montpelier
- ◆ James Monroe's Highland
- ◆ Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Battlefield Park
- ◆ Fort Monroe National Monument

History 213

- ◆ Independence National Historical Park
- ◆ James Monroe's Highland
- ◆ Harriet Tubman National Historical Park

We will update our website as we confirm additional visits.

Also, our website includes a list of sites that History 217 and History 218 students in the Summer 2019 Program visited, and virtual sites that History 213 students in Summer 2021 visited.

<https://www.wm.edu/as/niahd/precol/about/courses/index.php>

Q: What assignments will I have during the program?

A: NIAHD's Pre-College students do not take quizzes or exams!

There will be a reading assignment (40 to 60 pages) to complete before each site visit. The readings will include information about the places you will visit, primary documents, maps, images of material objects, portraits of people, and articles written by historians, architectural historians, curators, and archaeologists. You will also listen to podcasts before several site visits.

You will have 3 written assignments that give you a chance to share your ideas and opinions about historic events and people. Your instructor will talk about each week's assignment during your seminar, provide feedback on your writing, and meet with you during office hours to answer questions as you work on the assignments and gain confidence in your ability to write at the college level.

Q: Will I receive a letter grade at the end of the program?

A: Yes, you will receive a letter grade at the end of the Pre-College Program and earn transferable college credit for your work.

When you apply to college, you will be able to send a transcript from William & Mary which will include the title of your class and the grade that you received. This is a great way to let schools know that you are ready to do college work!

Q: Will NIAHD's Pre-College classes be the same as my AP US History class?

A: NIAHD's Pre-College classes are not a repeat of AP US History; we challenge students to think deeply about the places where historic events took place, and to analyze primary source material.

Site visits are what make a NIAHD class different than other summer history programs! Going to places where history happened makes people and problems from the past real, human, and complex. You can see locations we've visited virtually and in-person in the past on our Summer Courses section on our website.

<https://www.wm.edu/as/niahd/precol/about/courses/index.php>

Students in History 213 will have virtual site visits, seminar discussions, and writing workshops.

Students in History 217 and History 218 will have an in-person site visit and a seminar discussion each day.

Finally, in our courses you will complete college-level readings and written assignments as you earn transferable college credit for your work.

Q: Will I get to play Jeopardy this year?

A: Yes, always. Jeopardy, another Pre-College tradition, will be on Thursday afternoon during the last week of each session. Your clues will cover a variety of topics from your readings and site visits.

Summer Program Logistics

Travel, health & safety, dorm life, extracurricular activities (and more!)

Q: How can I get to William & Mary if I travel to campus by myself?

A: NIAHD offers transportation from the Richmond International Airport (RIC) and the Newport News / Williamsburg International Airport (PHF) to W&M for a fee. In 2022, NIAHD's transportation fee for a one-way trip to or from RIC is \$20, and the transportation fee is \$12 one-way to or from PHF.

NIAHD offers transportation to and from the Williamsburg Train & Bus Station (WBG) at no charge.

Q: Where will I stay during the Pre-College program?

A: NIAHD's Pre-College students will live in one of the air-conditioned dorms in the Bryan Complex on William & Mary's Old Campus during the 3-week Pre-College program. The dorms in the Bryan Complex are named after five of William & Mary's presidents. The Bryan Complex is near Zable Stadium and the Sadler Center where students will eat.

Residential Program Assistants (RPAs) will live in the dorms with the students. Many of the RPA applicants for Summer 2022 were Pre-College students and are excited to have the opportunity to help this summer's students get the most out of their time at W&M, both in terms of academics and in terms of college life. RPAs help students adjust to living on the W&M campus, assist Instructors as needed during site visits, plan weekend get-togethers, and answer questions about life as an undergraduate.

<https://www.wm.edu/offices/residencelife/oncampus/residencehalls/upperlevel/bryan/index.php>*

Q: Can I bring a car to William & Mary to use during the Pre-College Program?

A: No, Pre-College students are not permitted to have a vehicle during their 3-week session on campus.

Q: What are some of the things that I can do on the weekends?

A: Pre-College students can spend Saturday mornings working at an archaeological excavation in nearby Gloucester County. Dr. David Brown, the co-director of the Fairfield Foundation and a NIAHD Instructor during the academic year, will introduce you to historical archaeology and help you learn how to excavate at the site of Fairfield, a late 17th-century plantation house. For information about Fairfield, please see

<https://fairfieldfoundation.org>

* HTML link to Bryan Complex floorplans and amenities added.

Weekends are also a time when you can explore Colonial Williamsburg with friends or get a meal at a local restaurant. RPAs will organize get togethers, trips to Target to get items (left at home, lost, or broken), movie nights, cookouts in the courtyard at the Bryan Complex, and trips to get ice cream.

Q: Can I visit with family members if they are in Williamsburg?

A: Yes, on the weekends you can spend time with members of your family if they travel to or live near Williamsburg! Please make sure that your parent or guardian contacts Maggie Henson (precol@wm.edu, 757-221-7652) in the NIAHD office at least 24 hours ahead of their visit to confirm the day and time of their visit and how long you will be with them.

*Please note, family and friends of NIAHD students may not spend time in the dorms during the program, except to assist their student during Move-In and Move-Out Days.**

Q: Can I receive mail and packages?

A: Yes, let your family and friends know that you can receive mail and packages during the program! Please, ask them to send all letters and packages to the NIAHD Office, and one of the RPAs will deliver letters and packages to the dorms each weekday.

Q: Any special plans for the 4th of July during Session 1?

A: Students in the First Session will not have class on the 4th of July so they can attend programs and presentations at Colonial Williamsburg. RPAs will schedule a time for everyone to watch *1776*, a NIAHD tradition, enjoy a cookout, and walk to Colonial Williamsburg for fireworks.

If you are a student in the Second Session, you will also have a weekday when you can explore Colonial Williamsburg, watch *1776*, enjoy a cookout in the courtyard in the Bryan Complex, and find out what other activities your RPAs have planned for the day.

Q: Will I be able to find food to eat in the dining hall if I have food allergies / keep kosher or halal / am a vegetarian or vegan?

A: Yes! The dining hall in the Sadler Center will have a range of food choices at breakfast, lunch, and dinner that can meet students' dietary restrictions and choices. We will work with any student before the program starts to convey any necessary information to members of the Dining Services staff.

* Note added regarding dorm visitation.

If you have severe food allergies, please include this information on the Roommate Questionnaire so we can help you avoid allergens in your dorm room.

Each dorm in the Bryan Complex has a communal kitchen with a full-size refrigerator. The kitchens, however, do not include cooking utensils, bowls, or pans which will limit what you can cook.

Q: What is NIAHD's COVID-19 Policy?

A: As an academic program at William & Mary, NIAHD follows all of the University's guidelines and requirements regarding COVID-19, in-person instruction, and campus life.

This spring, NIAHD will work with the Arts & Sciences Summer Coordinator, the Office of Residence Life, and Dining Services as we make plans for the summer. We will share any updates to William & Mary's COVID policies with you as soon as they are available.

Also, we will obtain details regarding COVID requirements from each of the sites that the students will visit and confirm these requirements before Pre-College students arrive on campus.

Q: Can you tell me about W&M's Neurodiversity Initiative and any accommodations that may be available to students who need them? *

A: The primary goals of W&M's Neurodiversity Initiative are 1) ensuring that students with neurological differences including autism (including the earlier descriptors of Asperger's and PDD-NOS), OCD, ADHD, Tourette's, dyslexia, etc., are comfortable and successful at W&M and 2) working with faculty and staff to make classes neurodiverse-friendly.

Two helpful sources on the NI website are the "Hidden Rules for Office Hours" and the "Hidden Rules for Lecture Classes":

<https://www.wm.edu/sites/neurodiversity/resources/forstudents/index.php> and

<https://www.wm.edu/sites/neurodiversity/about/index.php>

Additionally, W&M's Student Accessibility Services helps students acquire necessary accommodations for their classes and residence life, including summer session Non-Degree Seeking students (or NDS, as NIAHD's Pre-College Program students are categorized). SAS will begin working with incoming students after 15 May 2022, to determine if accommodations might be appropriate, and students can email them directly at sas@wm.edu for assistance with that process.

<https://www.wm.edu/offices/deanofstudents/services/studentaccessibilityservices/index.php>

* New Q&A added March 2022

Q: Will I be able to keep up my training / fitness schedule? *

A: Students may exercise and train during their free time. Students will have time in the evenings and weekends to run and participate in pick-up games of soccer or ultimate Frisbee in the Sunken Garden. During the week, students will NOT have time to train in the mornings before leaving for a site visit.

Students are allowed to run on the main campus or in Colonial Williamsburg using the buddy system - groups of 3 or more. While Williamsburg is a relatively safe community, the safety and well-being of our students is our chief concern, and NIAHD will not grant any exceptions to the buddy system.

Q: I play a musical instrument; will there be time for me to practice? *

A: If your instrument is portable, you may bring it with you, and use your free time in the evenings and on weekends to practice your instrument.

Q: I want to apply to William & Mary. Can I meet with a member of the Admissions Office while I am attending the program? *

A: Yes! Students will have some time - typically in the late afternoons - to meet with an Admissions Officer. Students are required to set up interviews online using the Admissions website several weeks in advance. Interviews are only available for rising seniors.

Please keep in mind that students will not be excused from class to attend an interview. Additionally, some site visits will last all day and students will not return to campus until after the Admissions Office has closed. The NIAHD office staff is happy to work with students prior to their arrival and help you set up the best date/time to meet with an Admissions Officer. We strongly recommend that you contact the NIAHD office via phone or email before making any arrangements with Admissions.

Additionally, NIAHD invites an admissions representative to come and speak with all of our students at the end of the program. This would not take the place of an admissions interview, but it is still a great opportunity for students to ask questions about applying to W&M specifically and applying to college in general.

Important: Admission to NIAHD's Pre-College Program in American History does not imply or guarantee acceptance into the undergraduate program at William & Mary.

* New Q&A's added March 2022

Q: Will it be possible for me to stay connected to NIAHD after the Pre-College program?

A: YES! During your time as a Pre-College student, we will introduce you to curators, interpreters, architectural historians, and archaeologists who will answer your questions and offer career advice after you return home.

During our site visits, we will also meet several alumni of the Pre-College program and NIAHD's Collegiate Program in Material Culture & Public History who will share their insights about their work and stay in contact with you. The Fairfield Foundation has a summer internship program, and many Pre-College alumni stay in touch through their internship work.

- End Pre-College Program FAQ -