**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 three 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 2023**

**Session 1 (June 18 - July 8, 2023)**
- History 216: Artifacts of American History
- History 217: The Road to the American Revolution
- History 218: The Road to the United States Civil War

**Session 2 (July 9 - July 29, 2023)**
- History 217: The Road to the American Revolution
- History 218: The Road to the United States Civil War
- History 212 (virtual): The Civil War in American Memory Founders

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Q: When can I attend NIAHD’s Pre-College Program?
A: The Summer 2023 Pre-College Program in American History will have two sessions:
  ♦ Session 1: June 18 – July 8, 2023
  ♦ Session 2: July 9 – July 29, 2023

In the Applicant Portal, there is a place for you to note your preferred Session.
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 four Pre-College courses: History 216, History 217, History 218, or History 212. You will rank your preferred course selection in the Applicant Portal, and if admitted into the Program, we will enroll you in your top choice, if is open.
https://www.wm.edu/as/niahd/precol/about/courses/index.php

Q: How many students typically attend the NIAHD Summer Pre-College Program?
A: In the Summer of 2022, 112 students were in residence at the College of William & Mary for NIAHD’s Pre-College Program. 13 students attended virtually.

Q: How many students will NIAHD admit to the Summer 2023 Pre-College Program?
A: NIAHD does not have a predetermined number of students to admit for History 216, History 217, or History 218 and we have plenty of dorm space to welcome up to 200 students to the W&M campus in 2023. Additionally, given its virtual format, there is no limit on the number of students we can admit to History 212. Seminar groups will be capped at 12 students per instructor for the in-person courses and 10 students per instructor for the virtual course.

Q: What are the demographics of NIAHD’s Pre-College Program?
A: Students from diverse racial, ethnic, religious, cultural, and geographic backgrounds thrive 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.
Q: Do I need 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 who can tell us about you as a student and comment on your capacity to thrive in either a residential or a virtual class.

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 (such as Parchment, Score, or National Student Clearinghouse), 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 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>US Postal Service Address</th>
<th>Shipping Address (UPS, FedEx, DHL, etc.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NIAHD</td>
<td>NIAHD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William &amp; Mary</td>
<td>William &amp; Mary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. O. Box 8795</td>
<td>James Blair Hall, Room 327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Williamsburg, VA 23187</td>
<td>250 James Blair Drive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Williamsburg, VA 23185</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

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

Q: When is my application due?

A: There are a few deadlines to keep in mind for Summer 2023 Pre-College applications:

- **Saturday, 1 April 2023** - Application Deadline for International Students for History 216, History 217, and History 218
- **Wednesday, 31 May 2023** - Financial Assistance Application Deadline
- **Wednesday, 31 May 2023** - Application Deadline for Domestic Students applying for Session 1
- **Saturday, 10 June 2023** - Application Deadline for Domestic Students applying for Session 2 and International Students applying for History 212 (virtual course)
- **Late Applicants** - NIAHD will continue to accept and review applications until the program is filled. However, please be aware that anyone applying after the deadline will have less time to submit payment and registration forms.

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 late February 2023.

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis in the order in which they are completed. We will wait to read through your application packet until we have all of your supporting documents:

- the online application indicating your primary session and course preference
- your essay
- your Official High School Transcript
- a letter of recommendation; or two letters for International Students
- your Financial Assistance Application, if applicable

Acceptance letters will be sent via email from W&M’s application portal to the email address that a student used to create their online application profile. NIAHD does not send acceptance letters through regular mail.
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 2023 Pre-College Program:

**History 216, History 217, and History 218**
- For Domestic Students
  - $4,800
- For International Students
  - $5,000 ($4,800 + $200 admin fee)

**History 212 (virtual)**
- For all students, regardless of citizenship
  - $2,500

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

Q: What is included in the program cost?
A: For students in History 216, History 217, or History 218, the program cost covers:

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

For International Students in History 216, History 217, or History 218, the additional $200 administrative fee covers:

- Immigration Paperwork
- Transportation between a local airport (Newport News or Richmond) or the Williamsburg train station and campus on Move-In / Move-Out days

For students in History 212, 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 216, History 217, and History 218?

A: The program cost does not include:

♦ Transportation to or from W&M for Domestic Students
♦ Use of the laundry facilities in the dorm
♦ Snacks and drinks; lunch on arrival day
♦ 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 W&M.

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 2022 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 216, History 217, History 218, and History 212

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 probable site visits for each course in the Summer 2023 Pre-College Program:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>History 216</th>
<th>History 217</th>
<th>History 218</th>
<th>History 212 (virtual)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Artifacts of American History</td>
<td>The Road to the American Revolution</td>
<td>The Road to the U.S. Civil War</td>
<td>The Civil War in American Memory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic Jamestowne</td>
<td>Historic Jamestowne</td>
<td>Colonial Williamsburg</td>
<td>Gettysburg National Military Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colonial Williamsburg</td>
<td>Bacon’s Castle</td>
<td>James Madison’s Montpelier</td>
<td>North Carolina Civil War &amp; Reconstruction History Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timberneck House</td>
<td>Colonial Williamsburg</td>
<td>James Monroe’s Highland</td>
<td>Fort Sumter National Monument</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia</td>
<td>Historic Christ Church</td>
<td>Fredericksburg &amp; Spotsylvania National Battlefield Park</td>
<td>Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia Museum of History and Culture</td>
<td>Yorktown National Battlefield</td>
<td>Fort Monroe National Monument</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We will update our website as we confirm additional visits.
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: 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 W&M 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 you 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.

Students in History 212 will have virtual site visits, seminar discussions, and writing workshops.

Students in History 216, 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.
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 2023, NIAHD’s fee for a one-way trip to or from RIC is $20 and to or from PHF is $12. 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 suites in Landrum Hall on W&M’s campus during the 3-week Pre-College Program. Landrum Hall is centrally located on the campus and near the Sadler Center where students will eat. Residential Program Assistants (RPAs) will live in the dorms with the students. Many of our RPAs were once Pre-College students themselves and are excited to have the opportunity to help this summer’s students get the most out of their time, both in terms of academics and in terms of spending time at W&M. RPAs help students adjust to living on 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/landrum/index.php

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 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

Weekends are also a time when you can explore Colonial Williamsburg with friends, visit the Farmers’ Market, 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, and trips to get ice cream.
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 weeks on campus.

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 Crisse Klee (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 have modified 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, and walk to Colonial Williamsburg for fireworks.

If you are a student in the Second Session, you will also have a weekday to watch 1776 and participate in other fun activities your RPAs have planned.

Q: What is NIAHD’s COVID-19 Policy?
A: As an academic program at W&M, NIAHD follows all University’s guidelines and requirements regarding COVID-19, in-person instruction, and campus life.

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

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.

Your residence, Landrum Hall, has a communal kitchen with a full-size refrigerator, microwave, and oven. The kitchens, however, do not include cooking utensils, bowls, or pans which will limit what you can cook.

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

Additionally, W&M’s Student Accessibility Services (SAS) helps students acquire necessary accommodations for their classes and residence life, including summer session students. SAS will begin working with incoming students in late May 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
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, it may be possible to run before some site visits, depending on the morning’s departure time.

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 this policy.

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.

Q: I want to apply to William & Mary. Can I schedule an admissions interview while I am attending the program?
A: Yes! Students will have some time - typically in the late afternoons - to schedule an interview. 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 for an interview. 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.

Admission to NIAHD’s Pre-College Program in American History does not imply or guarantee acceptance into the undergraduate program at the College of William & Mary.
**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 alumni of the Pre-College Program and of NIAHD’s Collegiate Program in Material Culture & Public History who will share 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 -