

Pre-College Programs | About Us

For Potential Instructors

Columbia's Pre-College Program has served high-achieving high school students from across the country and around the world since 1986.

During the summer, we offer over 280, non-credit courses, both [on campus](#) and [online](#), in 3-week, 2-week, and 1-week durations. During the fall and spring terms, we offer a fully online [Academic Year Weekend](#) program, with classes running once a week on Friday, Saturday or Sundays, for a total of 10-weeks. In addition to taking classes, students have the opportunity to engage in a variety of extracurricular activities throughout the program.

The Hiring Process

- The hiring process for instructors requires one or more interviews, the submission of teaching evaluations, an online video interview, and other criteria.
- Visas: Employment eligibility is contingent upon valid work authorization. Individuals on STEM OPT or holders of the following visa types are ineligible to teach Pre-College: B-1, E-3, H-1B, J-1, and O-1.
- Columbia Affiliates: There may be restrictions when hiring individuals who hold a concurrent appointment at Columbia during the Summer term. Generally, PhD students and Officers of Research are not eligible. Please check with us during the hiring process regarding your eligibility. Please note, Pre-College courses do not count towards the maximum course loads for adjuncts.
- [Columbia University's Policy on Remote Work](#) states that anyone teaching online classes must reside in one of the following states: Biosphere Arizona, CA, CO, CT, Washington D.C., DE, FL, GA, HI, IL, MA, MD, MT, NJ, NY, OK, VA, VT, and WA. *(Please note that this only applies to those with a Columbia affiliation)*
- If hired, all instructors must complete a mandatory background check, compliance training, and Protection of Minors training, as mandated by University Policy.

Curriculum

All instructors are required to submit a detailed syllabus prior to the start of the program. To aid in the syllabi development process, we will provide a program template and may share prior exemplar syllabi as a guide. However, you are able to design the course as you wish based on your own expertise, as long as it continues to align with the course description.

To supplement lectures and classroom activities, instructors are permitted to schedule guest speakers, and for those teaching on-campus, arrange field trips to relevant locations nearby.

Regardless of modality, all instructors will also have a Canvas (CourseWorks) site, where they can post assignments and reference materials. Canvas is also where we host our online courses via Zoom.

The average class size is 22 students for online courses, and 24 students for in person classes. However, there are some courses that have more or less students depending on the curriculum and format of the class.

All courses are non-credit bearing and students do not earn a grade for the course, instead, students receive a letter of evaluation outlining their participation in the course, written by the instructor. Students often use these letters as a supplemental material for college and internship applications.

Summer Dates, Modalities & Compensation

Please see the dates and corresponding salary ranges below for our compensation rates. A one-time course development fee will be added to your compensation when you teach a course with us for the first time. Development fee rates are \$1,500 for 3-week courses and \$750 for all other courses.

Summer 2026						
Modality	Session & Dates	Duration	Curricular Hours	Meeting Times	Compensation	Notes
In-Person	Session A June 29 - July 17	3-Week	54 hours	9:10-11am & 1:10-3pm	\$7,000 - \$9,000	- no classes will be held on July 3
	on the last day of the 3-Week sessions, classes will only be held in the morning		or 11:10am-1pm & 3:10-5pm	- In-Person Sessions B and C overlap. Instructors cannot teach in both.		
	Session B July 21 - August 7					
	Session AA June 22 - June 26	1-Week	20 hours	9:10-11am & 1:10-3pm	\$3,000 - \$3,500	
Session C August 3 - August 7			11:10am-1pm & 3:10-5pm	- In-Person Sessions B and C overlap. Instructors cannot teach in both.		
Online	Session AA June 22 - June 26	1-Week	20 hours	10am-12pm & 1-3pm	\$2,200 - \$3,000	
	Session A July 6 - July 17	2-Week	30 hours	8-11am or 12-3pm or 5-8pm	\$3,300 - \$4,200	
	Session B July 20 - July 31					
All courses meet Monday - Friday during their scheduled dates.						

Questions? Please email hsp-support@columbia.edu with any additional questions about working as an instructor with our program.