

vsa

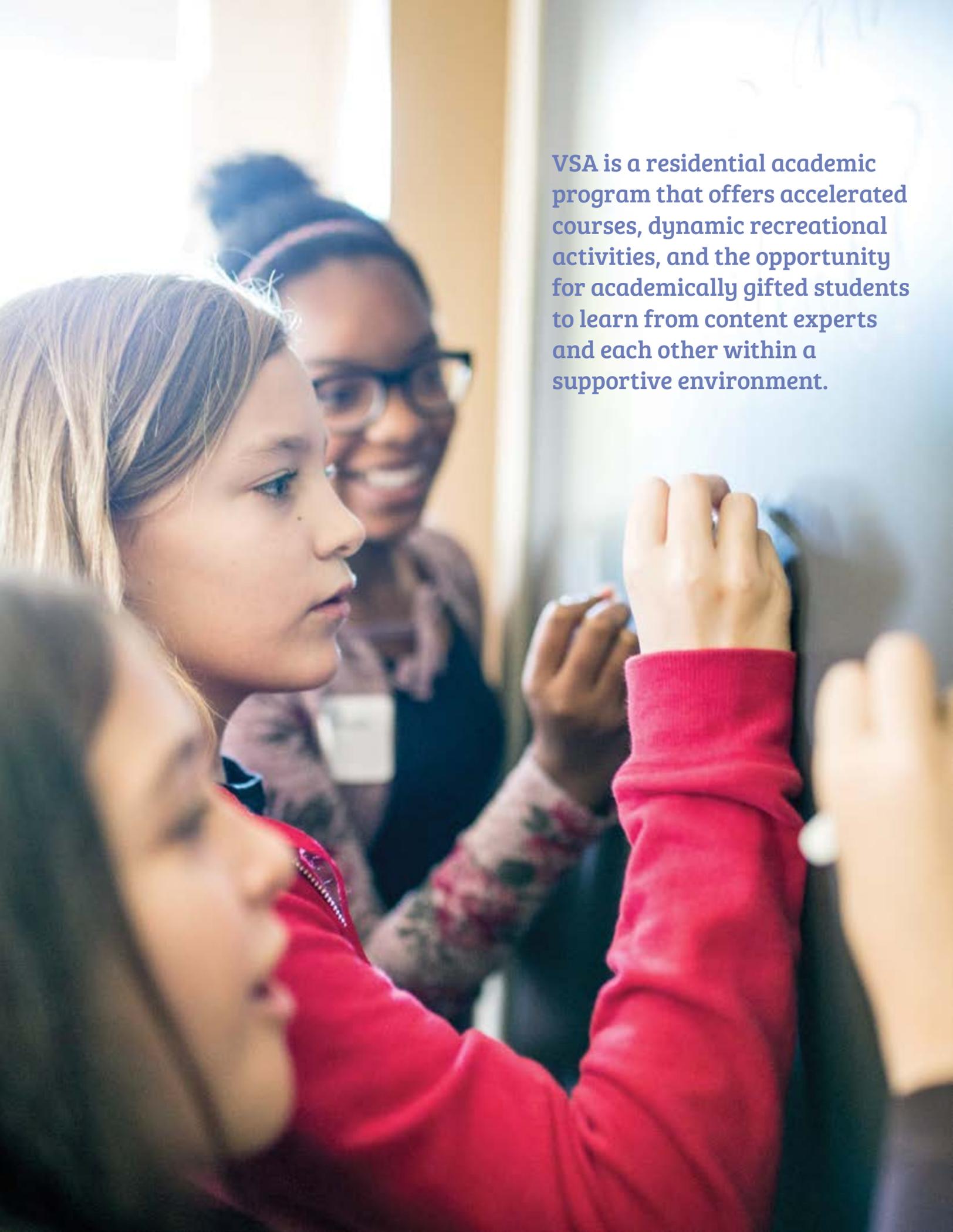
VANDERBILT
SUMMER
ACADEMY

2017 CATALOG



VANDERBILT
PROGRAMS FOR
TALENTED YOUTH

Developing talent in gifted
students and those who
work with them



VSA is a residential academic program that offers accelerated courses, dynamic recreational activities, and the opportunity for academically gifted students to learn from content experts and each other within a supportive environment.



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Dates and Tuition

Vanderbilt Summer Academy 2017 offers three sessions designed for different grade levels.

Applications are accepted beginning at noon on Feb. 2 (CST). Many classes will fill during the application priority window from Feb. 2–9, 2017; therefore, we highly recommend submitting applications during this window for the best chance of placement in your first choice class.

Session I (one week)

Rising 8th Graders
(students entering 8th grade in fall 2017)
June 11–16
\$1,325*

Session II (two weeks)

Rising 9th and 10th Graders
(students entering 9th or 10th grade in fall 2017)
June 18–30
\$2,750*

Session III (three weeks)

Rising 11th and 12th Graders
(students entering 11th or 12th grade in fall 2017)
July 9–28
\$3,575*

*A nonrefundable \$40 application fee is due at the time of submission and a 10% tuition deposit is required of each admitted student to hold a place in his/her course. For more application information, see page 28.

#vsa2017

 Vanderbilt Summer Academy
  @vanderbiltpty
  @VanderbiltPTY

APPLICATION PRIORITY WINDOW NOON, FEB. 2–NOON, FEB. 9, 2017

Visit pty.vanderbilt.edu/vsa to access the online application.

If preferred, paper applications are available for download from our website and located inside this catalog.

ELIGIBILITY

When students apply to Vanderbilt Summer Academy, qualifying documentation will be requested at the time of application; qualifying documentation, however, may take a number of different forms. Students may submit an ability assessment, ACT, SAT, or PSAT scores near the 95th percentile and above in one or both sections of the test, or an admission portfolio for further assessment and review. While standardized test scores around the 95th percentile are typically a strong indication that VSA is an appropriate curriculum match for a student, we recognize that there are circumstances in which test scores are either unavailable or not the best indicator of a student's academic potential. For this reason, VSA also accepts a portfolio application composed of supporting documents that provide a well-rounded assessment of a student's advanced academic performance. To learn more about qualifying test scores or the specific portfolio requirements, please refer to the next sections.

TEST SCORES

The table below outlines scores by grade and test type that correspond to the 95th percentile. Typically, VSA students who score at this level for their age and grade are successful within the rigor of our programs. Beginning March 2016, a new version of the SAT is offered with a few changes to the numerical score assessment. VSA accepts SAT scores from either the old or new SAT, and we've listed the 95th percentile scores for both tests below. To determine eligibility, do make sure to compare your student's scores with the student's grade at the time of the test, the specific test taken, and the corresponding eligibility score.

Students need only to qualify in one subject area, as long as that area is commensurate with the course content the student is interested in taking. Once a student has qualified for VSA, he or she does not have to submit further test results for subsequent years.

VSA also accepts PSAT scores. To understand how the PSAT score denotes eligibility, examine the PSAT score for either math or critical reading. Similar to the SAT and ACT eligibility scores, a score near the 95th percentile or above in either math or critical reading would qualify the applicant for VSA. In addition to a new SAT, the PSAT has undergone recent revisions, so if you have questions about PSAT eligibility, we encourage you to call our office for additional information.

Students with a high writing and language score only may be eligible if interested in a writing-based course. Questions about this particular section of the SAT for eligibility purposes may be directed to our admissions coordinator.

You can register directly for either the SAT or the ACT through their websites (though an official report mailed directly from The College Board/ACT is not required):

collegeboard.com Vanderbilt PTY code: SAT 3697
actstudent.org Vanderbilt PTY code: ACT 5165

We also accept ACT/SAT scores achieved through talent search programs such as the Duke Talent Identification Program (TIP), Northwestern University Midwest Academic Talent Search (NUMATS), or Johns Hopkins Talent Search, but you are not required to go through a talent search to apply to Vanderbilt Summer Academy. Recent individual ability and achievement assessments (i.e., WISC, Stanford-Binet, Woodcock Johnson, WIAT, etc.) are also accepted.

Test scores—based on the grade in which the student took the test.			
Grade	Old SAT	New SAT	ACT
7th Grade	500M or R	26M or 27 R	20M or R
8th Grade	550M or R	28M or 30 R	22M or R
9th Grade	590M or R	30M or 32 R	25M or R
10th Grade	620M or R	32M or 33 R	27M or R
11th Grade	670M or R	35M or 35 R	29M or R

PORTFOLIO

For students who wish to submit a portfolio of materials in lieu of SAT/ACT/PSAT scores, VSA offers a portfolio assessment option. To apply via portfolio, students should complete the VSA application and essays and submit the following items:

- Recent nationally normed school-based assessments indicating around a 90th percentile or higher score in at least one full-section (e.g., total math, total reading, verbal, nonverbal). Acceptable assessments include but are not limited to: ERB, CogAT, Terra Nova, ITBS, Stanford Achievement Test, OLSAT, MAT.

- Two teacher recommendations, forms available online.
- School transcript or more recent report card (transcript preferred).
- Sample of recent course work relating to the VSA course the student wishes to take.

See pty.vanderbilt.edu/students/vsa for more details.

Once an online application account is created for your student, all qualifying documents can be uploaded into our online application system.

APPLICATION PRIORITY WINDOW

All applications received during the application priority window (noon, Feb. 2–noon, Feb. 9, CST) will be placed in a priority pool regardless of the particular date submitted. This means that any complete and qualifying application submitted during the application window has the same chance for placement.

At the close of this window, all applications received will be randomly assigned a number determining their placement in the review queue. Applications received after the application priority window will be time and date stamped upon arrival and reviewed in order of receipt.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Vanderbilt Programs for Talented Youth is committed to making programs available to academically gifted students regardless of a family's ability to pay the full tuition. Therefore, need-based financial aid is available based on income. The VSA application review process is need-blind and does not consider financial status. When families are notified of their financial aid amount, they will also receive a tuition notice that indicates the student's tuition balance. Upon notification of the financial assistance amount, 10% of the balance will be due as a nonrefundable tuition deposit.

Families who wish to apply for financial aid should submit a completed financial aid application along with a copy of their most recent federal tax return. We will use this information to determine both eligibility and award amount. Please note that all tuition awards are partial, and you may apply for financial aid at any point during the admissions process. Payment plans are also available. Please contact PTY's Admissions Coordinator, Briana Christian, at 615-322-0133 or briana.christian@vanderbilt.edu if you have additional questions about financial aid or setting up a payment plan.

CANCELLATION POLICY

The VSA application fee is nonrefundable and paid at the time of application submission. Once admitted, a nonrefundable 10% tuition deposit will be due.

Cancellations made before the tuition due date will be eligible for a full tuition refund less the application fee and tuition deposit. Cancellations made after the tuition due date and before the refund deadline (VSA refund deadline: May 6, 2017 for Sessions II and III, May 20, 2017 for Session I) may be eligible for a 50% refund less the application fee and tuition deposit. After the refund deadline, no tuition refunds will be awarded.

CONTACT US

Phone: (615) 322-3173

Email: vsa.pty@vanderbilt.edu

Fax: (615) 322-3457

For questions regarding the application process and financial assistance:

Briana Christian

Admissions Coordinator

Phone: (615) 322-0133

Email: briana.christian@vanderbilt.edu



On behalf of Vanderbilt Programs for Talented Youth, we invite you to join us this summer to live and learn at one of the world's finest universities.

Vanderbilt Summer Academy offers a one-week, two-week, or three-week session designed to inspire and invigorate high-ability students within a dynamic and supportive environment. Students who participate in VSA engage fully with Vanderbilt's campus, socialize in recreational facilities, experience living in a college residence hall, and tackle rigorous courses taught by professors and Ph.D. scholars who also call Vanderbilt home. This intensive pre-college endeavor will give you the opportunity to have one of the best summers you can imagine, making new friends who share your interests and abilities!

VSA is an accelerated academic program, so you can count on courses that are focused, fast-paced, and challenging. Our classes are small, with about fifteen students on average. This way you get the kind of personalized attention you need to help you achieve your maximum potential. While your days will be spent diving into complex material, your evenings will be free for games, crafts, and incredible conversations with your intellectual peers.

Depending on your length of stay, VSA will also give you a taste of what it's like to live in "Music City." With local coffee shops and eateries nearby, Session III students can enjoy college town perks in small groups. Located in the heart of Nashville's city center, Vanderbilt's beautiful tree-lined campus is the perfect place to read, reflect, and enjoy an afternoon.

What sets VSA apart from other summer programs is an intrinsic tie to Vanderbilt itself and the access students have to our scholars, facilities, and resources. We pride ourselves on facilitating academic opportunities more commonly experienced at the undergraduate and graduate level. Students at VSA have dissected Camus passages with a visiting scholar, shadowed doctors on their rounds, and investigated one of the largest Civil War historical archives in the entire United States. With resources such as these, the moments of discovery are many, and we encourage you to take advantage at every turn.

What's the best part of VSA? Our students tell us time and again that it's the people. They tell us that VSA gives them the chance to be themselves. Sitting together in one of Vanderbilt's dining halls, your conversations could reference applications of carbon nanotubes, the allegories of Plato, or the use of knot theory in data encryption software. Summer after memorable summer, pop culture meets intellectual risk; friendship meets scholarship. And through it all, VSA is committed to building an enriching and diverse community--your community--one that lifts you up and celebrates your journey.

So as you look through the pages of this catalog, picture yourself on our campus immersed in your academic passion; imagine yourself part of a program unlike any other.

We hope to see you this summer!

Sincerely,



Rosanna Forrest, M.F.A.
Assistant Director, Residential and Adolescent Programs



David Dunn, Ph.D.
Education Consultant



John M. Girdler
Communications and Residential Coordinator



Forrest Edens
Activities Coordinator, VSA and WAVU



PTY HISTORY

In 2000, Dean Camilla Benbow founded Vanderbilt Programs for Talented Youth. At that time, our staff led an academic, accelerated program in the summer for gifted middle and high school students. The program underwent significant changes and restructuring in 2006. Since that time, our student enrollment has tripled, and we now provide year-round accelerated academic course work for gifted students in kindergarten through high school, generally led by Vanderbilt faculty and graduate students. From 2008 to the present, we have consistently increased our scope of work to include professional development opportunities for educators, course work in gifted education, and academic research related to giftedness and effective services, curriculum development, and work specifically focused on gifted students of poverty. PTY is led by Professor/Director Tamra Stambaugh, Ph.D., and Assistant Directors Sarah DeLisle, Ed.D., and Rosanna Forrest, M.F.A.

PTY STUDENTS

We host students from across the globe. During a typical residential program year, at least 30 different states and at least two countries other than the U.S. are represented. Day programs for our younger students enjoy representation from multiple states including Tennessee, Alabama, and Kentucky, and as far away as Texas, Michigan, California, Pennsylvania, and Florida. Approximately 20 percent of our students receive some type of need-based tuition reduction.

WHAT WE DO

01.

Nurture giftedness through accelerated, pre-collegiate talent development opportunities and programs for K–12 students.

02.

Develop parent and community awareness of the nature and nurture of gifted students through consultation, counseling, and community programs.

03.

Provide quality professional development and course work on and off campus for professionals in gifted education.

04.

Develop systemic models to promote services and to build collaborative partnerships with other organizations within and outside campus to complement the mission of PTY and Vanderbilt at large.

“Accelerated academic programs at universities play a central role in the talent development process by enhancing the social, academic, and career development of gifted students. I am proud to assemble and support a passionate and caring team of experts in their respective fields to support our gifted students both in and out of the classroom.”

*Tamra Stambaugh, Ph.D.,
Executive Director, Programs for Talented Youth
Assistant Research Professor, Special Education*



WHY SHOULD WE CONSIDER OUT-OF-SCHOOL PROGRAMS FOR THE GIFTED?

When gifted students participate in extracurricular, accelerated academic programs, such as those offered by Vanderbilt Programs for Talented Youth, they:

- Are more likely to take advanced high school courses in mathematics, especially girls
- Are more likely to seek admittance into a highly selective college after high school
- Enjoy a high level of challenge and pacing, not otherwise provided by many schools
- Gain access to university faculty and content experts earlier in their academic career, which can fuel a lifelong pursuit of a key content area
- Are more likely to take academic risks
- Develop a sense of independence

Specifically our students say that when comparing one of our programs to their school, they:

- Find our courses more enjoyable and interesting
- Have more opportunities to engage in critical thinking
- Feel more supported and understood by their instructors
- Feel more supported by their peers
- Feel normal and accepted for who they really are
- Are more challenged and not bored

Programs like ours may also curb underachievement tendencies in students who may no longer engage in school because of a lack of interest, slow pacing, or little challenge.

WHY CHOOSE PTY PROGRAMS?

- Vanderbilt University is known as a preeminent center for collegiate education and is a tier one research institution.
- Led by Professor/Director Tamra Stambaugh, PTY was founded by Camilla Benbow, Patricia and Rodes Hart Dean of Education and Human Development and co-director of the Study of Mathematically Precocious Youth. Dean Benbow was the protégé of the original founder of talent searches, Dr. Julian Stanley.
- Vanderbilt Peabody College of Education and Human Development has been named one of the nation's top graduate schools of education by *U.S. News & World Report* for more than eight years in a row.
- PTY has highly qualified, experienced, and compassionate staff who are experts in their field and understand the academic and social-emotional needs of academically gifted learners.
- Many PTY instructors and consultants are nationally and internationally known and widely published in their respective fields.

“VSA encouraged me to break down academic barriers and learn more about my peers and myself as a learner. I loved learning engaging information, participating in class discussions and spending time with like-minded peers.”

Academic Life at Vanderbilt Summer Academy

OUR PHILOSOPHY

Vanderbilt Summer Academy offers a challenging introduction to the academic rigors of college life at Vanderbilt. You will enjoy the excitement of in-depth, accelerated study of a fascinating subject within a community of your intellectual peers.

Our course catalog (beginning on page 14) is filled with wide-ranging, interdisciplinary topics such as nanotechnology, religious studies and philosophy, history, and medicine.

Regardless of where your interests take you, we have courses designed to provoke ongoing discussion and learning. Above all, Vanderbilt Summer Academy is a “risk-friendly” academic environment that will both challenge and foster your abilities.

OUR FACULTY

Vanderbilt Summer Academy instructors (profiles beginning on page 26) are drawn from the wealth of talented faculty and scholars here in the Vanderbilt University and Nashville communities and include many distinguished professors, scientists, and researchers. All instructors are carefully selected not only for achievements in their fields, but also for their commitment to excellence in classroom teaching. These outstanding VSA faculty serve as academic role models, providing instruction and insights into their areas of study. A teaching assistant (TA) with demonstrated experience in the content area or pedagogy supports each class. The TA serves as a resource to the instructor and to the class—sharing his or her perspective on the subject matter and helping promote a secure learning environment.

Why VSA? We recognize that you have many choices of summer academic programs. Here are some things that set VSA apart.

- **Access to scholars.** Vanderbilt faculty and doctoral-level scholars teach most of our classes, so you'll work with true content-area experts.
- **Small classes.** Classes have 12–16 students in most cases.
- **Personalized attention.** Each class has a dedicated instructor and teaching assistant.
- **Opportunities for personal development.** From areté classes, to informal conversations about college life, to information sessions with admissions representatives, VSA celebrates the whole you!
- **Campus living.** VSA students reside in a state-of-the-art first-year residence hall designed for social interaction with your community of like-minded intellectual peers.
- **Parent education.** VSA offers a special opening-day information session for parents, covering a range of topics relating to gifted teens and college admission processes.
- **Caring staff.** Our program staff is a dynamic team of carefully selected, fully trained individuals who are passionate about mentoring advanced learners like you.

“I was so excited to learn every day, and my instructors were amazing.”

OUR COURSEWORK

The Vanderbilt Summer Academy course curricula are designed to meet the intellectual and cognitive needs of highly gifted youth.

Vanderbilt Summer Academy courses are:

- Accelerated and unique, offering you the opportunity to explore areas of study not typically available elsewhere
- Fast-paced and rigorous with an emphasis on critical and creative thinking
- Drawn from a broad range of disciplines in order to maximize the potential for interdisciplinary study
- Rooted in the rich academic and cultural environment of Vanderbilt University and the surrounding Nashville community

Vanderbilt Summer Academy offers the opportunity to explore exciting new areas of study—in and out of the classroom. Many courses offer visits to campus libraries, laboratories, archives, and studios, not to mention occasional field trips to off-campus resources that Nashville provides. The innovative curricula allow you to learn through hands-on activities, real-world scenarios, laboratory experiments, lively group discussions, and self-directed projects.

With six hours a day devoted to learning, VSA courses allow for a satisfying level of focus and depth. And while the course work can be exciting and intensive, outside of class, you will be able to fully enjoy the social and recreational activities Vanderbilt Summer Academy has to offer.

ASSESSMENT

For students to best experience the joy of learning within a group of true intellectual and social peers, VSA is a non-graded program and does not offer credit for course work. Rather, VSA promotes accelerated learning in an environment tailored to promote academic risk taking. We encourage you to push your intellectual limits without fear of failure. Instead of a grade, you will receive a performance evaluation. This thoughtfully prepared constructive feedback will help you accurately assess your achievements in the course work. More than a number or letter, this rubric is designed to help you understand your performance and abilities and to guide you in charting your future academic endeavors. Because Vanderbilt Summer Academy realizes that parents are important partners in the intellectual growth of their children, instructors make themselves available to parents for an optional end-of-session open house or conference.





Residential Life at Vanderbilt Summer Academy

Vanderbilt Summer Academy isn't only about the academic experience. We believe that life outside the classroom is just as important as what goes on inside. Each weekday, you will participate in an extracurricular Areté class, plus, every evening, you will be able to choose from a wide range of activities from Ultimate Frisbee and field days to tie-dyeing and talent shows. In addition, time is built into the schedule to allow plenty of opportunities for you to unwind and socialize with your new friends. Not only will you have the chance to live on a college campus, but also you will get to sample some of the many cultural and entertainment offerings of Nashville through group outings and field trips.

HOUSING

Hank Ingram House, on The Ingram Commons, will be your "home away from home" at VSA. This building combines the best of modern conveniences within a classically elegant exterior. This centrally air-conditioned house includes laundry facilities on the first floor and large common areas for games and social interaction. Floors are separated by gender, and each has four communal bathrooms. Living in Hank Ingram House will give you a sneak peek into Vanderbilt's residential experience for first-year students. Learn more at commons.vanderbilt.edu.





RESIDENTIAL STAFF

Our leadership team includes full-time PTY staff who work closely with carefully selected and trained residential proctors, fostering community within the residence hall and guiding students through evening and weekend activities. Several VSA proctors live on each floor near assigned same-gender proctor groups of 12–15 students. Proctor groups meet each evening with their proctor and enjoy occasional group outings together. VSA residential staff is large in number, and positions range from program office assistants to the head of student support, logistics manager to residential program assistants. Our staff (some of whom were VSA students years ago) is eager to welcome each session to campus and provide a warm and encouraging environment for new and returning students.

“The people that come to VSA are some of the best I know. Discussion is always so thoughtful and challenging—inside and outside of class.”

DINING

Vanderbilt Summer Academy students eat most of their meals in campus dining halls, which offer a wide variety of healthy and savory selections including vegetarian and vegan options. All meals served in the dining halls or at VSA-wide events are covered in the tuition. Several dining outlets sell coffee drinks and snacks during the day. Outside food purchases, such as snacks or ice cream, will be the responsibility of the student.

SAFETY, HEALTH, AND STUDENT SUPERVISION

Vanderbilt Summer Academy recognizes the importance of proper health and safety for everyone in our program. Our trained staff live in the residence hall, supervise activities, and maintain the overall well-being and safety of students during the program. Students spend the majority of their evenings and weekends participating in supervised events and activities. Discretionary time will vary by session. The VU Police Department partners with VSA in securing the residence hall and campus. The VSA residence hall houses only program participants and authorized Vanderbilt staff. All students are provided with electronic access cards to the residence hall and keys to their dorm rooms in order to allow them to secure their belongings.

Because Vanderbilt Summer Academy is an opportunity to experience communal living, some of the responsibility for health and safety rests with you. You will be informed of the program guidelines for behavior, participation, and campus boundaries in the *Vanderbilt Summer Academy Student Handbook*, which you will receive upon admission. All rules are designed to foster a healthful, respectful environment where everyone can find success and enjoyment.

In the event that you need medical attention while on campus, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, which includes the Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital, is located next door to the university campus. Specific policies about personal medications, health history, student health concerns while on campus, and insurance requirements are outlined in the welcome paperwork and VSA student handbook.

ARETÉ PROGRAM

One of the highest values in ancient Greek philosophy and literature was the concept of ἀρετή (areté, pronounced ah-reh-tay). Often translated simply as “virtue,” it more accurately denotes the ideal of human excellence. At VSA, we have chosen the concept as a guide to the integration of classroom learning with out-of-classroom opportunities. We want you to work hard and challenge yourself in class, but we also want you to make friends and have fun.

We will provide opportunities for you to relax and socialize on campus and, in later sessions, to enjoy some of the sights and sounds of Nashville as well. In addition, our residential life program encourages students to share their talents and leisure interests with the VSA community. Whether you are interested in self-defense, want to learn stage combat, or seek to amaze your friends with illusions, we invite you to share your enthusiasms, hobbies, and talents with your fellow VSA students and staff.

The areté program kicks off each weekday afternoon with specialty classes. Areté classes typically explore areas of the performing, physical, martial, and visual arts, giving you a chance to sample something new and different. They will help you transition from your busy class day into the more leisurely pace of the evening. See a sampling of areté offerings listed below. Remember, absolutely no prior experience is necessary! Areté options are subject to change. You will receive detailed information about areté classes in your VSA welcome packet.

Juggling

Even if you are all thumbs, you can learn to juggle! Juggling is great fun, and it also teaches you amazing hand-eye coordination. You'll wow your friends with your newfound juggling skills.

Martial Arts & Self Defense

The odds are that you'll never be attacked or mugged. Still, wouldn't it be nice to know what to do if you were? This class will teach you basic techniques drawn from different martial arts to learn effective methods of self-defense. You'll learn creative ways to disable an opponent no matter your height or body strength.



Improv

Take advantage of the moment and make people laugh. In this introduction to improvisational comedy, you will learn techniques to perfect comic timing, perform spontaneous scenes, and play off cues from your audience. Improv also teaches valuable life skills such as listening, communication and self-confidence while developing individual creativity through the use of theatre games and exercises.

Yoga

Meaning “to unite,” yoga promotes balance of mind and body through a series of postures and mindful breathing. Yoga is practiced by everyone from scientists to athletes, so all skill and experience levels are welcome in this class. You'll learn basic yoga poses, as well as information about the history and tenets of yoga. Whether you're looking to decompress, or looking for a workout, this areté is for you!

And MANY more...

“The proctors and staff made sure we had a perfect blend of fun and learning.”



The Ingram Commons at Vanderbilt University

Vanderbilt leads the country in its commitment to create the best possible undergraduate learning environment. At the heart of this objective lies the mission of The Ingram Commons—a unique program designed to make the first-year experience challenging, fun, and fulfilling. This collaborative community nurtures and develops proactive, intentional learners and invites an invigorating exchange of ideas. To learn more about The Ingram Commons, please visit commons.vanderbilt.edu.

At Vanderbilt Summer Academy, you don't have to wait until you are a college student to enjoy The Ingram Commons experience. Vanderbilt University teams have worked together to create programming designed to enlighten and to stimulate thinking for VSA students. You will have the opportunity to learn and to be inspired as you talk over the lunch table with faculty and staff from all parts of Vanderbilt University or as you share your own interests at informal colloquia that you and your friends and colleagues design. You can work together to create your own community of scholarship and fun.

“VSA was one of the first places where I truly fit in.”



Frequently Asked Questions from VSA Applicants

Why do I take only one class? We believe that students need opportunities to immerse themselves in a content area of interest, in order to develop expertise; therefore, each VSA course is designed to be an accelerated, in-depth look at its respective content area.

How should I select my class? We recommend that you choose your class based on what interests you. We encourage you to rank at least three or four classes, but be sure that any course you rank on your application is something you'd be willing to take and pay for. Once you are placed in a class you ranked, your deposit will be non-refundable. Apply early to have the best chance for placement in your first choice!

Will I receive a grade or credit for my class? No, VSA does not give grades or award credit. We want you to stretch your intellectual capacity without fear of failure. Your instructor will evaluate your progress, and you will receive a course evaluation report from your instructor after VSA. The report will detail your progress on a variety of factors and aims to give you a broad picture of your academic growth in the course.

Where will I live? Hank Ingram House on The Ingram Commons at Vanderbilt was opened in 2008. It has many fine amenities and a prime campus location. It is fully air-conditioned and has comfortable rooms and resident lounges on each floor.

Will I have a roommate? Yes. All Hank Ingram rooms are double rooms. Two students (same gender) will be assigned to each room. Each floor of Hank Ingram House has four same-gender communal bathrooms.

May I choose my own roommate? To enhance the community experience, VSA typically assigns roommates through a randomized process. If you have a specific concern regarding the roommate assignment process, please contact the VSA office.

What are proctors and what do they do? Proctors are residential counselors. They are specially trained undergraduate and graduate students who live in the residence hall with VSA students and will organize the residential recreational and social activities with support from VSA's head of student life. Each student will be assigned to a proctor group. Your proctor will check in on you on a regular basis and help you make the best of your VSA experience.

May I bring a car to campus? No. VSA is an intense summer experience, and student safety is always a priority. Students will neither have the time nor need to leave campus in a personal vehicle.

How much freedom will I have to go off campus? Supervision levels vary by session. The VSA daily schedule and level of supervision is comprehensive. We follow Vanderbilt University's policies regarding the presence of minors on campus, and student safety is prioritized above all else. While we understand that students are responsible individuals, VSA requires free time and recreational activities to be fully supervised and every student to be accounted for at all times. We want you to have a wonderful time while you're with us on campus, and we encourage new friendships and community building at every turn.

May I bring a cell phone, iPad, or other electronic device? Yes. However, we do have restrictions on the use of these devices, which we will ask you to follow. The policy for use of electronics will be outlined in your student handbook. VSA is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

Do I need a computer? Some students do find that a computer is beneficial, but it is neither required nor essential for academic purposes.

What should I wear? VSA occurs within an academic environment that requires a casual but appropriate dress code. We ask that students use good judgment in packing for the session. Clothing with offensive language, symbols, or designs is unacceptable. Revealing clothing is also unacceptable. Nashville is hot outside in the summer, but inside is often cool with ample air conditioning. Be comfortable and bring layers!

Will I do my own laundry? Yes. Students attending Sessions II or III will do their own laundry. Laundry facilities are available in the residence hall. Don't forget to pack extra quarters, a laundry bag or hamper, laundry detergent, fabric softener, etc. If you've never done laundry, you might want to ask your family for a crash course before you arrive at VSA!



"I've met so many amazing people here who have inspired me to be a better person and who have made me feel truly loved and appreciated."

Session I Course Catalog

RISING 8TH GRADERS • JUNE 11–16 • \$1,325
 (For students who will be entering 8th grade in fall 2017)

Designed exclusively for rising eighth-grade students, this one-week session provides structured learning and recreation both inside and outside of the classroom. Your academic course takes center stage, but in the evenings, you will be able to sample a variety of games, sports, crafts, and other activities. You and your parents can rest assured that our VSA community is self-contained and well supervised. Our staff will work hard to ensure that you won't feel lost or overwhelmed during your stay at Vanderbilt. At the end of the week, you will leave with many new friends, the great satisfaction of succeeding in a fast-paced and rigorous classroom, and the wonderful feeling of being a part of Vanderbilt's community of scholars.



A WORD ABOUT COURSE CHOICE

Courses fill quickly! Please consider your course choices carefully. While we will do our best to place you in your first-choice course, it may be filled, and we often have to place students in second- or third-choice courses. As you review these course descriptions, please rank-order as many courses as you'd like, knowing that you may not get your first choice. Once admitted, a nonrefundable 10% deposit will be due to hold your space, so rank only those courses that you are truly willing to take—and pay for!

A DAY IN THE LIFE AT VANDERBILT SUMMER ACADEMY SESSION I*	
8:00 – 8:45 a.m.	<i>Breakfast</i>
9:00 – 11:45 a.m.	<i>Class</i>
11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m.	<i>Lunch</i>
12:45–2:45 p.m.	<i>Class</i>
2:45 –3:45 p.m.	<i>Study Hall</i>
4:00 –5:15 p.m.	<i>Areté Class</i>
5:15 – 6:00 p.m.	<i>Free Time</i>
6:00 – 6:50 p.m.	<i>Dinner</i>
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	<i>Planned Recreational Activities</i>
9:00 – 10:00 p.m.	<i>Proctor Meeting and Free Time on Hall</i>
10:00 p.m.	<i>Room Curfew/ Call Parents</i>
10:30 p.m.	<i>Lights Out</i>
* <i>Subject to change</i>	

- Session I Course Titles**
- Programming in Python
 - Creative Writing and Pop Culture
 - Diabetes Research and Treatment
 - Microeconomics
 - Planetary Astronomy
 - Consumerism in American Society
 - Bioarchaeology: Biographies in Bones
 - Environmental Engineering:
 - Understanding Climate Events
 - Combinatorics
 - Nuclear Technology
 - Digital Storytelling





PROGRAMMING IN PYTHON

Computer Science, Programming, Complex Systems Science, Data Analysis

If you're a creative problem-solver with a brain for technology, this could be just the class for you! With Python—an accessible programming language that is widely used in business, science, and software/web design—you will learn to query data, perform rapid calculations, and model complex systems, leading to a culminating project where you develop your own software. At the end of this course, you may not have launched the next great Internet startup, but you will be equipped with some amazing tools to help you in your future technological endeavors.

—Ashlyn Karan

CREATIVE WRITING AND POP CULTURE

Fiction Writing, Contemporary Literature, Media Studies

Writers and explorers, come travel through a wide array of story arcs—everything from “standard” literature to music videos and Internet memes—to help you perfect the art of plot development, which is

the foundation of all good story writing. Plot shapes character development, tone, imagery, dialog, and more. You can expect frequent writing exercises, creative collaboration with your peers, and lots and lots of revision to help you create stories that engage the reader and communicate your point of view with clarity and purpose.

—Quincy Rhoads

DIABETES RESEARCH AND TREATMENT

Medicine, Biology, Chemistry

Nearly one-in-ten Americans suffers from diabetes, a serious medical condition in which the wrong snack could have dire consequences. In this course you will look at diabetes through the eyes of a research endocrinologist to better understand how it operates at the cellular and biochemical level. You will learn about pancreatic beta cells, what leads to their dysfunction, and debate the pros and cons of current and cutting edge methods of treatment. So put on your lab coats and get ready to find out what happens when a good pancreas goes bad.

—Peter Kropp

MICROECONOMICS

**Psychology, Economics, Business,
Data Analysis**

What is “the Dow,” and why does it go “up” or “down”? What causes gas prices to rise and fall? In this course you will combine problem-solving skills with your own intuition to analyze why people buy, sell, and consume. Moving beyond basic economic concepts, you will experience how economists use mathematics and graphical representations to capture and predict market behaviors. Think economics begins and ends with supply and demand? Think again!

–Zeeshan Samad

PLANETARY ASTRONOMY

**Astronomy, Computer Modeling,
Data Analysis**

Get ready to contribute your own voice to our global, astronomical dialogue. According to NASA, there are over 2,300 planets outside our solar system, and as many as 21 may be habitable! In this class you will use astrophysics, publicly available data, and the power of statistics to better understand our planet-filled universe. You will take what we know about our own solar system to generate models for studying extrasolar planets. In this way, you will gain firsthand experience in how scientists pose research questions, design studies, and present their findings to their peers. Let the exploration begin!

–Erika Grundstrom

CONSUMERISM IN AMERICAN SOCIETY

Economics, Anthropology, History, Statistics

Adam Smith’s famous exposition on capitalism, *Wealth of Nations*, was published in 1776, the same year as the founding of the United States. This historical coincidence speaks to how much American life is shaped by market acts. This class will introduce you to the history of modern economics and different market theories, providing you with the background to take a close, analytical look at the practice of consumerism and how the cycles of buying and selling contribute to the shape of national and personal identity. Be warned! After this class, you will never look at “Black Friday” the same way again.

–Zachary Settle

BIOARCHAEOLOGY: BIOGRAPHIES IN BONES

**Forensic Anthropology, Biochemistry,
Archaeology**

Bones are like biographies of ancient societies. Skeletal remains can tell bioarchaeologists how people lived in the past—their actions, their diets, and their roles in society. In this course you will learn to use forensic and chemical analysis to better understand the lives of ancient peoples and the world they lived in. Be advised you will be handling human skeletal remains in Vanderbilt’s Human Osteology Lab. So if you are ready for challenging, integrative learning, then pick up your trowel, strap on your boots, and get ready to jump into the hands-on world of bioarchaeology.

–Keitlyn Alcantara

ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING: UNDERSTANDING CLIMATE EVENTS

**Civil Engineering, Complex Systems Science,
Data Analysis/Statistics, Ecology**

How much sea ice will there be in 2027? What’s the opposite of El Niño? How should coastal cities prepare for hurricanes? In this course, you will get an introduction to the tools, analytical techniques, and basic problem-solving skills that environmental engineers use to try to answer questions like these. Working with publicly available geographic information systems (GIS) tools and fundamental statistics software, you will gain a better understanding of climate events and long-term forecasts. A culminating project will give you the opportunity to apply your new skills through predicting a climate phenomenon of your choosing.

–Paul Johnson

COMBINATORICS

Mathematics, Algebra, Graph Theory

How many ways are there to scoop three different flavors of ice cream? Now, what if you want your two favorite flavors stacked on top of the third? Combinatorics starts with simple questions like these to build powerful techniques used throughout mathematics. Melding the tangible with the abstract, combinatorics and graph theory explore the beauty and function of advanced mathematical ideas, revealing how abstract constructions can be natural tools for describing our world.

–Zachary Gaslowitz





NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY

Physics, Engineering, Ecology

Suit up and learn the fundamental physics of nuclear reactions and how that energy is harnessed for electricity production. Beginning with the history of nuclear energy production, you will participate in activities that simulate concepts such as fission reactions, radioactive decay, and “systemic randomness” as they relate to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We’ll also deconstruct the mechanics of nuclear reactors—both present examples and potential future technologies. Like real-world scientists, get ready for animated discussions about the risks and benefits of nuclear power as they relate to society’s overall energy needs.

—Bethany Burkhardt

DIGITAL STORYTELLING

Creative Writing, Digital Media, Cultural Studies

We all know an image is worth a thousand words, but how can these “thousand words” be used to tell a cohesive story? In this course you’ll learn about the importance of the graphic imagery we encounter daily, including movies, advertisements, news, and even Instagram. You’ll examine how these media are used in entertainment, marketing, and storytelling to better understand how to tell your own story. Finally, using the techniques you have learned, you will create your own graphic short story. If you are the next Stan Lee, or your Instagram caption game is on point, this is the class for you.

—Daniella Burke

Session II Course Catalog

RIISING 9TH AND 10TH GRADERS • JUNE 18–30 • \$2,750

(For students who will be entering 9th or 10th grade in fall 2017)

Session II strives to reach the right balance of free time coupled with structured activities outside of class, allowing you to choose recreational and social experiences that appeal to you. On the Session II weekend, we arrange an all-VSA off-campus recreational event such as bowling, roller skating, or miniature golf. Throughout your session, you will also find a diverse selection of evening activities from seminars on choosing a college to intramural soccer tournaments to film screenings to low-key time for hanging out with new friends. Our goal is to offer VSA Session II students an age-appropriate sampling of campus life, living in a residence hall, and creating a close-knit community among like-minded peers.

A WORD ABOUT COURSE CHOICE

Courses fill quickly! Please consider your course choices carefully. While we will do our best to place you in your first-choice course, it may be filled, and we often have to place students in second- or third-choice courses. As you review these course descriptions, please rank-order as many courses as you'd like, knowing that you may not get your first choice. Once admitted, a nonrefundable 10% tuition deposit will be due to hold your space, so rank only those courses that you are truly willing to take—and pay for!



A DAY IN THE LIFE AT VANDERBILT SUMMER ACADEMY SESSION II**

Weekday Schedule

8:00 – 8:45 a.m.	<i>Breakfast</i>
9:00 – 11:45 a.m.	<i>Class</i>
11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m.	<i>Lunch</i>
12:45 – 2:45 p.m.	<i>Class</i>
2:45 – 3:45 p.m.	<i>Study Hall</i>
4:00 – 5:15 p.m.	<i>Areté Class</i>
5:15 – 6:00 p.m.	<i>Free Time</i>
6:00 – 6:50 p.m.	<i>Dinner</i>
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	<i>Recreational Activities</i>
9:00 – 10:00 p.m.	<i>Proctor Meeting and Free Time on Hall</i>
10:00 p.m.	<i>Room Curfew*</i>
10:30 p.m.	<i>Lights Out*</i>

* *Room Curfew and Lights Out times may be extended on Friday and Saturday nights.*

** *Subject to change*

Session II Course Titles

Programming and Computer Science
 Math and Music
 Agents of Change
 Criminal Law
 Nanoscience and Engineering
 Writing Fantasy Fiction
 Behavioral Economics
 Consumerism and Identity
 Neuroscience of Brain Dysfunction
 Lying with Statistics
 Bioarchaeology: Methods and Applications
 Abstract Algebra





PROGRAMMING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

Computer Science, Programming, Complex Systems, Statistics

If you're a creative problem solver with a brain for technology, this could be just the class for you! During the two weeks of this course, you will learn to use Python—an accessible programming language—to create scripts, query vast amounts of data, perform rapid calculations, and model complex systems. (You may learn some Java, time permitting.) Daily exercises will give you an expanding knowledge base of fundamental programming skills. Your challenge will be to build upon these skills as you develop your own software solution that tries to address a real-world problem. You will not leave this class having designed the next trending app, but you will have the tools and the know-how you need to start thinking like a programmer.

—Ashlyn Karan

MATH AND MUSIC

Music Theory, Mathematics

From Brahms to the Beatles, Bartók to Beyoncé, the intersections of mathematics with music open up both worlds as expressions of beauty and wonder. This course will examine topics such as set theory, musical scales, frequency, matrices, serialism, compositional techniques, and the Fibonacci sequence to help you reach a synthesis between the fields of math and music. A musical background is helpful but not required.

—Dawson Gray

AGENTS OF CHANGE

Rhetoric, Public Policy

Do you want to make a difference in the world? Here's a place to stoke that fire. This course will help you apply Aristotelian rhetoric to influence political, economic, and social change. You will identify and research multiple sides of contemporary social issues, make your case, and defend it. You will learn and practice fundamentals of public speaking, and more importantly, you will learn how to think critically, argue effectively, and mobilize support for the issues that matter to you.

—Courtney Travers



CRIMINAL LAW

Law, History

Future lawyers and politicians, pay attention! The study of criminal law is not for the faint of heart. The legal system is complex and ever-changing. In this course you will engage in discussions about controversial topics and real court cases to learn basic legal rules and concepts, criminal defense strategies, rules of evidence, court procedures, and more. You may not be able to pass the bar exam by the time this class is over, but you will know more about the practice of law and what it means to think like a lawyer. Business attire not required.

NOTE: Participation in this class will require you to have respectful discussions about sometimes controversial social topics.

–Kimberly Goins

NANOSCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

Engineering, Nanotechnology, Chemistry

If you see yourself as a future engineer, ready to use the smallest particles to tackle some of life's biggest challenges, then this two-week immersive overview of nanoscience may be for you. Your two weeks of VSA will be spent tackling laboratory challenges at the Vanderbilt Institute of Nanoscale Science and Engineering, where you will learn about the different types and uses of nanomaterials in today's technologies, both where the science is now, and where it is heading. As a culminating project, you will research and propose a nano-engineered solution to a real-world problem.

–Greg Walker and other VINSE faculty

WRITING FANTASY FICTION

Creative Writing, Literature

Did you know that J.K. Rowling invented Quidditch because of a fight she had with her boyfriend? Or that Tolkien's Elvish has an elaborate phonology and variety of dialects that you can learn to speak? These authors both drew on their own life events to create elaborate worlds with history and detail that many readers might never notice. Do you have what it takes to create magical and mysterious worlds? Join the quest not just to read classic works of fantasy, but also to begin writing a classic of your own. In this course, we will experiment with short stories, novels, and poems. You will produce a portfolio of creative writing that will set you on the path to discover the secret worlds hidden in your imagination.

–Jan Harris

BEHAVIORAL ECONOMICS

Psychology, Economics, Sociology

Have you ever wondered how a celebrity millionaire could find himself bankrupt? Or how a Ponzi scheme could find initial appeal? By using psychological research methods and economic principles, behavioral economics tries to explain people's decision-making processes within a market setting; in other words, it's the study of people and their financial decisions using psychological concepts. In this course you will get a primer in basic economic theory and replicate numerous experiments to better understand and predict humans' often irrational behaviors, considering the implications of these developing insights for standard economic theory. As it turns out, people do not always make expected and reasonable financial decisions, but the right research can help us understand the psychology and identify the patterns that motivate our choices.

–Zeeshan Samad

CONSUMERISM AND IDENTITY

Business, Economics, Philosophy, Sociology

What makes you, you? To a certain extent, the answer involves the choices you make, but how much might it involve the market forces that influence you? This class will look at the history of the modern market to consider its structural underpinnings and thus, the role it plays in shaping and maintaining identity. This class will challenge you with close readings of difficult texts, passionate discussions, and focused individual research. So get ready to peel back your assumptions about the world to discover the hidden connections between what you buy and who you think you are.

–Zachary Settle

NEUROSCIENCE OF BRAIN DYSFUNCTION

Psychology, Neuroscience, Technology

What makes a brain "normal" or "abnormal" is not a simple question to answer. In psychology and neuroscience, it can be hard to tell the difference. This course immerses you into the processes of brain function and dysfunction as they relate to sleep, memory, and emotions. Campus visits to labs will help you understand how EEG and fMRI machines are used in scientific research. You will also complete projects on famous case studies in psychology and neuroscience, gaining practice utilizing the scientific method to design your own research project.

NOTE: Because of the sometimes personal nature of classes that address mental health, you should consider carefully your own background and speak to the necessary professionals before opting to enroll in this course.

–Mackenzie Sunday and Rebecca Cox

LYING WITH STATISTICS

Mathematics, Quantitative Research Methods, Psychology

Is it possible to mislead when using statistics? This class will help you identify potential misrepresentations along with the inner workings of statistical “truths.” You will learn to run statistical analyses the right way (using powerful, open source software called “R”) to recognize when data are being misused. Through regular practice, discussion, and your own culminating project, you will become adept at recognizing when graphs are being manipulated, biases are being confirmed, and causes are implied when, really, only correlations exist. Not only will you gain valuable professional skills with broad applications, but you will also be less susceptible to other people’s numerical trickery.

—Mason Garrison

BIOARCHAEOLOGY: METHODS AND APPLICATIONS

Anthropology, Archaeology, Biology, History, Chemistry

Bones tell stories, stories about how people lived in the past, including the foods they ate and some of the roles they played in society. In this course, a bioarchaeologist will help you learn how to read those stories. You will get hands-on practice with human skeletons in Vanderbilt’s Human Osteology Lab, learning forensic techniques to construct a “demographic profile” of the deceased, how to analyze disease and trauma, and use the tools of bioarchaeological chemistry to explore the cellular structure of bone to answer questions about diet, migration, and to gain insight into how bones embody lived experiences.

—Keitlyn Alcantara

ABSTRACT ALGEBRA

Mathematics

What do a Rubik’s Cube and your Instagram password have in common? Both make use of a fascinating branch of mathematics called abstract algebra. Abstract algebra shows up in physics, encryption, 3-D modeling, and more. In this class you will explore aspects of this field, including group theory, ring theory, and field theory. This will help reveal a logical origin for numbers themselves—what “imaginary” numbers are and the many ways we use them in modern life. There will be a strong emphasis in this class on abstract, logical thinking. You will also study a famous proof or example that you will then present to the class.

—Jordan Nikkel

“My course was interesting, comprehensive, and completely changed how I perceive the world. It renewed my interest in learning about policy.”



Session III Course Catalog

RISING 11TH AND 12TH GRADERS • JULY 9–28 • \$3,575
(For students who will be entering 11th or 12th grade in fall 2017)

VSA Session III offers rising juniors and seniors a three-week immersive experience at Vanderbilt University. Highlights include campus living with a particular focus on each individual's role in creating a positive and supportive community. Session III students exercise personal responsibility, develop lifelong friendships, and challenge themselves and each other to engage fully with all facets of the program. To promote these goals, students in Session III have more free time and greater discretion in how to use it. During designated hours, you will have the option to sign out and walk to nearby Hillsboro Village with a group of your new VSA friends.

Weeknights offer a variety of recreational, educational, and relaxing activities from which to choose and may include a casual volleyball match, a panel discussion on college life, a trip to Vanderbilt's rec center, or an impromptu dance party. You'll also have plenty of time to hang out in The Commons Center, Vanderbilt's freshman dining hall and gathering space, engaging in discussions or grabbing a coffee, maybe joining a game of foosball with your fellow VSA classmates.

Weekends feature dances, group outings, friendly house competitions, open mic night, and much more. On Sunday mornings, you'll have the option of attending religious services or sleeping until 11:00 a.m. Sunday afternoons and evenings are set aside for laundry, reading, checking in with family back home, or enjoying a variety of informal activities or small group outings designed to relax and prepare you for the week ahead.

A DAY IN THE LIFE AT VANDERBILT SUMMER ACADEMY SESSION III**

Weekday Schedule

8:00 – 8:45 a.m.	<i>Breakfast</i>
9:00 – 11:45 a.m.	<i>Class</i>
11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m.	<i>Lunch</i>
12:45 – 2:45 p.m.	<i>Class</i>
2:45 – 3:45 p.m.	<i>Study Hall</i>
4:00 – 5:15 p.m.	<i>Areté Class</i>
5:15 – 6:00 p.m.	<i>Free Time</i>
6:00 – 6:50 p.m.	<i>Dinner</i>
7:00 – 9:30 p.m.	<i>Free Time (Mon.–Thurs.) or VSA-sponsored seminars, activities, and outings</i>
9:30 – 10:30 p.m.	<i>Proctor Meeting and Free Time on Hall</i>
10:30 p.m.	<i>Room Curfew*</i>
11:00 p.m.	<i>All Quiet*</i>

* Later Curfew/All Quiet on weekends

** Subject to change

Session III Course Titles

Special Topics in Mathematics
Alzheimer's Treatment and Research
Writing Short Stories
New Problems in Law
Bioarchaeology: Research
and Implications
Identity in the 21st Century
Addiction in the Modern Age
Microscopy of Nanomaterials
Comparative Electoral Politics
Mathematics of Cryptography
Adaptive Engineering
Med School 101

A WORD ABOUT COURSE CHOICE

Courses fill quickly! Please consider your course choices carefully. While we will do our best to place you in your first-choice course, it may be filled, and we often have to place students in second- or third-choice courses. As you review these course descriptions, please rank-order as many courses as you'd like, knowing that you may not get your first choice. Once admitted, a nonrefundable 10% tuition deposit will be due to hold your space, so rank only those courses that you are truly willing to take—and pay for!





SPECIAL TOPICS IN MATHEMATICS*

Mathematics, Number Theory, Directed Study

This course is for anyone who loves math and wants to learn more about its varied and fascinating applications. It offers you a unique opportunity to expand your knowledge and comprehension of math. We will work together to push the limits of your understanding through a combination of whole-group discussion and independent work. You will leave this class with a sampling of higher-level topics (such as game theory, probability, number theory, etc.), a deeper understanding of the math you have already learned, and an increased awareness of how math is used in the world today.

*Prerequisites: Geometry, Algebra II

Additional Application Materials: Transcript

—Dawson Gray

ALZHEIMER'S TREATMENT AND RESEARCH

Biology, Neuroscience, Medicine

Step into the role of a research scientist studying Alzheimer's, a neurodegenerative disorder that affects over five million Americans. You will gain a greater understanding of this disease and its treatments through hands-on experience, laboratory experiments, and immersion in current scientific research. At the end of the class you will put together a mock grant proposal to address a question you would want answered as a research scientist in this fascinating field of medicine.

—Loren LaPointe

WRITING SHORT STORIES

Creative Writing, Literature

As aspiring authors know, short fiction can be what William Faulkner called "the most demanding" form of prose. This class will help you to develop the skills necessary to rise to Mr. Faulkner's challenge. You will explore the short fiction genre through critical reading of classic and cutting-edge examples from authors such as Flannery O'Connor and Michael Chabon. Daily writing and review will help you refine your craft. You will conclude this class, having completed several of your own short stories that evince your stronger skills of critical analysis, and that more clearly convey your own voice, rhythm, and style.

—Jan Harris

NEW PROBLEMS IN LAW

Law, Psychology, Neuroscience, Statistics

Can you sue a musician who copies a song they don't remember hearing? How should you punish a once law-abiding citizen who began to commit crimes after suffering a brain injury? Judges, juries, and lawyers are having to wrestle with questions like these as new research in psychology and neuroscience challenges once common assumptions. In this course, you will learn how to bring a case to trial, argue before a judge, file an appeal, and get a little practice at mock legal proceedings, and you will discuss what new insights into the human mind mean for the American legal system today.

—Chris Jaeger

BIOARCHAEOLOGY: RESEARCH AND IMPLICATIONS

Forensic Anthropology, Biochemistry, History

This course will run you through the rigors of bioarchaeology, an interdisciplinary field that uses the tools of history, science, and anthropology to reconstruct the lives of people in the past. You will get hands-on experience analyzing human bones to establish “demographic profiles” and see what bioarchaeological chemistry can teach us about things like diet, migration, and the other lived experiences of the deceased. You will also consider how bones can embody hidden social inequalities. You will conclude the class by selecting an osteological topic of interest and presenting your research proposal to the class as a whole.

NOTE: This class will involve handling of human skeletons in Vanderbilt’s Human Osteology Lab. Students may also view cadavers in Vanderbilt’s Human Anatomy Lab (permission pending).

–Keitlyn Alcantara

ADDICTION IN THE MODERN AGE

History, Public Policy, Political Science, Psychology

Despite our best efforts, effective addiction treatment continues to elude us as a society. In this class, you will examine the social, political, medical, and policy aspects of laws relating to addiction. Though the focus will be on addictions to psychoactive substances like drugs and alcohol, other compulsive behaviors, such as shopping and gambling, will also be considered. Lectures, readings, and respectful discussions will equip you to deconstruct the subject of addiction, to consider its meanings and stigmas, and propose ways to improve upon existing policies.

NOTE: This class will involve scholarly research and open conversation regarding the course content of substance addiction, violence related to drug policy, mental illness, and other areas of mature discourse. Students (and parents) should carefully consider whether this course is a good fit for them at this time.

–Aileen Teague

IDENTITY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Philosophy, Ethics, Politics

What does it mean to be you? To have a self? To be a person? In this class you will consider and discuss complex philosophical questions like these. Critical theories—particularly the unique interdisciplinary tools of women’s and gender studies—will help you to critically analyze the ways people are perceived and perceive themselves in contemporary society. And you will create works of your own that reflect your own critical reading, thinking, and perspective on the formation and meaning of identity in the modern world.

NOTE: This class will involve scholarly consideration of issues relating to race, class, ability, gender, sexuality, etc. Students (and parents) should carefully consider whether this course is a good fit for them at this time.

–Brandy Daniels

MICROSCOPY OF NANOMATERIALS

Nanoengineering, Chemical Engineering, Molecular Chemistry, Biochemistry

Today, some of the BIGGEST problems in medicine, science, and engineering are solved with the smallest technologies. Nanoparticles are used in everything from computer science to cancer treatments. In this class, you will learn about the many different kinds of nanoparticles being discovered, their properties, and how scientists synthesize and manipulate them. In addition to lectures and research, this class will involve hands-on learning, laboratory experiences, and state-of-the-art imaging tools to give you a greater understanding of the potential of nanoparticles and gain the skills to develop your own scientific research project.

–Susan Verberne-Sutton

“I never anticipated how much I would learn in my class. The hands-on approach allowed me to do things I have never done before and learn so much more.”

COMPARATIVE ELECTORAL POLITICS

Political Science, Data Analysis, History

This course will equip you with the tools necessary to master the political process by introducing you to other voting systems around the world, learning how those different systems impact vote choice, representation, party viability, as well as how political actors can (and do!) select and change the rules of the game to their own advantage. This class will require you to use numbers (lots of numbers), critical and strategic thinking, and a creative approach to the many different rules of the political “game.”

NOTE: This course will approach elections as scientists, not pundits, and thus students should be prepared for a course that deals with the scientific method, causal inference, and a little bit of (basic) math.

–Sheahan Virgin

MATHEMATICS OF CRYPTOGRAPHY

Mathematics, Number Theory, Mathematical Reasoning

Think you can crack the code? We'll work on series of problems that, upon first glance, seem completely unrelated (or are they?), which will help us develop some of the mathematical machinery used in modern cryptography. We'll study modular arithmetic, prime numbers, permutations, and a handful of other number theory topics that are all applicable to the RSA algorithm and other public-key encryption schemes. The course will emphasize collaborative problem solving, mathematical argumentation, and careful thinking instead of rote calculation.

–Jason Brasel

ADAPTIVE ENGINEERING

Electrical Engineering, Biomedical Engineering, Special Education

Adaptive engineers develop special equipment to help people with disabilities learn, play, and live productive lives. This class will develop your mechanical, electrical, and biomedical engineering skills. There will be multiple hands-on activities, research, guest speakers, and field trips. We will also partner with the Technology Access Center to adapt toys for children with disabilities, toys that will help them learn, play, and explore their world. So get ready to get creative and to apply your own problem-solving skills to some of the real challenges engineers face every day.

–Amanda Lowery



MED SCHOOL 101*

Medicine, Biology, Chemistry

Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) is one of the top hospitals in the country, so it is no surprise that the medical school is at the forefront when it comes to technology and teaching. In this course, you will work with many of the same computer and other virtual medical simulations as Vanderbilt medical students, and use problem-based learning to analyze and diagnose real medical case studies. Taught by a team of medical students, this course will utilize small group discussions, faculty lectures, lab exercises, and the latest resources and technologies from the Vanderbilt School of Medicine to learn about the practice, ethics, and social impact of modern medicine.

*Prerequisites: Biology, Chemistry

Additional Application Materials: Transcript,

Two letters of recommendation

Please visit pty.vanderbilt.edu/students/vsa/forms-and-documents to access the recommendation form.

NOTE: VUMC insurance and safety regulations state that students must be 16 years old by July 9 to participate. This policy is non-negotiable.





Vanderbilt Summer Academy Faculty

Keitlyn Alcantara is a bioarchaeology Ph.D. student at Vanderbilt University. While her work has taken her on excavations in France, Belize, Guatemala, and Honduras, her favorite place to work is her home country of Mexico. Keitlyn spent the past year in Tlaxcala, Mexico, examining skeletons from the time of the Aztec Empire (1325–1519 AD) to understand how bones can record resistance to imperial conquest through trauma, evidence of disease and stress, and changes in diet. When not in the lab, Keitlyn spends her time dancing salsa and bachata, cooking (and eating!), and cuddling with her cat, Olive.

Jason Brasel is an educational researcher at the University of Michigan. His work focuses on how to support teacher educators to prepare beginning teachers to teach skillfully and responsibly. He holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics from the University of California, Berkeley and a master's in learning, teaching, and diversity from Vanderbilt University. Things he geeks out on: math, teaching, fantasy novels (favorite author: Brandon Sanderson), bike racing, and family time with his wife and two daughters.

Daniella Chappell grew up in Johannesburg, South Africa. She received her master's of fine arts in creative nonfiction from Eastern Washington University and now works as an adjunct professor of composition at Lipscomb University. She spends her free time doing things you would expect from someone trained in liberal arts: cooking, reading, watching art films and enjoying life with her dog.

Rebecca Cox is a third-year Ph.D. student in clinical science at Vanderbilt. Her research examines sleep disturbance as a causal factor in the development of anxiety-related disorders and specific mechanisms that may account for this relationship, such as

stress reactivity and deficits in inhibitory control. Rebecca's research has been published in the *Journal of Psychiatric Research* and the *Journal of Anxiety Disorders*. When she's not in the lab, Rebecca enjoys hiking, Pilates, and choral singing.

Brandy Daniels is a Ph.D. candidate in theological studies and a fellow in the prestigious theology and practice program at Vanderbilt University. She has a master's of divinity and a master's of art in comparative literature and African American studies from Duke University. Her research interests center around questions of theological anthropology at the intersections of systematics, critical theory, and ethics. Brandy has taught at Rutgers, Pace University, and Union Theological Seminary. Her published works deal with topics ranging from Bonhoeffer and Foucault on racial identity to poststructuralism and liberation theology. In her free time, Brandy enjoys running, hiking, watching Jeopardy!, and eating ice cream.

Mason Garrison is a Ph.D. student in quantitative psychology and has a bachelor's degree in economics from Washington University in St. Louis. She studies the impact of personality and intelligence on important life outcomes, using family data. Her research is funded by the National Science Foundation. In her spare time, she enjoys taking her cat, Tukey, on long walks, recovering lost psychology studies, and editing Wikipedia.

Zach Gaslowitz is a math Ph.D. student at Vanderbilt, studying structural graph theory. He has been teaching courses on discrete mathematics and game theory for VSA for the past three years. When not thinking about awesome mathematics, Zach enjoys bicycling, woodcarving, and juggling.



Kimberly Goins is a licensed attorney with the New York State Bar, earning both an M.A. and J.D. from the University of Alabama. Her professional practice focused on health care and criminal law. She has also served as the vice director of disaster legal services for the Young Lawyer's Division of the American Bar Association for four years. Kim is currently finishing her M.T.S. degree at Vanderbilt Divinity School with intentions to work in the nonprofit sector before going on to further doctoral work. Kim's favorite pastime is trying to keep up with her energetic two-year old, Penelope.

Dawson Gray is in his thirteenth year with Vanderbilt Programs for Talented Youth and his eleventh year as an instructor. He currently teaches at Battle Ground Academy in Franklin, Tennessee, where he serves as the Mathematics Department chair for grades 5–12 and teaches AP statistics, AP calculus AB, and college preparatory calculus. He graduated from Vanderbilt University with a double major in piano performance and mathematics, and he completed a master's degree in secondary education with an emphasis on mathematics at Vanderbilt's Peabody College.

Erika Grundstrom loves sharing the wonder of the universe with everyone young and old and has done so for seven years with Programs for Talented Youth. She is the director of Astronomy Labs and Outreach in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Vanderbilt University, and her research combines interests in massive stars, spectroscopy, and astronomy education. She received a Ph.D. from Georgia State University in 2007. Education and outreach have brought her (and often an inflatable planetarium) into schools throughout the Nashville region as well as provided opportunities to develop and teach curriculum for fifth-, sixth-, and ninth-grade students. Outside the classroom she loves to partner dance, play sand volleyball, and travel.

Jan Harris is a poet, an avid reader, and an accomplished VSA instructor whose popular courses have included Writing and Visual Literacy and Creative Writing: Autobiography. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Alabama in 2008. Harris is a published author whose poetry has appeared in *Anthology* and *Event*.

Chris Jaeger is a lawyer and a doctoral student in psychology at Vanderbilt. He graduated from Vanderbilt University Law School in 2009, then spent one year as a law clerk to a federal appellate judge in Kansas City, Missouri, before returning to Nashville to practice law at Stites & Harbison, PLLC. Chris returned to Vanderbilt to explore his research interests at the intersection of psychology and law as a Ph.D. student. Chris is especially interested in ways that knowledge, beliefs, and expectations affect various cognitive processes ranging from perception to memory to decision-making.

Paul Johnson is a doctoral student in environmental engineering, management, and policy at Vanderbilt University, an interdisciplinary Ph.D. program that integrates social and technical systems to address environmental challenges. Prior to coming to Vanderbilt, Paul was a business manager for the decision sciences team at Capital One Financial. He received his M.S. in engineering management from Duke University and graduated summa cum laude from Georgia Tech with a B.S. in industrial and systems engineering.

Ashlyn Karan is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Teaching and Learning. She is researching how introducing programming and computational thinking into traditional STEM classes can support math and science learning. Ashlyn loves programming because it combines problem-solving and logical thinking with design challenges.

Peter Kropp is a Nashville native who is currently a fifth-year graduate student at Vanderbilt University. He studies how differences in pancreas development can predispose individuals to diseases such as diabetes and pancreatic cancer. He is drawn to research due to the complex problems that human health presents and the quest to solve those problems. In his spare time Peter is an avid runner, rock climber, and lover of all things outdoors.





“My teacher and TA were wonderful and inspired me to learn for the joy of learning.”

Loren LaPointe is a membrane protein biochemist who is studying proteins involved in Alzheimer’s disease. She did her Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin, Madison on the structure and function of membrane proteins in bacterial cell division. She also has extensive experience teaching K–12 students through Vanderbilt Programs for Talented Youth and also the Center for Science Outreach where she has been teaching seventh- and eighth-grade science for the past year. Loren has a passion for mentoring young scientists and motivating them to pursue careers in STEM.

Amanda Lowery is returning to VSA for a fifth year. She is a native Tennessean and has been at Vanderbilt for nine years. Amanda received her doctorate at Rice University and now teaches in the Department of Biomedical Engineering. She teaches freshmen to seniors and has a passion for laboratory courses. Amanda’s creative approach to teaching lab skills encourages students to think, explore, take risks, and discover.

Jordan Nikkel is an enthusiastic Vanderbilt Ph.D. student in the Mathematics Department, studying geometric group theory and specializing in the Thompson Groups. He has been a teaching assistant for many Vanderbilt math classes, and he has loved tutoring students of many ages in a multitude of mathematical principles and skills since 2009. Jordan enjoys spending quality time with his wife, hiking, piano, and playing video games.

Quincy Rhoads teaches English composition at Nashville State Community College in Clarksville, Tennessee. He has a master’s in English from Austin Peay State University and has been teaching for five years. He is also a contributing editor to the web magazine *Entropy*. His criticism and creative writing have been published in *Ploughshares*, *Zone 3*, *Uno Kudo*, and elsewhere. As of late his creative output has focused on the intersection of popular culture with highbrow literature and creative writing.

Zeeshan Samad is a doctoral candidate in economics at Vanderbilt. He also has a master’s in public policy from the University of Maryland. He has long been passionate about behavioral economics and why people do not act “rationally” in the real world. His current research is about how people’s mood (e.g., being happy or sad) affects their decision-making ability. He believes in using experiments with random people to prove ideas in economics. In his free time he likes to swim, play chess, or read.

Zachary Thomas Settle is currently a Ph.D. student in the Graduate Department of Religion at Vanderbilt, where he is working in the areas of political theology and political economy. He is the theology editor for *The Other Journal* and has written for numerous publications, including the *Journal of Cultural and Religious Theory* and *The Other Journal*. He is also the co-editor of *Dreams, Doubt, and Dread: The Spiritual in Film* (Cascade, 2016).

Mackenzie Sunday is a third-year graduate student in the Department of Psychology, in the Cognition and Cognitive Neuroscience program. She completed her undergraduate degree at the University of South Carolina and now works in Dr. Isabel Gauthier's lab researching face and object perception using individual differences approaches. Her work focuses on how people differ in their abilities to recognize objects and why these differences might occur. She also researches perceptual expertise effects using neuroimaging methods.

Aileen Teague is a Ph.D. candidate in history at Vanderbilt. Her research interests include U.S. interactions with Latin America (particularly Mexico), U.S. national security policy, militarization, and drug control history. Her dissertation examines the effects of U.S. drug enforcement efforts in 1970s Mexico. Her opinion pieces have appeared in *History News Network*, *The Global Intelligence*, and *Time* magazine. Prior to entering graduate school, Aileen served as a U.S. Marine Corps officer. Outside of her research, Aileen enjoys long distance running, travel, singing karaoke, and hiking with her dog, Gracie Lou.

Susan Verberne-Sutton is a senior lecturer in the Department of Chemistry in the College of Arts and Sciences. She has over eight years of experience teaching courses from freshman chemistry to senior-level, nano-based courses with Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Professor Sutton draws from her experience as a synthetic chemist in Silicon Valley, as well as her time as director of a nanoscience laboratory, to build a course that will showcase contemporary skill sets in the materials industry. Her dissertation focused on surface science, the interface between chemistry and devices, using nanotemplating technologies to develop surface architectures for polymer-based photovoltaics (plastic solar cells).

Courtney Caudle Travers is a senior lecturer in communication studies at Vanderbilt University. Her research and teaching focus on the merger between American political and popular culture, particularly during the early Cold War era. She has co-authored an essay on metaphor in *Style*, and her current project examines Jacqueline Kennedy's visual rhetorical influence on the Kennedy administration's presidential persona. She has taught public speaking and rhetoric courses for more than five years.

Sheahan Virgin is a Ph.D. student in political science at Vanderbilt University, specializing in electoral systems and institutional reform. He previously earned a B.A. (2008) and an M.A. (2010) in political science from Grinnell College and from the University of Chicago, respectively. In his spare time, he enjoys tennis and classical music.

Greg Walker is an associate professor of mechanical engineering, holding several appointments at Vanderbilt, including in the Interdisciplinary Materials Science program, the Thermal Engineering Lab, the Advanced Computing Center for Research and Education, and the Vanderbilt Institute of Nanoscale Science and Engineering. His research interests include the modeling and simulation of non-equilibrium coupled energy transport in electronic and energy conversion materials.

"I can honestly say that I feel more motivated across the board and understand more of what I want from my education, myself, and my future. This program challenged me and brought me out of my comfort zone in ways that I didn't know were possible! I also met fellow classmates who I believe will be lifelong friends."



Frequently Asked Questions from Parents

What is the “application priority window”? How does it affect my student’s application? All applications received during the application launch window (noon, Feb. 2–noon, Feb. 9) will be placed in a priority pool regardless of the particular date submitted. This means that any complete and qualifying application submitted during the application window has the same chance for placement. At the close of this window, all applications received will be randomly assigned a number determining their placement in the review queue. Applications received after the application window will be time and date stamped upon arrival and reviewed in order of receipt.

What does this mean to your student?

Because our courses fill so quickly, we highly recommend that you submit your student’s application during our application window for the best chance at placement in his or her top ranked course.

When are applications due? While most classes fill within the application launch window (noon, Feb. 2–noon, Feb. 9), we will continue to accept applications throughout the spring until all classes are filled.

Why does VSA use ACT/SAT/PSAT scores to determine eligibility? VSA specifically designs courses for academically gifted and advanced learners. Our instructors teach their courses at an accelerated pace and at a level of depth which research suggests works particularly well with academically gifted students. We use ACT/SAT/PSAT scores as one reliable measure in determining a student’s ability to succeed at this accelerated and in-depth pace.

If my child doesn’t have ACT/SAT/PSAT scores or if I feel his/her scores are not the best indicator of his/her academic ability, is there an alternative qualifying method? Yes. In addition to ACT/SAT/PSAT scores, we accept individual achievement or ability test scores. A portfolio option is also available, and details regarding portfolio contents can be found on the inside cover of this catalog. There is no admission advantage to any qualifying method.

What is your cancellation policy?

The \$40 application fee is nonrefundable for all applicants. Once the student is admitted and placed in a ranked course choice, a nonrefundable 10% tuition deposit will be due and is required to hold the spot for the admitted student. If no tuition deposit is paid within the communicated timeframe, the student forfeits his/her space in that course. A student who has not been placed in a course and remains on one or more waiting lists may withdraw at any time. A student who withdraws from the program after submitting the 10% tuition deposit will receive a tuition refund for any amount paid less the deposit amount if VSA is notified before April 21, 2017 for Session II & III or May 5, 2017 for Session I. Sessions II & III students who withdraw between April 22, 2017 and May 5, 2017 may be eligible for a 50% refund (less the 10% deposit and application fee). Session I students who withdraw between May 6, 2017 and May 19, 2017 for Session I may be eligible for a 50% refund (less the 10% deposit and application fee). After May 19, 2017, requests for refunds of any kind will not be granted.



Can you tell me more about the deposit?

The 10% tuition deposit is nonrefundable and paid after the student has been notified of their course placement. If a student is admitted to a course that is not his or her first choice, paying the deposit does not remove the student from other waiting list positions. The deposit does secure the student’s placement in a ranked course and therefore, in the program as a whole. Should a spot open up in a higher ranked course, the next student on the waiting list moves into that course. Due to long waiting lists, the deposit is necessary to secure the student’s placement and reduce last minute withdrawals. Therefore, we highly recommend that students only rank courses they are willing to take and pay for. Of course, once paid, the deposit is applied to the student’s overall tuition balance.

Will attending VSA help my student get into Vanderbilt University? No. However, attending VSA will provide an inside look at Vanderbilt and opportunities to learn more about the typical college admissions process than you may get from a regular admissions visit. Still, admission to VSA is not an indicator of admission to Vanderbilt University.

Will I get to meet my student's instructor? Yes, if you wish. Optional parent/teacher conferences or classroom open houses (Session I) will be available to parents and guardians on checkout days.

Who will supervise VSA students in the residence hall? The VSA residential staff is led by a leadership team composed of both seasonal and year-round Programs for Talented Youth staff, including the VSA program director. The VSA residential leadership team features a head of student life and a head of student support who work together with the program director to help ensure each student has a safe and positive experience. In addition to a hardworking crew of program office assistants, VSA is also supervised by a fully trained staff of 15–18 residential counselors (VSA proctors) who live on residential floors near their student groups.

May I visit my student during VSA? Other than check-in and checkout days, we respectfully request that families remain off campus while VSA is in session. However, during sessions that include weekends, families may sign their students out on Sunday mornings. See your student's welcome packet for details.

Are all meals included? Yes.

Can VSA accommodate dietary restrictions? Yes, in most cases, with adequate prior notice. You will be asked to supply additional information as part of the student's welcome packet paperwork.

Should I send any spending money with my student? We recommend about \$40–\$45 per week for incidentals and occasional optional outings, snacks, or souvenirs from the VU bookstore.

How does VSA determine financial aid eligibility/awards? Eligibility for financial aid and the financial aid award amount are determined based on financial need. Families must submit their most recent federal tax return, the completed financial aid application, and any other documents that might prove helpful in order to demonstrate need. We will contact you shortly thereafter with the award amount. All admissions decisions for VSA are need-blind. No commitment to the program is required until you receive your financial aid decision and subsequent tuition balance.

I am applying for financial aid. Should I send the financial aid application along with my student's application for admission?

When applying for admission to VSA, be sure to indicate, when prompted, that you will be applying for financial aid. You will complete the admissions application and submit it (online) or mail it (paper application) along with the \$40 application fee. Once the admissions application is received, you will receive an email with the financial aid application attached. You can fill out the financial aid application and mail/email/fax it along with any relevant documents to our office.

Mailing Address:
Vanderbilt PTY
PMB #506
230 Appleton Place
Nashville, TN 37203-5721
Email: vsa.pty@vanderbilt.edu
Fax: (615) 322-3457

Will I have to pay a tuition deposit before I know my financial aid award amount?

No. As a financial aid applicant, no tuition deposit is due until the assistance amount has been communicated. We are happy to work with our families who receive financial assistance regarding the timeframe for receipt of the 10% tuition deposit.

Does VSA award full scholarships? No. All financial aid awards are partial.



Application Instructions and Timelines

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Incomplete applications will not be processed. Make sure to include all required materials:

- Admission application (online or paper), completed and signed
- Qualifying documents (first-time VSA students only). Copy of ACT, SAT, or PSAT scores OR portfolio application materials (see inside cover for list of documents).
- Application fee of \$40 (nonrefundable, required for ALL applicants)
- Essays, completed and signed

Supplemental Materials

(If applicable; not all courses require supplemental materials. See course listing to determine if you need to send supplemental materials)

- Transcripts
- Two letters of recommendation (submitted electronically per online application instructions or in sealed envelopes that your recommender has signed across the seal)
- Financial aid application and supporting documents (if applicable)

If Applying for Financial Assistance

- A financial aid application and supporting documents may be submitted at the time of application for admission or submitted separately.
- If applying online, be sure to indicate when prompted that you are interested in applying for financial aid, and you will receive financial aid instructions via email.
- If applying by mail, you may submit the financial aid form and supporting documents at any time during the admissions process.
- Please see the inside cover of this catalog for more information on the financial assistance application process.

TO APPLY

Visit pty.vanderbilt.edu/vsa to access our online application or to download a paper application. The online application will be available beginning at noon on February 2, 2017. The application priority window is **noon, February 2–noon, February 9**.

Submit your application during the application priority window in order to have the best chance of receiving your first-choice course. Applications received prior to February 2, 2017 will be considered within the application priority window regardless of receipt date.

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION

Typically, once a completed application has been submitted, a student can expect an admission notification via email within three weeks. The admission notice will also include the tuition statement and instructions for paying the 10% tuition deposit, which holds the student's place in the course. For families who have applied for financial aid, financial aid information may be included in the admission notice if financial aid materials have already been submitted. The tuition deposit for financial aid applicants will not be due until the financial aid materials have been processed and the award communicated to the family. Only complete applications are processed, so if any items are missing (e.g., application fee, qualifying documents, essays, etc.), we will contact you to alert you to the incomplete status, and you will have five business days to submit the missing items.

COURSE PLACEMENT

Rank your course choices in order of preference, with 1 indicating your first choice. You may rank as many choices as interest you. We will make every effort to place you in your first choice. However, courses fill very quickly, and we will place you into your highest-ranked course based on seat availability at the time we review your application. Thus, rank only courses you are willing to take and pay for. Once you are placed in a course you ranked, your spot is held with your nonrefundable 10% tuition deposit.





Following the application priority window, all courses will be filled first-come, first-served, based on eligibility. In rare instances, VSA may make adjustments to balance class enrollments. We strongly encourage students to submit applications as early as possible to have the best chance of placement in higher-ranked class choices.

Waiting lists will be maintained for applicants for whom all course choices are full; however, there is no guarantee that spots will open in a class.

WAITING LIST

At the time of your application review, if no openings remain in your first choice course, we will look to see if a seat is available in your second choice course, and so on. Even if we place you in a lower ranked course (due to availability), you will remain on the waiting lists for your higher ranked courses. If a seat becomes available in a higher ranked course, we move the next student on the waiting list into that seat. Waiting lists are held until close to the start of the program session. No tuition deposit will be owed until you are placed in a course that you ranked in your application. The application fee, however, is nonrefundable.

Tuition Deadlines and Refunds

SESSION I

Beginning February 2, 2017

Applications for admission and financial aid may be submitted.

May 5, 2017

Final tuition payment due for all admitted students. Failure to submit tuition by this date could result in forfeiture of enrollment at VSA. This is also the last day for full tuition refund (less 10% deposit and application fee).

May 19, 2017

Last day to withdraw with 50% tuition refund (less deposit and application fee).

SESSIONS II AND III

Beginning February 2, 2017

Applications for admission and financial aid may be submitted.

April 21, 2017

Final tuition payment due for all Sessions II and III admitted students. Failure to submit tuition by this date could result in forfeiture of enrollment at VSA. This is also the last day for full tuition refund (less 10% deposit and application fee).

May 5, 2017

Last day to withdraw with 50% tuition refund (less deposit and application fee).

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Need-based financial aid is available to qualifying families. Families applying for financial aid must provide copies of their most recent federal income tax return (1040, 1040A, 1040EZ), including any schedules, attachments, and W-2 forms. Financial aid decisions are calculated independently of admissions decisions and are for partial tuition only.

REMINDER: Financial aid applications may be submitted at anytime during the admissions process.

PAYMENT

Payment for Vanderbilt Summer Academy has three primary components: application fee, deposit, and tuition balance. A \$40 nonrefundable application fee is due at the time of application. A tuition deposit in the amount of 10% of tuition will be due upon notice of admission. The tuition deposit for financial aid applicants will not be due until the financial aid materials have been processed and the aid amount communicated to the family. If you are applying by mail, please attach a check/money order for the application fee, made out to Vanderbilt University—PTY. Online applicants will submit payments via credit card. The remaining tuition balance will be due by the corresponding tuition due date for that particular VSA session.

Payroll deduction is available to Vanderbilt University employees. To apply for payroll deduction, email vsa.pty@vanderbilt.edu.

CANCELLATION POLICY

The \$40 application fee is nonrefundable for all applicants. Once the student is admitted and placed in a ranked course choice, a nonrefundable 10% tuition deposit is due and is required to hold the spot for the admitted student. If no tuition deposit is paid within the communicated timeframe, the student forfeits his/her space in that course. A student who has not been placed in any course and remains on one or more waiting lists may withdraw at any time. A student who withdraws from the program after submitting the 10% tuition deposit, will receive a tuition refund for any amount paid above the deposit amount if VSA is notified before April 21, 2017 for Sessions II & III or before May 5, 2017 for Session I. Session II & III students who withdraw between April 22, 2017 and May 5, 2017 may be eligible for a 50% refund (less the deposit and application fee). Session I students who withdraw between May 6, 2017 and May 19, 2017 for Session I may be eligible for a 50% refund (less the deposit and application fee). After May 19, 2017, requests for refunds of any kind will not be granted.

