NerdScholar Favorites: Pre-College Programs

by Yessenia Rivas on 24 Jul 2014 posted in Education, Student Life

College is no doubt a culture shock. Much like someone moving to a new country, everything is new to incorporating timely when they arrive campus. Here’s the new home, new friends. But even after the initial adjustment to the new place, it’s still time to get used to the new expectations, as well as the general independence of college life.

Fortunately, most college campuses offer pre-college programs that expose high school students to college life. Pre-college programs allow prospective college students to practice and experience college settings, learn in a new format and participate in social activities. These programs give students a cross-section of the academic and social aspects of college. Students who participate in pre-college programs can have a more realistic understanding of what to expect as incoming freshmen, and often end up finding their peers among those who have.

Here are three of our favorite pre-college programs, produced by the most prestigious and sought-after college programs.

University of South Florida — Most Variety

The University of South Florida Pre-College Program offers high school juniors and seniors the opportunity to experience college-level academics and college life. Students enroll in one or more pre-college programs from a broad spectrum of academic disciplines, including science, engineering, and medical career fields. The program is designed to provide students with an advantage in the job market and admission to graduate and professional programs.

Wagner College — Most Community-Oriented

The Wagner Pre-College Program at Wagner College offers high school seniors the opportunity to experience college life while also earning college credit. It models Wagner’s undergraduate curriculum, where “learning by doing” is the focus. The model incorporates classroom and campus experiences, and Wagner's location in New York City allows students to learn by visiting some of the city's attractions.

Fairfield University — Most Reflective

The Pre-College Experience Program at Fairfield University is designed to increase college awareness and the purpose of college. The program consists of a pre-college workshops that provide students with the skills and tools necessary for selecting the right college, including interview preparation and financial aid. During the intensive weeklong orientation week, Pre-College Program participants are introduced to academic and social aspects of college life. The program is designed to provide students with a realistic understanding of what to expect as incoming freshmen, and often end up finding their peers among those who have.

University of Washington — Most Hands-On Learning

The University of Washington Summer Youth Programs are part of the university's professional and continuing education programs and are available to students outside of the university. The program offers over 1000 courses for high school students. The program is designed to provide students with an advantage in the job market and admission to graduate and professional programs.

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