

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

A Summer Learning and Research Participation Program for Florida's High-Ability High-School Students

June 15- July 26

Program Description

Florida State University is pleased to announce the 2008 Young Scholars Program (YSP), a residential science and mathematics program for Florida high-school students with significant potential for careers in the sciences, engineering, and health professions. The Young Scholars Program is supported with funding from Florida State University.

Academic Program

The curriculum includes formal course work in mathematics, computer science, and science ethics for all students, as well as an elective course in molecular biology or modern physics. The courses and their associated laboratories are specifically designed *for this program*; they are not high school or college courses. The emphasis throughout is on problem solving, on the integration of contemporary theory with application, and on the ethical and societal framework of science and technology.

Faculty

The program is co-directed by Robin Smith, Assistant Director, Office of Science Teaching Activities, and Academic Coordinators Barbara Shoplock and Jean Hancock. Instructional faculty includes Dr. Stephen Blumsack, Associate Professor of Mathematics; Dr. Dan Oberlin, Professor of Mathematics; Drs. Horst Wahl and Harrison Prosper, Professors of Physics; and Dr. Lloyd Epstein, Associate Professor of Biological Science. Twenty additional Florida State science and engineering faculty members participate in the research experiences of the students.

Student Evaluation

Although no academic credit is given for successfully completing the program, student performance is evaluated in the academic courses by written examination, with class rankings established in each course. Students are also evaluated through written and oral presentations covering their individual research projects. These assessments are incorporated into a letter of evaluation along with an assessment of scientific maturity, communication and interpersonal skills, leadership, and other personal characteristics of interest to the admissions officers of top colleges and universities. The evaluation is sent to the student and to the high school counselor for use in the college application process, if the student so desires.

Accommodations

Students live in Osceola Hall, an excellent, private residence hall on the edge of the Florida State campus near the science complex. All meals are furnished at the Osceola dining room. Female and male students are housed in separate wings, with two students in each room. Four full-time YSP counselors live in Osceola on the student floors for close supervision.

Students are expected to demonstrate a high degree of self-discipline. They are treated as adults and are expected to conduct themselves as adults. However, rules of conduct and appropriate dress are strictly observed for the well-being of the students and for the reputation of the program. The use of alcohol or illegal drugs, under any circumstances, will result in immediate dismissal from the program.

Recreation

YSP students are given many university privileges, including recreational facilities for swimming, track, tennis, racketball, volleyball, basketball, and gymnasium activities. Practice facilities in the School of Music also are available for participant use. The campus movie series, concerts, theater and other performing arts are available free or at student cost. Enjoyable weekend events include excursions to Wakulla Springs, St. Marks and Wakulla Rivers, the FSU Marine Lab, and the Gulf beaches at St. George Island.

Participant Costs

Through the support of Florida State University, each participant is furnished a scholarship valued at \$2,800.00, covering full room and board, supplementary health and accident insurance, and academic expenses of tuition, laboratory supplies and computer time. The program also covers the costs of the weekend excursions.

Participant costs include the following:

- Textbooks for academic courses . . . \$150 - \$200
- Transportation between Tallahassee and your home.
- Incidental living expenses. This can vary from \$25 to \$50 per week, depending on the student's spending habits.

Transportation on campus is furnished by a free bus system, off-campus transportation by the city TalTran bus system and by the program vans. Automobiles are not permitted for YSP students, but bicycles are *strongly encouraged* and are a significant asset for transportation around campus.

Selection Process

YSP is designed for students who have completed the eleventh grade in a **Florida** public or private high school. A few exceptionally qualified and mature tenth graders have been selected in past years.

All applicants **must** have completed Algebra II, and have earned at least a "B" average (unweighted) in academic courses. A score at the 90th percentile or better in science or mathematics on a nationally standardized exam, such as the SAT or PSAT, is also required. Computer experience is expected.

Using information obtained from the application, transcripts, and the two letters of recommendation (counselor and teacher), the applicants are evaluated by the YSP faculty in the areas of **academic achievement** (grades, test scores, curriculum quality, class rank); **scientific potential** (research experience, mathematics and science competitions, academic and professional goals); **personal characteristics** (leadership, maturity, self-confidence, integrity, reliability, interpersonal and communication skills, high school and community activities).

Based on experience of the past fourteen years, the participants of the 2007 Young Scholars Program will be selected from nearly 200 qualified applicants. Some characteristics of the participants in the past thirteen years are as follows:

Sex.....	47% Female / 53% Male
Racial Composition.....	18% Black, Hispanic, American Indian 30% Asian or Pacific Islander 52% Caucasian
Average Academic GPA.....	4.54 (most of which are weighted)
Average PSAT Math.....	96th percentile
Average PSAT Verbal.....	94th percentile
Class Rank.....	31% were #1 in their class 79% were among the top 10 in their class

2008 YSP Calendar

Completed applications due.....	March 15, 2008 (postmarked – No Exceptions!)
Notification of decision (on or before).....	May 10, 2008
Students arrive on FSU campus.....	June 15, 2008 Noon - 5:00 PM
Students depart.....	July 26, 2008 8:00 AM - NOON

For Further Information

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